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 primeval 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 century 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 the Arapahoe and Roosevelt 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. RUBÉN 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. Hecter 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 raised 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. To this end, 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, 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 matter 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.

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.

THE PASSING OF RABBI LEIBISH (LEOPOLD) LEFKOWITZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on first blush, Rabbi Leibish (Leopold) Lefkowitz was a Talmudic scholar bearing in his heart the abundant gifts and miraculous fate of the Jewish people. This singular impression fades rapidly, however, on closer inspection. Who was this rabbi, mayor, community leader, businessman, philanthropist, friend?

It was, of course, Leibish Lefkowitz. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the humble immigrant who came to these shores shortly after the Second World War and settled in New York with his wife, operating a crystal and gift shop on Manhattan's Lower East Side, which soon turned into Crystal Clear Industries Enterprise, one of the largest crystal companies in the United States. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the intrepid educator, who was president of the 18,000 student Satmar educational system, United Talmudical Academy and Beth Rachel, educating children from kindergarten through post-rabbinical seminary. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the proud servant to his community, who was president of Satmar Congregation Yetev Lev of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and founder of the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg, a community service bureau of the utmost importance and indeed profound effectiveness. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the pioneer and ''elected official,'' who was founder and mayor of the Kiryat Joel Village in Monroe, New York, now with over 15,000 residents. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the generous philanthropist, who helped so many and gave so much, building organizations, homes, even cities. And, of course, Rabbi Lefkowitz the husband, father of two, grandfather of sixteen, and great-grandfather of forty-two.

As is clear, Rabbi Leibish Lefkowitz was a man of parts: many parts. And with his beloved Torah, or Old Testament, as his guide, the Divine as his inspiration, and perfecting the world as his goal, all these unique parts amalgamated into the extraordinary man that Rabbi Lefkowitz was, the true and deserving servant of God that he wished to be.

Since his passing on August 1st, the amount of righteousness in this world has declined, and indeed the world has become a lesser place. The Almighty, in his infinite yet inexplicable wisdom, has taken Rabbi Lefkowitz to be with Himself, depriving us of this beloved *mensch*, but bestowing upon heaven his blessed soul.

AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO IS CRUCIAL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a letter was sent to President Clinton, signed by 90 members of the House and Senate, urging the President to ''undertake all appropriate steps to strengthen U.S.-Moroccan cooperation.'' I signed this letter because I strongly believe that we should stand by our friends in the world.

Morocco has for years been a loyal American ally in a region fraught with peril. It is a constitutional monarchy with a free and democratically-elected government. Led by King Hassan, Morocco is committed to free trade, privatization and a free-market economy. In the past year, there has been more than a 300-percent increase in direct investment from the United States.

Morocco would like to see our relationship grow—working together in the region and in mutually-beneficial trade development. We all know that the key to the future, especially for America's economic health is to create more markets and greater stability for U.S. companies to expand around the world.

This is why American support for our ally Morocco is just as crucial today as it has been in the past.

A TRIBUTE TO ALICE ASHTON

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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.

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 Ombudsman for the Aged 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.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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 fire department. That trust is well-founded, 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 protect property, these volunteers have answered every 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 now protects its residents, homes and businesses with the most sophisticated firematic equipment available. Today, the department proudly displays its historic 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 proudly 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.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

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. 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.

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 the 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.

HONORING DR. IRWIN M. JACOBS, ARCHITECT OF THE WIRELESS WORLD

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize my friend and fellow San Diegan, Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs, the founder, chairman and CEO of Qualcomm, Inc., who is being honored this September with the 1998 American Electronics Association Medal of Achievement.

Everyone who uses a modern digital wireless telephone, with its advancements in reliability and sound quality, its low cost, and its wide range of features, owes Dr. Jacobs a debt of gratitude. He pioneered the ''Code Division Multiple Access'' (CDMA) technology that enables all of these attributes of the wireless world. This innovation and many others have powered Qualcomm from its founding in 1985 to the multi-billion-dollar industry leader, innovator, and major employer that it is today.

I also want my colleagues to have an idea of what kind of man Dr. Jacobs is in my community of San Diego. Just in the past year or so, Dr. Jacobs has made a major donation to the University of California, San Diego, to improve and expand its school of engineering. His commitment to better education, particularly in the areas of mathematics and sciences, extends to all levels. I was honored to participate in a forum he and Qualcomm helped sponsor recently that recognizes and rewards best practices in math and science education in local schools. And when the financing anticipated for necessary upgrades to Jack Murphy Stadium fell through, Dr. Jacobs and Qualcomm came forward with funds sufficient to do the job, and now the home of the Chargers and the Padres bears the Qualcomm name.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States note the many contributions Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs has made to the fields of engineering and telecommunications, to his community of San Diego, California, and to everyone's ability to communicate with one another clearly across a block or across the globe. I commend to my colleagues the following article from the San Diego Union-Tribune describing the honor that the AEA is awarding my friend and fellow San Diegan.

[From the San Diego Union-Tribune, Aug. 6, 1998]

QUALCOMM BOSS TO GET AEA HONOR

(By Deborah Solomon)

Irwin M. Jacobs, the chairman and chief executive officer of Qualcomm Inc., will receive the 1998 American Electronics Association Medal of Achievement.

The award is one of the highest honors given by the electronics industry and goes to individuals for their overall contributions to the industry. Previous winners include Intel Chairman Andrew Grove, Ross Perot of Electronic Data Systems and William Hewlett and David Packard of Hewlett-Packard.

Jacobs, who co-founded Qualcomm in 1985, helped pioneer its trademark Code Division Multiple Access technology. He took the company from a start-up specializing in truck-tracking systems to a $3 billion digital wireless communications company. Qualcomm now has offices around the world

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. Archey, AEA president and CEO.

Jacobs 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 Bread for the World 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 ''miltiplier effect'' in their own regions after leaving the Gathering; and finally, Track III, the six 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 day of 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 these international issues to 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. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LAFALCE. 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 only a tenuous link to the local community.

Today I am introducing legislation intended to help ensure that these larger conglomerates remain responsive to community needs, fulfill their community reinvestment obligations and honor their own community reinvestment 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 are typically intended to enhance the institution's perceived performance; gain support or approval for the application; and assuage public concern or—in some cases—reduce community opposition.

Let me provide some examples. In the NationsBank/BankAmerica merger, a CRA commitment of $350 billion over 10 years was made: $180 billion for small business; $115 billion for affordable housing; $30 billion in consumer loans; and $25 billion in community development investments. Citibank-Travelers announced a commitment of $115 billion over 10 years in small business and consumer loans; mortgages and community investments. Washington Mutual/Great Western/H.F. Ahmanson committed to $120 billion in affordable housing, multifamily housing, small business and consumer loans.

These financial institutions and others are to be congratulated on the pledges they have made. The commitments have been substantial and wide-ranging. I believe they are seriously intended 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 any.

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 under CRA focuses on an institution's lending and investment activities during one-year periods only, and seeks to determine whether the institution is meeting minimum required levels of community reinvestment, not 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 does not now exist either among the regulators or the community groups. As a result, the community investment pledges we are now routinely seeing cannot and will not be measured or monitored over time. But they must be, if they are to be more than empty promises. It is difficult for the public and community groups to have confidence that the generalized pledges of these institutions will take concrete and positive shape within their communities if there is no way to monitor pledge implementation.

Some of the regulators have suggested that community organizations should enforce community investment pledges by banks. I fear that may be unrealistic as few such groups would have adequate enforcement capacity. Moreover, it is difficult to enforce commitments as highly generalized as some we have seen.

Community groups are pressing for commitments that involve highly specific goals for improvement in specific types of lending in more narrowly targeted communities. That approach may have merit. Some institutions have taken it with substantial success, while others are strongly resistant.

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 reinvestment pledges made by financial institutions. In addition, 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 compliance can afford 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

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Depository Institution Merger Pledge Enforcement Act''.

SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT OF COMMITMENTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH ACQUISITION OR MERGER APPLICATIONS.

Section 18 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, compliance by any insured depository institution, bank holding company, savings and loan holding company, foreign bank, or any affiliate of any such person with 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 44, sections 2, 3, 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 Gershow 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 my 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 SCHAFFER, 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 SCHAFFER's efforts. Congressman SCHAFFER has already made some improvements to the bill and I look forward to working with him in the future.

ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT DIVISION OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES IN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION—H.R. 4421

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize the employment of doctors of chiropractic as full-time health care professionals by the Department of Veterans Affairs and establish a permanent division of chiropractic services in the Veterans Health Administration. Joining me as original cosponsors of the bill in the House are Representatives PAUL KANJORSKI, DALE KILDEE, BOB FILNER, JIM MCDERMOTT, THOMAS MANTON, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, JOSEPH KENNEDY, LUIS GUTIERREZ, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, GEORGE BROWN, MARTIN FROST, and CHARLES RANGEL, ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, JAMES LEACH, PATRICK KENNEDY, BENNIE THOMPSON, and VIRGIL GOODE, JR.

Each day in the U.S. more than one million Americans seek the services of doctors of chiropractic, receiving effective, safe and appropriate care from highly trained, state licensed providers. Beneficiaries in federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and federal workers compensation, have routine availability to chiropractic services to meet their health care needs. In contrast, the Department of Veterans Affairs has not routinely provided veterans access to this beneficial form of health care regardless of their specific needs or personal wishes.

The research record continues to validate the use of chiropractic for a wide range of conditions. Even the U.S. Public Health Service, through the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, rates ''manual manipulation'' as one of the top choices for back problems in adults because of its effectiveness and low cost. Chiropractic offers veterans a drugless, non-surgical option—an option that is a much-needed addition to the care available through VA.

In virtually all other areas of the Federal health-care delivery system, Congress has recognized the role of chiropractic care, thereby ensuring that beneficiaries have a voice in choosing health care options that are best for them. My legislation will provide veterans the same ability to make health care choices that best address their specific needs.

It is time to end this long-standing inequity in federal health care programs and give veterans a real choice in their health care. Our veterans deserve no less.

RAIL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

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, this landscape has made for difficult 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 railroad 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 facing 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 considered 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 regulatory 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 facing rural America.

Specifically, this legislation would:

Reduce the likelihood of additional abandonments by providing states an other small railroads an additional year to acquire an abandoned line;

Provide an expedited rate case procedure;

Provide direction to the STB to devote resources to promoting competition and reasonable rates; and

Direct the STB to place a priority on improving the economic viability of abandoned lines.

Maintaining an efficient transportation system 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 Railroad subcommittee of the House Transportation Committee, I am eager work to improve rail transportation.

The changes proposed in this bill would assist 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 fellow colleagues to support this legislation and urge its early consideration 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 decrying the fact that criminals were receiving payments from injuries received during the commission of a crime. I agreed and have introduced the Crime Does Not Pay Act to correct this injustice. This legislation prevents convicted felons from collecting damages for injuries incurred while committing the felony. It closes a loophole that permits criminals to get rich while committing a felony.

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 residents and missed, and shot at the other resident, blinding him. Forrett was shot by police officers while trying to escape and is now receiving $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 damages when they are injured in the commission of a felony. This is a travesty of justice and this bill will prevent such miscarriages of justice 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 injustice.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, 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 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. 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 amendment to restore full funding for a fair and accurate census.

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

The bill reduces funding for the Small Business Administration's *regular operating expenses* by 27 percent, or $75 million less than the President's request.

The Committee directs that reductions should come from ''overhead'' functions and primarily 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 Federal 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 appropriations 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 Member 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 employ 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 businesses have proven invaluable:

In 1997, through its 7(a) program, the SBA made over 750 loans to Maryland small businesses, totaling over $145,000.

The SBA's Small Business Investment Company program financed over $19 million for Maryland small businesses in 1997, and

The SBA microloan program in Maryland financed over $190,000 for African American small businesses and $160,000 to 100% women-owned small businesses in 1997.

I hope that the Appropriations Committee did not actually intend to de-fund this vital agency and that this funding situation will be addressed in conference committee.

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

Two of these programs, the National Women's Business Council and the Women's Development Projects, have been addressed by my colleagues Representatives MILLENDER-MCDONALD and SANDERS in two amendments which receive my full support. I thank my colleagues for their efforts.

However, 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 program, 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 Alvarez, Administrator of the SBA, signed an agreement with the Maryland Minority Contractors Association reaffirming SBA's commitment to double the number of SBA-guaranteed 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 partnership agreement between the two groups.

The agreement represents each organization's commitment to work together to increase the participation of Maryland's minority contractors in SBA's financial and technical assistance 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 constituents apply?

Additionally, Baltimore is the home of dozens of HUB Zones or ''Historically Under-utilized Business Zones.''

The HUB Zone Empowerment Contracting Program was enacted into law as part of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997.

The program encourages economic development in distressed communities through establishment of preferences for award of Federal contracts to small businesses located in these areas.

Such a program has immense potential to aid the residents of my district—both business owners and the employees they hire.

I would hate to think that after my colleagues demonstrated their wisdom in enacting the HUB Zone legislation, that just one year later they would provide inadequate funding to fully enact the program.

My constituents contact my office daily to learn of SBA programs that can assist them in their attempts to gain financial self-sufficiency and independence.

I urge the conference committee to fully fund both the Minority Enterprise Development and the HUB Zone Programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the Republican majority meant to accomplish when it so dramatically under-funded the SBA and restricted those funds in a manner that would cause the elimination of virtually the entire SBA headquarters' staff.

I therefore urge the members of the conference committee to act with a clear head and a clear conscience when they consider restoring full funding to the SBA.

FOREST TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the introduction of the Forest Tax Relief Act, an important bill to let all our citizens enjoy the forests free from burdensome taxes. I am proud to announce that I have co-authored this bi-partisan bill with my dear colleague, Representative LOIS CAPPS (D-CA.)

Due to enabling legislation passed by a previous Congress, the United States Forest Service has implemented a new pilot project charging day users a per car fee to park on public lands. Dubbed the ''Adventure Pass'' by the U.S. Forest Service, this is nothing but a new tax on using public lands. Many of my constituents question the fairness and merits of this tax, and I share their concern. This tax goes against the concept of experiencing our free and open land making it a hardship on locals and visitors alike.

Within the forest of the 44th Congressional district, the per car fee for an Adventure Pass is $5. To residents in the communities of Idllywild, Anza, Hemet and San Jacinto and tourists who come to enjoy these precious lands, this fee is a source of much controversy. We have come to expect the freedom to enjoy this area without the inconvenience and tax imposed on us today.

To tax the Great Outdoors is offensive to the very concept of the national forest system. The forests are for the entire nation and therefore should be supported through the traditional funding process. Under this plan, Congress 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, not discourage 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 some 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 forces 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. Today, these communities stand isolated from one another, with the hopes for a unified society greatly diminished.

Recurrent violence along the border has continuously proven detrimental to the United Nation's efforts to secure any type of lasting peace in the region. 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 it 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 center of our efforts. When this most recent crisis passes, we must remain firmly committed to promoting peace and reconciliation on the island of Cyprus.

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

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 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.

STATEMENT BY ABIGAIL NESSON REGARDING GUN CONTROL

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 secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.''

These are beautiful words. But more than beautiful, they can be used and enforced to create a more perfect union. But our country is at a time in its history when the words ''domestic tranquility'' and ''general welfare'' seem to signify things of the past.

I am here today to talk to you about guns. The widespread availability of these weapons is frightening and wrong. Thousand are killed every year in our country by guns bought legally, guns made not to hunt animals but to hunt humans. Many have killed or have been killed by the time they reach my age, if they ever do.

I am a strict constructionist when it comes to the preamble and the Second Amendment, meaning I believe that our forefathers wrote just what they meant. They meant for the Constitution to create domestic tranquility and general welfare and, especially, common defense. I believe—I know—that the guns that are available today do none of these things. I believe and I know 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 every 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. You mentioned a moment ago, 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 I feel that this requisite amount of money required for people to attain 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 can get elected with the support of the democratic and republican parties, both of these parties get a large amount of their support from large corporations throughout the nation, and it seems to hold a really evident influence on the policies of our nation, and I think to the detriment of the people.

The one I am working with, there was a proposal, and there have been many proposals since 1974 when the first campaign finance reform proposal 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 for the political parties without restrictions. And a number of people in the Congress, including you, have attempted to reprimand that with new proposals, to no success.

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 it really—I don't know—I think that, at some point, maybe with large amounts of grassroots support, 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 which does not limit people's free speech. 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.

I am not sure. I guess I would ask you, actually. Have you found any ways in which a seriously extensive limitation on who and how much money can be spent, or who can spend this money to elect people to federal office without infringing on their First Amendment.

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 one to compare it with. The only ones that have been done have been in smaller local settings. So all we can do is really speculate, based on local 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 in a survey in 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, 20 percent of 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 has increased, 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.

For causes, one cause attributed to the violence is the easy availability of guns. And another, violence is often blamed on gangs and drug traffic, but, really, I mean, violence occurs outside of major cities where gangs and drug issues aren't as big of a problem, and these are also just reasons that explain how the violence occurs and not why.

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, there was an article 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 that these cases that are reported tend 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. 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 a shooting which killed two teenagers and wounded seven others. And he said: ''You know the old cliche, 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, it is now moving to the suburbs. And Pearl, Mississippi, is only a population of 22,000. So it is definitely not happening just in the big cities.

MANDY COLLIER: We wanted to try to offer some solutions that maybe would help the problem. In doing that, we looked at the urban schools where school violence has 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 New York City they have 2,600 officers just for their schools. And there are many problems with this, and one of them is that it could take three hours 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, that these metal detectors range between $10,000 and $20,000, and many school districts don't have the money, and when they can afford it, then they have to rotate it between the schools, so schools are only getting checked once a week, and what happens the other four days when someone could bring a gun to 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 and she suggests that the kids 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 HASTINGS: 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 Phillip's 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 social welfare 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 when we helped win 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 this effort 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 problems of violence. And when the question comes to what is the correlation between spending money and economic stability have to do with violence in schools, I think if you compare the amounts of shootings you have, say, in Andover, Massachusetts to southeast Los 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 it 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 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 enrollees in the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) to purchase an employee and children-only benefit option at a lower cost than current family coverage options.

We have worked hard this Congress to enact far-reaching legislation to correct the pervasive problem of children who go without health care. The billions of dollars allocated for the new State Children's Health Insurance Program in the Balanced Budget Act will help states reduce the number of low-income children without health coverage. However, I believe we can and must do more to insure the millions of children in this country who go without health benefits by expanding children's access to health care in the private market

One barrier to private coverage is the expense of family health insurance policies. Many working, financially-strapped families cannot afford premiums designed to cover two adults plus children. Since children are less expensive to cover than adults, employee and kids-only policies could provide an affordable option needed by these working families.

My bill helps those federal employees who, because of cost, defer purchasing family health coverage. The bill authorizes the Office of Personnel Management to offer group-rated employee and children-only coverage to enrollees of FEHBP. This new option will make health coverage even more affordable by allowing different rates for enrollees with one child, two children, or more than two children.

There is a real need for a health insurance product that better addresses the needs of low-income and non-traditional families than family policies that are currently available. Group-rated employee and children's-only policies would help meet this unfilled need.

By establishing an employee and children-only coverage option in FEHBP's benefits package, this legislation will provide a greater range of options and will encourage more federal employees to seek health coverage for their children. Finally, it will set an important example for other private insurance markets that serve millions more American families.

HONORING RONALD S. COOPER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents in recognizing Ronald S. Cooper, one of our area's most distinct and valuable assets as he prepares for retirement. Go anywhere on Long Island and the name Ron Cooper will elicit great plaudits from the business sector and a constant chorus of praise from the diverse philanthropic institutions which make up the strong fabric of our community.

Ron currently serves as a Senior Partner in the Long Island office of Ernst & Young. Demonstrating his unique skill in the field of finance, Ron began his career with Ernst & Young as a partner in 1973 and quickly rose to the position of Managing Partner in 1985. In all his undertakings be developed an incisive level of understanding and leadership in the fields of corporate operations, debt structure, capital formation and numerous public acquisitions and offerings.

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 Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 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 B'rith, 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 with me and rise to express their great admiration and joy for all he has done and all he will do.

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 MCPECK 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.

MICHAEL BARSKI HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated community servant in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Michael P. Barski. Michael, who is eighty-seven years old, recently ended his tenth four-year term as Tax Collector of Conyngham Townships.

Michael Barski worked in the coal mines until he joined the U.S. Marines at the start of World War II. He returned to the mines following a tour of duty in Europe. Michael was first elected Tax Collector in 1957 and shortly thereafter began rising at dawn to do the bookeeping, a habit he would keep for forty years. Rather than publishing office hours. Michael make himself available to all members of the community at all hours.

Mr. Speaker, Michael is also a devoted baseball fan and an ardent follower of the New York Yankees. He was a local umpire from 1949 until just a few years ago. He also was an active member of the St. Mary's Church Choir and a Quartermaster of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for twenty-five years.

Michael is the son of the late Adam and Catherine Barski and is eldest of eleven children. He and his wife, the former Catherine Novelli, will celebrate their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on September 29, 1998. They have two grown children and one granddaughter named Lydia. Their son Michael is an executive with a financial firm and their daughter Barbara works with the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

I am extremely proud to bring this extraordinary American's life to the attention of my colleagues. I join with his family, his many friends, and the community in wishing him a wonderful, well-deserved retirement from public service and my very best wishes for continued good health and happiness

AID TO ISRAEL

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, Iran test fired the Shihab-3 missile. Intelligence estimates by the CIA and the Israelis proved to be correct. This missile will likely have a range of 930 miles putting Israel's security in jeopardy. But this is not an issue for our closest friend in the Middle East, this is an American issue because it affects global security and our thousands of troops that are based in that critical region. Iran's stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons and acquisitions of nuclear technology make the situation even more dire.

There are two ways for our government to prove its commitment to dealing with this critical issue. The first is sanctioning entities that aid in Iran's missile development. I, like a majority of the House, cosponsored the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act (IMPSA), and it passed this body 392 to 22. Last week the President followed Congress' lead and strengthened an existing executive order by

placing sanctions on 7 Russian entities. We must keep a close watch on this and remain vigilant on the issue of Iran's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the weapons to deliver them. President Clinton will be traveling to Russia in September, and if the legislation is still needed, we should bring up IMPSA for veto override.

Another way to counter the Iranian threat is by strengthening our closest ally and outpost in the region. In September, when we return to Washington, we will vote on the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill which contain Israel's annual aid package. I have voted for this bill in the past because I believe that foreign aid, when used wisely, is an important instrument in American foreign policy.

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 saying it does not need as much money—well it's happening this year.

Israel has made dramatic economic strides over the past two decades including the privatization of most of its industries. As a friend and supporter, the United States helped in Israel's economic gains. Now Israel is telling us that they feel confortable phasing out all of their economic aid over a ten year period. However, based upon the continued threats in the region like Iran, Israel does need continuing military assistance which I will continue to support. I am also pleased a note that it looks as though this year's Foreign Operations Appropriations bill will hold spending level to that of Fiscal 1998.

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 printed 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 Congressman DELAY. After reading the prayer myself, I was so moved that I felt it would be a shame not to share this with the entire Congress so I therefore ask that it be made a part of the formal CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Dear Heavenly Father, Our Lord

We come to rejoice in Your gracious mercy and forgiveness of sins. Today we praise Your name for taking bad things and working them together for good.

Lord, we are grieved at the unnecessary death of two Washington, D.C. police officers. We come to You, leaning on Your love and Holy Spirit for patience, for strength, and for courage in the midst of great sorrow.

Dear Lord, we pray for the wives and children of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Officer John Gibson. And 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 Jesus 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 increase awareness of 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 the 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 Jose 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 how Europe's crisis-riddled 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 retirement—and the government's role must be scaled back. We've accomplished this in Chile, and reform on the Chilean 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, Europe's present pension systems are hideously unfair to tens of millions. Most young workers can look only to paying more and more to support those on retirement today—and then to receiving less and less when they themselves retire. Many under-40 members of today's working population may end up 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 security taxes.

SIMPLE YET RADICAL

Part of the problem is demographics. Europe's state pension systems are based on the so-called pay-as-you-go (Paygo) principle, meaning that the pension payroll taxes of today's working populations are passed through immediately to today's retirees. This system worked half-a-century ago in a world where there were seven or more workers for each retiree, who typically lived only a few years after he left the work force.

That world is gone. Thanks to a sharply declining birth rate and longer life expectancy, there is now an average of only four people of working age to support each pensioner in the 15 member states of the European Union. By 2040 there will be only two, and in some countries like Germany the ratio of workers to pensioners will be closer to one to one.

As a result, the financial burdens will become enormous. Pension contributions in Germany, for example, are now 20.3% of earnings, and the government has just increased 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 payouts will be rimmed. European governments have already begun doing so, for example, by increasing the retirement age.

Meanwhile, every pressure group grants to cut the best deal for its members. Thus we see that Italian civil servants retire in their early 50s and that French truck drivers can end their working lives at 55. Does anyone seriously believe that such a system can survive in the 21st century?

Twenty years ago my country faced a similar crisis. Chile had created a state pension system in 1925 and by the 1970s it was on the brink of bankruptcy, life with special privileges and burdened by high payroll taxes.

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 is structured. Every worker's payroll taxes, we proposed, could go into a private, individual pension account that would be his own property. His money would be invested in professionally managed funds of stocks and bonds. If he changed his job, his retirement accounts would move with him. These would fuel—and keep up with—a growing economy, yielding a far better pension income 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 choose freely among 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, they compete to provide better customer service and lower commissions. Many have user-friendly computer terminals where individuals can calculate the value of their pensions or find out how much to deposit 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 for a ''reasonable pension'' (50% 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 contributing to the plan after their pension begins. No longer is anyone forced to leave the labor force—or work on the black market—because he draws 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 Sebastian Edwards noted, the system ''has contributed to the phenomenal increase in the country's savings rate, from less than 10% in 1986 to almost 29% in 1996.''

Chilean people have reaped a rich harvest. The average worker has earned 12% annually after inflation, and pensions today are much higher than under the old system nearly 80% of annual income over the last 10 years of working life.

Can this system work in Europe? Some economists assert that it can't. Let's examine their objections.

''The transition to an investment-based system is too costly.'' If today's worker's taxes get redirected into individual retirement funds, critics wonder, who will pay the pensions of today's retired workers? In Chile, we covered the guarantees to already retired workers in several ways. The government issued new bonds, which spread some of the cost over the generations. Privatization of state-owned business, and a reduction in government spending elsewhere, were also important. We levied a small temporary transition tax; and the economic growth unleashed by the PSA system brought in greater overall tax revenues.

In the meantime, during the transition, everyone contributing to the old system could remain in it, but those who moved had their rights to partially accrued pension. Income guaranteed by the government. All new entrants by the work force were required to go into the PSA system.

''Operating costs of an investment-based system are higher.'' True, professional pension fund managers do have advertising and investment costs that tax-and-spend government programs run by civil servants do not incur. But the costs are low—and are dwarfed by the higher returns the PSA system generates.

''Private pensions are less reliable and safe.'' In fact, it's hard to consider the present setup reliable, with governments increasing taxes and decreasing payouts. The investment results of private funds cannot be guaranteed. But all studies of past performance show that the long-term gains of a well-chosen portfolio of bonds and equities have been far greater than that of paygo systems. The government supervises the investment companies, and of course the fund manages themselves keep a constant watchful eye on the accounts.

EMPOWERING WORKERS

The PSA system has other benefits. For example, if this system were adopted Europe-wide, workers would not risk losing their pension rights if they left a job in one country for a job in another. Interestingly, the EU Commission is considering a 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 reach an astounding $20 trillion. ''It is difficult to think of any other policy,'' he recently wrote, ''that could produce such a substantial permanent rise in the standard of living of the vast majority of the population.'' Europe could also derive a similarly huge benefit.

I cannot emphasize enough that the PSA is not a solution of the political right or left; it empowers all workers. It allows them ownership of financial capital that many have never had, giving them a greater stake in the economy than ever before. It may seem revolutionary to suggest that Europeans give up their dependence on the state for their old-age livelihood in favor of taking their pension provision into their own hands. Nevertheless, millions of people in countries such as Peru, Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia, El Salvador, and Mexico have already done so, with excellent results for themselves, their economies and their societies.

To all who say it cannot be done, my reply is twofold: it has been done, and—considering the ruinous state of Europe's pensions financing—It must be done.

THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. 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 considering 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

Vice Chairman Lein; Vice Chairman Siew; Vice Chairman Hsu; Members of the Council; Members of the Research Council:

I would first like to thank everyone again for attending the conference today. We have just heard reports from Minister Hu, Chairman Chang and Director General Yin. These reports have inspired ample discussion of the foreign relations of the Republic of China, the cross-strait relationship, and communist China's strategic maneuvers toward Taiwan. In total, councilors have expressed their views. I already have made note of these valuable opinions and will request the Executive Yuan to study them further. Thank you for your advice.

Since assuming the office of President, I have on many occasions declared that the future of the nation is an issue of utmost seriousness; not a romantic aspiration. Today, we stand poised to forge ahead into the 21st century, working toward national development on a grander scale. At this pivotal point, we must all give rational and pragmatic thought to this matter of epochal importance.

On the eve of the new century, let us look back on the state of our world. The Cold War has faded into history, and communism is in full retreat. Even though communism and one-party rule remain entrenched on the Chinese mainland, the system is facing strong demands for change both from within and without. Try as they may, the mainland authorities cannot check or deflect these demands. The tide of democracy defies obstruction. Indeed, we believe that Peking has no choice but to squarely face this global trend and adopt thorough reforms.

Therefore, we must take this opportunity to once again state clearly and solemnly: China must be reunified. However, this reunification must be under a system of democracy, freedom and equitable prosperity that will safeguard the rights and interests of all Chinese, and is in keeping with the global trend. The nation should, by no means, be reunified under the proven failure of communism or the so-called ''one country, two systems'' formula.

Our position on this issue is firmly grounded in our belief that:

First, reunification under communism or the ''one country, two systems'' formula will not help bring democracy to the whole of China. Instead, it will send the people of the mainland even further from their aspirations to enjoy a democratic way of life.

Second, only if china is reunified under a democratic system can the strengths of Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland be forged together as a force for regional stability. A reunified China that is closed and autocratic would necessarily provoke anxiety in neighboring countries, upset the power balance in Asia and threaten the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Third, only the implementation of a comprehensive democratic system, through the rule of law and transparent political processes, will mutual trust be enhanced between the two sides. And only democracy will ensure that both sides in fact honor their agreements and guarantee a new win-win situation.

Once again, we resolutely reject the so-called ''one country, two systems'' scheme. It has a number of fundamental flaws, the first of which is ambiguity. While the formula seems to offer two equal systems, it in fact makes a very unequal distinction between central and local. The formula is also contradictory, for it seeks to wed communism with capitalism. Finally, the ''one

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 that we seek.

Hence, we further advocate that:

First, although there will be only one China in the future, at present there is ''one divided China.'' The Republic of China was established in 1912, and although the government moved 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 in a gradual and orderly fashion. When the 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 right to full self-defense. This is 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 on Taiwan should enjoy the right to 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 reciprocity should dissolve animosity. 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 hold consultations based on the reality of a divided China and sign a cross-strait peace agreement, thereby ending the state of hostility, promoting harmony in cross-strait relations, and preserving the stability of the Asia-Pacific 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 resolving the issue of reunification. Also over the past decade, the ROC has established the National Unification Council 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 12 million trips to the Chinese mainland. By 1997, the amount of trade between the two sides had reached US $26.4 billion—sixteen times greater than the 1987 figure. Meanwhile, entrepreneurs from Taiwan have agreed to invest more than US $38.1 billion on 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 international area, an offshore transshipment center, cultural exchanges, agricultural cooperation, and the reform of state enterprises. It is through the perseverance and hard work of the ROC that cross-strait relations have been built from the ground up. Relations have progressed without fail, and exchanges have expanded without setback. A new opportunity for peaceful cross-strait competition has been created.

What is regrettable, However, is that the Peking authorities have never been able to shake their rigid mentality. Not only have they been unable to squarely face 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, forcing us to adopt a counter policy emphasizing ''patience over haste'' and ''steady progress for the long term.''

Last year, the mainland authorities convened the 15th National Congress 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 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 broadness of mind and new vision 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 the Republic of China on Taiwan in the areas of political, economic and social development would serve as a more valuable reference for the Chinese mainland than that of any other country. In particular, 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 have in recent years undertaken the promotion of grass-roots democracy in some areas. Furthermore, we look forward to even more active efforts on the part of Peking to carry forward political reforms in order to widen the scope and degree of democracy, further release the wisdom and energy of the residents of the mainland, and establish a diverse, open and modern society.

Just recently, U.S. President Bill Clinton traveled to the Chinese mainland, and his visit brought new changes to the relationship between Washington and Peking. On the mainland, he spread the messages of democracy, freedom, human rights, market economy, open society, and peaceful dialogue. The visit has been the focus of much concern, and all expect it to lead to a more diversified, democratic, and free Chinese mainland that will return to the right side of history.

We have surely taken note of the possible impact that President Clinton's remarks may have on interaction across the Taiwan Strait, as well as on our efforts to promote pragmatic diplomacy. The ROC government agencies concerned certainly will not ignore the importance that the public attaches to these developments, will carefully assess the effects and respond appropriately. However, in light of the strong ties and close friendship between the ROC and the U.S., as well as our common ideals and interest in the pursuit of democracy, freedom, human rights, peace, and prosperity, we are confident that through the cooperation and efforts of people in both nations, ROC–U.S. relations will continue to grow stronger. Only by allowing the enhancement of ROC–U.S. relations, the improvement of cross-strait relations, and the development of ROC–PRC relations to proceed in tandem, can we establish what President Clinton referred to last October as a healthy framework for a triangular relationship. And only in this way can we ensure peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ROC has spared no effort to establish mutual trust and enhance positive interaction between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. Although three years ago Peking unilaterally suspended bilateral consultations between the two sides, Taipei has never abandoned hope for dialogue. In April of this year, the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait held talks and reached an agreement to have Mr. Koo Chen-fu visit the Chinese mainland this autumn. It is my earnest hope that the two sides will take advantage of this opportunity to engage in a frank exchange of views in order to resume institutionalized consultations and formulate a feasible blueprint for the improvement of bilateral relations and the democratic reunification of China.

Ladies and gentlemen: Since the day it was founded, the Republic of China has faced incessant challenges. Since the government relocated in Taiwan, the ROC has existed for a long time in an environment made difficult by military threats and diplomatic isolation. However, under the concerted efforts of its government and people, the Republic of China has overcome the obstacles and built 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 deeply held belief that the most significant aspect of the ''Taiwan experience'' lies in the dauntless courage of the government and people of the ROC and their ability to work hard together and constantly make adjustments in order to overcome all difficulties.

In the larger perspective, the ''Taiwan experience'' represents not only the cooperative fruits of the 21.8 million hardworking people on Taiwan, but also a valuable asset for all Chinese people. It is the developmental experience achieved by Chinese people, with Chinese knowledge, on Chinese land, and most suitable to the conditions of the Chinese nation. We are willing to share this experience with our fellow compatriots on the mainland. We hope that with successive democratization, modernization, and the rule of law on both sides, Taiwan and the mainland can work together to create a free, democratic and equitably prosperous new China.

Your active discussions today serve as an excellent source of valuable opinions on current mainland policy and the future of China. I am confident that after a full exchange of views at all levels of society, we will certainly be able to form an even broader consensus and work toward the grand task of reunifying China under democracy.

In closing, I would like to offer all of you my best wishes for good health and happiness. Thank you.

DEPARTMENTS 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 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. 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 missions: 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 OCED 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 Departments of Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1999, on roll call vote 398, the Hefley 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 Hefly amendment would have prohibited any federal funds from being used to implement or enforce Executive Order 13803.

I have always strenuously opposed discrimination of any kind. I believe that employment 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 Hefley 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 belief, especially when it impacts American citizens, should not be allowed to persist without comment. I support this resolution offered by Representative MATT SALMON and I 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 law profession as the Prosecuting Attorney in Lafayette County, which led to a position as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western 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 BAHA'IS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, adherents of the Baha'i 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 Baha'i 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 Baha'i World Center was established in Haifa, Israel, near the site of Akka, where it remains today. From those humble beginnings, today about 300,000 Baha'is 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 Iranian 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 by hanging Mr. 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 or 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 consider treatment of Baha'is and other religious minorities as one of the crucial yardsticks to measure 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 Baha'is in Iran and calling for their emancipation. The Iranians must also know that the UN has adopted a number of resolutions regarding the 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 is one I have worked on for much of my time in Congress. It it 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 our island, 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 batsu, 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 European 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 Quitoriano, 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.

Because I believe Members will find Dr. Brademas' remarks in Memphis of interest, I insert the text of his address at this point in the RECORD.

REMARKS BY DR. JOHN BRADEMAS, CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES, NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ACADEMIC DEANS, UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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 to this city and region. Some 52 years ago, I first came to Memphis en route to the Millington Naval Air Training Base where I went through Boot Camp. 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 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 anarcho-syndicalist movement in Spain.

In 1953, I returned to my hometown, South Bend, land of the Fighting 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 was an assistant to Adlai Stevenson 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 Federal legislation enacted 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, third-ranking member of the Democratic Leadership, responsible for counting votes and pressing 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; Head Start; college student aid; the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, of all of 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.

PRESIDENT, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

A few months later I was elected President of New York University, the nation's largest private university, headquartered 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 indeed, international—NYU now has more 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 affect the institutions 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 the 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 by the draconian cuts of 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 the Endowments and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. There now appears, I am glad to say, to be revival of the bipartisan advocacy of these programs that characterized my own time in Congress.

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—with 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.

BILL IVEY, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

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 NEA by 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 ourselves to each other—and how we present ourselves to the world. . . . American art,'' says Bill Ivey, ''is democracy's calling card''.

BILL FERRIS, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The other native son to whom I refer is the new chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For 18 years, founding director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, Bill Ferris is also energetically articulating the superb contributions the NEH has been making to America's schools, colleges, universities, libraries, museums, archives, public television and radio stations and other cultural institutions.

That 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 someone who is with us here today and who has been making an invaluable contribution to the work of our Committee, its dedicated and hardworking Deputy Director, Malcolm Richardson.

Malcolm was a co-author of Creative America and he continues to provide the Committee wise and informed counsel.

Malcolm received his Ph.D. in History from Duke University and has taught history at Duke, Furman and, you will be interested to know, 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, and I released 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 the humanities;

Gradual increases in funds for the NEA, NEH and Museum Services program to rise from the current level of 85 cents per person to reach $2 per capita by the year 2000; and

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

Tying these specific recommendations together, our Committee called on the President to help the nation realize this ambitious agenda by leading what we called a ''Millennium 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 departments. The President's announcement eloquently challenged the nation to embrace the next century and new millennium as an opportunity, in the President's words, ''to honor the past and imagine the future''.

I can report too, that the President has been seeking additional resources for the arts and the humanities. Beyond asking Congress to increase the level of funding for NEA and NEH from $98 and $110 million respectively to $136 million each, he has announced a plan to provide another $50 million annually for the next three years to preserve America's cultural heritage.

MILLENNIUM INITIATIVE

As part of their Millennium Initiative, the President and First Lady have also acted to enlist more private support to preserve our cultural legacy. I was among those present on Monday of this week at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History where the President and Mrs. Clinton launched a White House Millennium project, ''Save America's Treasures''. You may have read that the American fashion designer Ralph Lauren helped kick off this effort by donating $13 million to restore the original Star Spangled Banner, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor and inspired Francis Scott Key to write our national anthem.

And you have also probably seen this week on television pictures of the First Lady visiting historic sites like the home of Thomas Alva Edison in New Jersey and Seneca Falls, New York, where the Women's Rights Movement was born.

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 nation's cultural infrastructure. Although America's universities provide the overwhelming majority of support for research and teaching in the humanities, the humanities are losing ground in the academy and find few external sources of funding. Support for the humanities and for liberal arts education generally is eroding as universities responded to market pressures and shift resources to vocational courses and to departments that attract substantial research dollars.''

My colleagues on the President's Committee and I have called on both the private sector and on arts and humanities organizations to do their part in reversing these trends.

We found the deficiency in private funding most pronounced in the humanities. In 1996, in preparation for our report to President Clinton, the President's Committee examined funding for the humanities. (We published our findings in a separate report entitled, *Looking Ahead: Private Sector Giving to the Arts and the Humanities.*) We observed that private contributions to the humanities were meager and becoming more so each year.

When we issued *Looking Ahead*, grants to the humanities for all purposes accounted for less than one percent of all foundation giving, and that figure has been declining since then. Even by the most generous definition of the humanities, private foundations gave no more than $100 million to the humanities in the early 1990s, and our estimate in 1996 was closer to $50 million.

Still, with its budget slashed nearly in half, the National Endowment for the Humanities, at $110 million, remains by far the largest single source of funds for the humanities in the United States.

It is clear, then, as we said in *Creative America*, that we must strengthen *both* public and private support for the humanities.

THE HUMANITIES

When in 1981 I was inaugurated as thirteenth president of New York University, one of my pledges was to strengthen the liberal arts. I made this commitment because I believed then, and still do, that it is through the requirements of a first-class liberal arts education that our schools and colleges provide society its most valuable resource: people who can think logically and write lucidly. It is the arts and the sciences that prepare people not only to enter 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 change careers as their interests, needs and ambitions change.

There is still another reason a humanistic education is important. Since the Golden Age of Greece—and I remind you that my father was born in Greece and that 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 are able to choose 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 represented here tonight. Said our report: ''In addition to their indispensable role in supporting humanities scholars, colleges and universities are increasingly the employers of artists and writers, providing them salaries, offices, rehearsal spaces, studios, and access to audiences. In many towns, colleges are often the leading cultural centers. For example, colleges and universities now sponsor nearly one-third of all chamber music 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 so much of it comes in the form of in-kind donations. Yet I think it evident that the nation's artistic as well as scholarly and intellectual life depends to 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 K through 12 education in both the arts and the humanities, and we offered several specific recommendations to improve teacher training. For example, we asked higher education to take the lead in strengthening foreign language requirements and in providing all elementary school teachers with some training in the arts.

ARTS EDUCATION

You and I know, to press the point, that arts education is essential to developing audiences 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 were heartened to see innovative partnerships formed by some universities, cultural institutions and school districts. To illustrate, Yale University and the public schools of New Haven have worked together for 20 years to strengthen teaching in the city's schools. The Yale-New Haven Teacher Institute brings college faculty and school teachers together to develop new course material in the humanities and sciences and to discuss issues chosen by the teachers.

There is another recommendation in *Creative America* that represents a challenge—and an opportunity—for our colleges and universities. Our report asserted that ''international artistic and scholarly exchanges'' are more important than ever in a world in which ideas, information and technologies travel freely across national borders.

We urged Congress to restore funding to international exchange programs, in particular the Fulbright and Arts America programs, and pressed the Administration to strengthen its commitment to the arts and the humanities as 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, Indonesia and Pakistan. Yet knowledge about and understanding of other countries are 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 Johnson signed into law—the International Education Act, to provide Federal funds to colleges and universities in the United States for teaching and research about other countries. Unfortunately, Congress failed to appropriate the money to implement the statue and I believe the nation—of course, not for that reason alone—has suffered a great deal in the ensuing years from our ignorance of such places as Vietnam, Iran and Central America.

Certainly as president of New York University, I worked to strengthen the University's offerings in the international field.

Already powerful in the study of French civilization, we established the Alexander S. Onassis Center for Hellenic Studies and the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimo.

We founded the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies and, in our Business School, a Center on U.S.-Japanese Business and Economic Studies.

Only last year, I had the honor of welcoming to our campus Their Majesties, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain, as well as the First Lady of the United States, to dedicate the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center of New York University, for the study of modern Spain, its economics, history and politics, and the Spanish-speaking world, generally.

So I hope that you as academic deans will on your respective campuses give attention to the development of programs for the study of other countries and cultures.

Let me, indeed, urge all of you to read *Creative America* and determine which of its over

50 recommendations may relate to your own institution.

Before I conclude these remarks, I want to add one more exhortation. In addition to all the specific recommendations I have cited, I must tell you that we what we most need from you is *leadership*. I am sure that all of you, deans and community leaders alike, attained your positions precisely because your colleagues and neighbors recognized your abilities.

Here I want to draw on my own background in Congress and public life generally to say that one of our failures in higher education and in the cultural community more broadly is that we have not always made our voices heard.

In this respect, I call your attention to a recent story in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* about ''the higher education lobby''. The story quotes Rep. John Kasich of Ohio as saying that ''Higher education couldn't organize its way out of a paper bag''.

Although the article paints a slightly better portrait of our efforts, it also underlines how silent so many in the arts and the humanities have been on issues vital to their future.

IMPORTANCE OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES

You need to speak up, especially on matters, such as student aid, crucial to every college and university. You need to make the case to your elected representatives in Washington and in your state capitals that public support for our institutions of learning and culture is absolutely essential. As I trust I have made clear, education has been a central preoccupation of my life—as student, teacher, legislator and university president.

For all of the problems confronting American higher education, for all the legitimate criticisms directed to it, I would assert as strongly as I can that America's colleges and universities are among the glories of our nation. Indeed, it is not too much to say that the future of the American people and, given the immense power of the United States in the world today, to a significant extent, the future of other peoples, depends on the strength of America's institutions of higher learning.

And surely it is true that indispensable to sustaining and strengthening the arts and the humanities in our country are our colleges and universities.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

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. McDADE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in unequivocal opposition to the Hutchinson amendment. It unfortunately turns the country toward the darkness of yesterday's night of oppression.

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 this executive department has the arrogance to proclaim their right to enact law and to decide as if in a separate government how and if 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 McDade-Murtha amendment.

Tell the lawyers at DOJ to abide by the same ethics rules which govern all other lawyers. Vote against the Hutchinson amendment.

That's title 1 in the bill . . . not difficult to understand.

Neither is title 2.

Just as we acted to reform the IRS, today we set about reform in the Department of Justice.

Most people at the Department are fine motivated citizens. As is always the case, this legislation is required to protect citizens of our Nation against predatory actions of rogue employees, out of control, and acting inimically towards citizens and therefore the Nation at large.

Where there is injustice to one of us, there is injustice to all of us.

And the power, for good or evil is without peer.

In 1940, then Attorney General and later Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson counseled the 2nd annual conference of U.S. attorneys.

Listen to his words:

The prosecutor has more control over life, liberty and reputation than any other person in America. . . . If the prosecutor is obliged to choose his cases, it follows that he can choose his defendants. Therein is the most dangerous power of the prosecutor: that he will pick people that he thinks he should get, rather than pick cases that need to be prosecuted. With the law books filled with a great assortment of crimes, a prosecutor stands a fair chance of finding at least a technical violation of some act on the part of almost anyone. In such a case, it is not a question of discovering the commission of a crime and then looking for the man who has committed it, it is a question of picking the man and then searching the law books, or putting investigators to work, to pin some offense on him.

To protect the constitutional right to liberty of our citizens, title 2 sets a series of standards, clear, unambiguous and self evident. They set guidelines for DOJ employees which must be met. They are neither controversial nor hostile. Unless, that is, you consider it hostile to be directed not to lie to the court:

Alter evidence;

Influence witnesses to color their testimony;

Fail to release information that would exonerate a person under indictment;

Impede a defendant's right to discovery;

Leak information during an investigation;

Mislead a court as to the guilt to any person; or

In the absence of probable cause seek the indictment of any person.

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 citizens 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.

Because of cases like this, section 2 of the bill also sets up a review process to afford a citizen a process which will limit if not eliminate corrupt uses of power, and by limiting government powers, enhance the liberty of every citizen of this country.

And we must do so . . .

I conclude with a statement by Justice Brandeis:

Decency, security and liberty alike demand that government officials should be subjected to the same rules of conduct 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 anarchy. To declare that in the administration of the criminal 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 prenicious doctrine this Court should resolutely set its face. (Olmstead v. U.S., 1928).

THE HIV PARTNER PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, for over fifty years, health authorities have used partner notification programs to stem the spread of contagious diseases. Such an approach helps to identify those at risk, provide them with counseling and testing as well as treatment, if necessary, thereby breaking the cycle of transmission. During the first years of the AIDS epidemic, however, partner notification programs were suspended and replaced with extraordinary 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 procedure to notify those who may have been exposed, only 30 states have enacted HIV notification laws, and most do not mandate a duty to notify. Because of this inconsistency, most 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 unknowingly.

Due to this abhorrent policy, it is not shocking that nearly 400,000 Americans have died from AIDS in the short period since the disease 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 instead 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 communities 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 diagnosed early. And federal, state and local laws, including the Americans With Disabilities Act have been enacted to protect the civil rights of the afflicted.

Due to these changes, many who initially opposed public health measures such as partner notification have now reconsidered. Just this year, the New York Assembly overwhelming passed legislation, which is now state law, which would mandate notification of those who may have been exposed to HIV. Even civil libertarians such as Senator TED KENNEDY have advocated partner notification. In 1990, Senator KENNEDY, stating that ''there is a duty to warn,'' proposed HIV partner notification legislation which was approved by the Senate.

The HIV Partner Protection Act gives Congress another opportunity to enact this important procedure which would alert those at risk and save lives. This bill introduced by Rep. GARY ACKERMAN (D–NY) would guarantee that everyone who is diagnosed with HIV receives appropriate counseling for preventing infecting others and information regarding treatment to protect their own health. It would also protect those who seek HIV testing by forbidding insurance companies from discriminating against anyone who receives a test for HIV, regardless of the results. But most importantly, the HIV Partner Protection Act would require that anyone who may have been exposed to HIV by a past or present partner be notified.

Partner notification is extremely important to disease control because it is the only timely way to alert those in danger of infection. It is the standard public health procedure for curtailing the spread of virtually all other sexually transmitted diseases and has been credited in part for the fact that syphilis cases in the U.S. have fallen to the lowest levels in U.S. history.

Partner notification essentially requires two steps. The first is to counsel all infected individuals about the importance of notifying their partner or partners that they may have been exposed. The second is for their doctor to forward the names of any partners named by the infected person to the Department of Health where specially trained public health professionals complete the notification.

In all cases, the privacy of the infected is—and must be—protected by withholding the name of the infected person from the partner being notified. Because names are never revealed, the infected retain their anonymity.

Partner notification has proven to be highly effective and there is no evidence that partner notification programs discourage individuals from being tested. Between 50% and 90% of those who tested positive cooperate voluntarily with notification. Further, even higher proportions of those partners contacted—usually 90% or more voluntarily obtain an HIV test.[1] But only 10% or less of people who have recently tested HIV-positive manage, by themselves, to notify their partners.[2]

Federal law already requires spousal notification (Public Law 104–146). Since it applies only to those partners who are or had been married, it makes perfect sense to expand notification to all of those who may have been exposed to HIV.

Partner notification is especially important for women because many HIV-infected women (50% to 70% is some studies) do not engage in high risk behaviors but were infected by a partner who does.[3] Recent studies also indicate that AIDS develops more quickly in women who would therefore benefit from being alerted to their condition as early as possible.

In addition to saving lives, partner notification also saves money. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has concluded that even if only one in 80 notifications results in preventing a new case of HIV-infection, given the huge medical and social costs of every case (liftime cost for HIV treatment is $154,402), notification pays for itself.[4]

Jack Wroten, who heads the Florida partner notification program, said that ''I would hope that the controversy surrounding partner notification would cease'' because ''it works'' and ''it's very, very productive. And the fact is that the majority [of people], if you ask them, 'Do you want to be notified?'—absolutely.''[5] A poll published in the New York Post[6] supports his statement with an overwhelming number of Americans stating that the rights of partners of those infected with HIV should outweigh the privacy rights of the infected.

Clearly, this important piece of legislation is long overdue. Every day we put off enacting this life saving policy, HIV will continue to claim more innocent victims whom could have been saved.

FOOTNOTES

[1] Chris Norwood, ''Mandated Life Versus Mandatory Death: New York's Disgraceful Partner Notification Record,'' Journal of Community Health, vol. 20, No. 2, April 1995. Page 164.

[2] Norwood, page 168.

[3] Tracey Hooker, HIV/AIDS Facts to Consider: 1996, February 1996. Page 13.

[4] Norwood, page 164. Lifetime treatment cost data presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva, July 1998.

[5] Nina Berstein, ''When Women Aren't Told,'' Newsday. February 3, 1996.

[6] ''POLL'' New York Post, May 6, 1991.

WELL DESERVED TRIBUTES FOR GUILLERMO MUNIZ

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I know that all Members of the House of Representatives want to join me and the Contra Costa community in saluting one of the most dedicated and generous men I have ever known, Guillermo ''Bill'' Muniz, who will be honored at two public ceremonies this weekend for his outstanding contributions to youth and the future of our region.

Bill is a legend. His New Mecca restaurant is a legend. His generosity to children, to athletic teams, to his community of Pittsburgh, to education—the list is virtually endless—is the stuff of legend. For three decades, Bill Muniz has operated more than a restaurant. The New Mecca serves as his control center for a never-ending, community-wide program of supporting schools and volunteers, sports teams and a remarkable cross-section of northern California.

Bill's generosity is as fabled as his enchiladas and burritos, and just as gratifying. No one asked Bill to donate thousands of meals for church fundraisers or to feed workers clearing the Bay Bridge after the Loma Prieta earthquake; no one asked him to help feed the volunteers at the Polly Klauss Foundation. Bill pitched in because he loves his community. it is with that same spirit that he has catered the local professional sports teams that now consider New Mecca dinners a major advantage of being located in the Bay Area.

For years, a lunch at the New Mecca with friends has been my tradition on Election Day, and on those occasions as on any other day that you enter this deceptive storefront in

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 is excited and upbeat words.

''I go to schools, I talk about the opportunities they have,'' Bill is quoted as saying. ''I believe in dreams. I also believe people have to work for them.'' And he has worked hard, since arriving more than 30 years ago from Guadalajara where he was an internationally recognized cyclist. He worked as a delivery 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 modesty. 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 begun 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 family. 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 male-dominated workplace. Few women were permitted entry into high executive positions, law schools and medical schools.

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 participating in the WAACS, the WAVES and the USO. Some women even volunteered for the hazardous assignments 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 combat 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 status for women in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. All at once, women, at least in the military, had finally achieved a significant step towards equality.

Since 1948, many of the limitations that were included in the act have been amended to ensure even greater equity for women in the military. As a result, women today may attend the service academies, train and serve in gender-integrated units and in many cases women have risen to general and 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 and comprise 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), Lieutenant Colonel Evelyn Salas Leon Guerro (Guam Army National Guard) and Master Sergeant Victoria R. Laganse (U.S. Army) are just a few of the high quality individuals who have served with honor and distinction. These dedicated few represent all of the women of Guam in their greater struggle for equality of women's rights. It has been 150 years since the first American convention of women's rights in 1848. And although our society has made progress towards the goal of complete enfranchisement for women, we can no doubt look forward towards an even brighter future, in part due to the work and accolades achieved by our service women. As members of Guam's family we are all justly proud of Guam's women military ''pioneers'' and extend to them an official Dangkulo Si Yu'os Ma'ase in their honor.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, 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 nondiscrimination 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 lieu of the fact that the Postal Service has made a profit of over $6 billion in the last four years.

Clearly, we need to exercise the oversight function of Congress more vigorously in the future. I want to congratulate my good friend, Representative JOHN MCHUGH, Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Postal Service for his diligence in this oversight arena. However, he cannot do the job alone. Congress needs to be more vigilant in ensuring that we exercise our 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. Reading and taking notice of Mr. Kelly's words is a good start in helping Congress to become more aware of the Postal Service problems.

[From the Washington Times, July 15, 1998]

THE MAIL MONOPOLY

(By James Kelly)

The woman on the other end of the phone sounds frightened and angry. She owns a small Parcel Plus store in Maryland and just found out that the United States Postal Service is opening up shop right around the corner. She's worried that the arrival of the Postal Service will put her own small store out of business and wants to know what she can do about it. She has reason to be scared.

In the past, the opening of a local post office wouldn't raise an eyebrow. But that was before the Postal Service began targeting private-sector companies with predatory pricing on services and products that few businesses can match. The business owner in Maryland knows she can't compete with a government agency that enjoys huge advantages not available to private-sector companies. Her plight is but one example of why the Postal Service needs significant reform.

Most Americans agree that fair competition is necessary for a healthy economy and a strong private sector. At our company, we have embraced competition and believe it makes us a smarter, stronger, more responsive business. But the Postal Service represents something that no competitor should have to face—a government monopoly that is able to use its government-granted advantages to unfairly undermine its private-sector competitors. In this age of government reform and downsizing, the Postal Service is the poster child for needed government reform.

Most Americans don't know that the Postal Service pays no taxes, local, state or federal, pays no vehicle licensing fees, is exempt from OSHA enforcement, can ignore zoning regulations, and is immune from antitrust accountability. These advantages would not be of much concern if it weren't for the fact that the Postal Service is using them like a weapon in the marketplace to beat out private-sector businesses. That is simply, unequivocally not the role of government.

One particularly egregious example of how the Postal Service is able to use revenue from its monopoly on first-class mail to subsidize products that compete with the private sector is obvious. The Postal Service charges $26.63 to ship a 10-pound package from San Francisco to London via Global Package Link. But the agency charges $29.80 to ship that same package Express mail from Washington, D.C. to Baltimore, Maryland.

Common sense tells us that a package shipped across a continent and over the Atlantic Ocean should cost more than a package shipped 35 miles up I–95. But the Postal Service vice keeps its Global Package Link prices artificially low with revenue from its letter mail monopoly, with which private businesses are prohibited from competing. This pricing disparity is particularly puzzling given that the private-sector charges an average of $110 to ship a 10-pound expedited package from San Francisco to London.

Now consumers are being asked to pay an additional billion dollars through a penny increase in the price of a stamp. Why is the Postal Service asking for another billion dollars every year when the agency has generated more than a billion dollars in surplus every year for the past three years and is doing so again this year?

If the Postal Service were truly committed to its mandate of providing universal letter mail service,why is it entering into numerous other activities wholly unrelated to this mission? The Postal Service is now processing bill, selling mugs, T-shirts and hats, and is hawking telephone cards. What does this have to do with delivering the mail? Absolutely nothing. In fact, it forces the Postal Service to lose focus on its primary mission.

It is painfully obvious that reform is desperately needed. Congress is working this year to craft fair legislation that would level the playing field for the Postal Service. Any reform bill must require the agency to abide by the same laws as the private sector when competing with private businesses. Postal reform must remove the massive advantages enjoyed by the Postal Service so that real competition can provide consumers with real choice. At the same time, the Postal Rate Commission, the Postal Service's oversight body, must be given real authority to regulate the agency both domestically and internationally.

Congress must act quickly to level the playing field so the Postal Service can focus on delivering mail—not delivering small business owners into the unemployment line.

ROSIE THE RIVETER NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AFFILIATED SITE STUDY ACT OF 1998

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ''Rosie the Riveter National Park Service Affiliated Site Study Act of 1998.'' This legislation authorizes the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the Rosie the Riveter Park located in Richmond, California meets the requirements of being nationally significant to become an NPS Affiliated Site.

Rosie the Riveter Park is located on the Richmond waterfront on the site of Kaiser Shipyards where the Liberty and Victory ships were built during World War II. These ships were built almost entirely by women who took over shipbuilding jobs to replace men who went off to war. Quickly these women became know as ''Rosie the Riveter'' and ''Wendy the Welder'' as their numbers grew and their competency as shipbuilders became well known.

These ''Rosies'' and ''Wendys'' built some 747 ships which were immediately commissioned into the U.S. Navy and sent to fight in the war. Their individual and collective stories are rich with excitement of being involved in producing the Liberty and Victory ships, as well as the realities of facing numerous new fears. We must remember that prior to this time, most women did not enter the work force, especially once married with children. With their husbands off to war, they were faced with the responsibility of providing food and shelter for their families alone. Encouraged by the familiar slogan of ''We can do it'' and the lure of salaries never before offered to women, thousands of women of all ethnicities flocked to the town of Richmond in search of jobs not previously available to them.

Realizing the value of the women workers, many shipyards including Kaiser conducted around the clock day care centers and schools on site so the mothers could work knowing their children were well cared for nearby. Some perceive this as a new concept that is cost prohibitive for business, but it was just the regular order for shipyards during this time.

With the support of the City Council and in particular Councilperson Donna Powers, the City of Richmond in my district has dedicated the Rosie the Riveter Park to honor all the women of the World War II effort. Plans to erect a monument remnant of the Liberty and Victory ship are underway as are collections of oral histories from the women workers.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to be among so many of the former ''Rosies'' and ''Wendys'' at the kickoff for the memorial on October 5, 1996. Many told me of the fears they had working deep in the bowels of a huge ship or dangling over the side in order to do their job. Several stated that when the fear enveloped them, they would think of their loved ones in the war and just keep moving. This feeling of connection with the men fighting on the ships caused the workers to try for perfection with each task.

What little safety and protective equipment existed in the 1940's was made for men and tended not to give the same protection to the women who used them. Numerous women still bear the scars they received during such unprotected work. I learned so much from talking with the women about their experiences and quickly realized that these stories are part of who we are as a nation and must be preserved for generations to come.

Rosie the Riveter Park and the history it represents should be designated an affiliated area to the National Park Service and I'm confident that the study proposed in my legislation will come to the same conclusion. I hope the Congress will move quickly to enact this legislation.

SALUTE TO ROBERT ESTEL ENGLAND AND ALL THE BRAVE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE NAVY ARMED GUARD

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation's history, men and women from all corners of our country have stood tall in her defense. It is the bravery and honor with which these men and women have served that has helped keep America free and strong over the years.

Today, I would like to commend one such individual: Gunners Mate 3rd Class Robert

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 Russia.

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 Armed Guard have never been properly recognized for their outstanding service.

The Armed Guard was created as a branch of the Navy during World War I 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, event those of neutral countries, that appeared to be bringing goods to Allied Nations. The mission of the merchant ships 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 1999 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 merchants 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 granted citizenship to 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, 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.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP DAY GREETINGS

(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 grant of U.S. citizenship. The dawning of the American Era in Guam in 1898 brought with it the promise of the freedoms, rights, duties and responsibilities of American Democracy, and the birth of the Chamorro quest for political justice, equality and self-governance 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 grandfathers and great-grandfathers sent a petition to Washington, calling on the Federal government to clarify the political status of Guam and its people. Subsequent efforts were geared toward the acquisition of U.S. citizenship as a means of political rights and protection. The passage of the Organic Act in 1950 satisfied the Guamanian desire of citizenship and civilian governance, but we still have unfinished business in the political status of Guam. Our desire for greater self-government is undaunted, even as we continue the quest. 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 undying 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. Congress 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 by a civilian government. The Philippines was granted independence in 1946.

In Puerto Rico, the military government that was established after the island was acquired from Spain in 1898, was replaced by a civilian 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 civil and political rights 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 on Guam and every aspect of their lives. During the 50 years that Guam was under military government, the Chamorros sent several petitions to Washington for U.S. citizenship. All were denied.

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 freedom . . .

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 5, 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 since the Spanish-Chamorro wars 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 two newsmen that I 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 Governance of Guam.

President Harry S. Truman quickly took over and ordered the transfer from a military government to a civilian government of Guam. The President successfully convinced the leaders of the U.S. Congress that organic legislation 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 leading 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 power. 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 most important year in the history of Guam's Chamorro people over the centuries since they lost their independence to Spain in 1693 at the end of the Spanish-Chamorro wars. Nothing that has happened to them since that time can compare with the dramatic reforms contained in the Guam Organic Act.

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 on August 1, 1950. 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 same 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, it was another 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 our 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 Yu'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: Teresita Beiro, Angela Carrodeguas, Rosa Cerulia, Marta Cortes, Rosa Crespo. Elizabeth Mirone, Jo An Plumlee, James Rosenzweig, Elizabeth Sollogub, Patricia Stiers, Nancy Tablada, Judith Williams and Victor Maya.

Victor, whom I have known for many years, has been with the hospital 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 rollcall 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.

Currently, there are no American barges available that are suitable for shipping kaolin. 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 available American barges to transport the clay. In other words, if there are 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 factor 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 JUDICIARY, 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 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. 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. A major 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 for involvement in trade organizations.

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 by simply waving banners or invoking slogans, whether ''free 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 lifeline 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 1990's. 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, I would expect that efforts to determine the condition of neotropical migratory bird habitat, implement new or improved conservation plans, undertake population studies, educate the public, and reduce the destruction of essential habitat would be forthcoming. Since these birds migrate between the Caribbean, Latin America, and North America, comprehensive plans must be developed. It does little good if we are successful in conserving suitable habitat in only a portion of their range.

I am confident that a Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund would provide much-needed support for projects designed to conserve critical habitat for declining migratory bird species in an innovative and cost-effective way.

I urge my colleagues to support the Neotropical Migratory Bird Habitat Enhancement Act.

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 that 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. policy and law dictate, 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 (fishing mortality) objectives of ICCAT measures and ensure that U.S. fishermen are provided a reasonable opportunity to harvest their allocation. U.S. law and common sense also dictate that domestic HMS management should avoid unnecessary regulatory burdens that serve 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 fishery 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.

A limited access system also provides 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 new and 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 some 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 agency 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 future 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, I would note as 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—and that of 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 about 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 1995, 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 has failed 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 one of the most 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.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

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, national origin, gender, religion, 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.

53RD COMMEMORATION OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, we solemnly commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the uranium bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and, three days later, the plutonium bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

The August 6th bombing was a shocking and tragic event; the second bombing three days later was no less cataclysmic. Now, 53 years later, for those of us who dare to look into the pit of this, our historical act, we can see the impact and the aftermath of the bombings and their implications in the arenas of defense and arms control, international relations, and human rights. As we commemorate these two events, it is not only to remember; we must also call upon ourselves to say to ourselves, to our neighbors, and to our children: Never again.

Today we must also recognize those heroes and heroines who called our attention to the danger of strontium 90 distributed in our air—strontium 90 released into our atmosphere during the testing of ever more powerful nuclear weapons. These pioneers in the anti-nuclear movement helped to create a force that alerted people all over the world to the incredible menace of an arsenal of over 36,000 nuclear weapons.

Thankfully, the cold war is over. But the danger of nuclear war, of nuclear accidents, or of nuclear terrorism, is as real as it was during the long cold war. The United States had 6 nuclear warheads at the end of 1945. We now have 12,000. The USSR, now Russia and the Ukraine, had one warhead in 1949, and now have 23,000. In 1953, the United Kingdom had its first nuclear weapon; now, the nation has 260.

France built 4 in 1964 and now has 450. China also built its first in 1964, and now has 400. Today we have definitive proof that India and Pakistan have nuclear bombs. Israel, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, and other nations appear poised to inform us that they, too, belong to the ''club.''

It is extremely difficult to contemplate any level of normalcy when we consider the implications and the threat that these weapons pose, the constant and ever-present possibility that something, or a combination of somethings, might go terribly wrong once again.

The New England Journal of Medicine, in its April 30, 1998 issue, gave a special report on

''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. As 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 firestorms 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 be reminded that we must keep on working to educate ourselves and our society, and continue to make advances toward total nuclear disarmament.

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 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 Chair for the Metropolitan 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 us. 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 Aguilera, 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 was touched by his presence. We all remember and miss him.

HONORING STEVEN AND JENNIE GRANT ON THE OCCASION ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

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 #7138; VFW House 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 Seniors and the National Council 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 Counselor 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; Patricia; Olivia; Drew and Derek. Also, they have six great-grandchildren: Rachel; Brianna; Ryan; Nicholas; Joselyn and Issac.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, August 29, 1998, Jennie and Steven will celebrate their 50 years of matrimony 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.

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 our pilots. From the time he first sailed as a 16-year-old, Capt. Greene garnered the respect and admiration 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 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 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 was 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 waters from environmental harm is equally as crucial. Capt. Greene is one of those rare individuals who understood the importance of both needs.

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 A Central Place, where non-profit organizations shared downtown office space. The Oakland Potluck, a food salvage organization, was founded by her in 1986 and now feeds 600,000 meals a year.

Florence LeCron Jurs was borne in Cheyenne, Wyoming on September 28, 1912 and grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, where she was exposed to stimulating conversations and experiences as a member of the Cowles publishing family. Her father, James LeCron, was the editor of The Des Moines Register and Tribune newspaper. Her mother, Helen Cowles LeCron, was a member of the Cowles Publishing family (Minneapolis Star Journal, and Look Magazine).

She was schooled in Switzerland and France before matriculating at Stanford University. While in Stanford she met Gene Jurs and decided that California was to be her lifelong home.

Ms. Jurs was involved in Oakland Public Schools, city of Oakland politics, the Lincoln Child Center, the Marcus Foster Institute, the Management Center, St. Paul's School and served on numerous Boards of Directors of nonprofit agencies dealing with board development and services for children, mental health, food for hungry people, to name a few. The California Legislature named her ''Woman of the Year'' in 1989. The Oakland City Council declared August 31, 1986 ''Eugene and Florence Jurs Day'' for outstanding service to the City of Oakland.

Networking and hard work have been hallmarks of Florence Jurs' life. She involved herself in projects with a passion and inspired the same in others, a reason every group of which she was a member flourished. There are 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.

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 Kosova. The resolution also urges that blocked assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which are under control of the United States and other governments be used to compensate the Albanians in Kosova for losses suffered as a result of Serbian police and military action. In introducing this resolution, I was joined by our colleagues, the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on International Relations BENJAMIN 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 Kosova and about atrocities by Serbian military and police forces against ethnic Albanians. This week there were reports of a mass grave. 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 Kosova 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 the self-government rights of the ethnic Albanian majority in the province of Kosova and restricting the human and civil rights of these people. Over the past decade, the Department of State has reported and documented this systematic and brutal repression of the ethnic Albanians of Kosova.

Despite these Serbian policies, a highly respected Albanian leadership emerged which favored a peaceful, non-violent effort to win local government autonomy and respect for the civil and human rights of the majority population. Because of the increasingly repressive Serbian policies, however, Albanians who favored a violent and confrontational approach have gained strength. The increasing assertiveness of Albanians is the direct consequence of this ill-conceived aggressive nationalist Serbian repression and the failure of the Serbian government to recognize the legitimate rights of the ethnic Albanians of Kosova.

After radicalizing the Albanian population by its disastrous policies, the Serbian government has sent increased numbers of ethnic Serbian police forces and Serbian military forces into Kosova in an effort to repress the effort of the ethnic Albanian majority to secure their legitimate political, civil and human rights. Thus far, Mr. Speaker, there have been several hundred confirmed deaths of ethnic Albanians, including women and children, and there are an estimated 200,000 ethnic Albanian refugees who have been driven from their homes by the fighting. These tragic numbers are increasing as the Serbian violence continues.

At a recent hearing of the House Committee on International Relations we heard from officials of the Department of State about the increasing violence taking place in Kosova. It struck me at that time, Mr. Speaker, that the government assets of the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which have been blocked by the United States government should be used to pay for the destruction which has been cause by the actions of the Serbian police and military forces in Kosova. For this reason, I have introduced House Concurrent Resolution 315. Our resolution expresses the Congress' outrage at the wanton destruction of life and property that has resulted from Serbian military actions in Kosova.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of this resolution, and I ask that the text of this resolution be included in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 315

Expressing the sense of the Congress condemning the atrocities by Serbian police and military forces against Albanians in Kosova and urging that blocked assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) under control of the United States and other governments be used to compensate the Albanians in Kosova for losses suffered through Serbian police and military action.

Whereas the ethnic Albanian population of the province of Kosova, 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 the press;

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 Kosova 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

them to rubble, in order to drive out the ethnic Albanian inhabitants, inflicting heavy material losses upon the ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

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 Kosova by the Government of Serbia has been the major factor in the radicalization of the political situation in the province and made the prospects of 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 Kosova 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 Serbia 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 Kosova who have suffered as a consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces in Kosova 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 Kosova 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 inadvertently 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 in this 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. We will then be in 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 in its observance of minimal standards 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. After all, the same 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 of a venal judiciary 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 rivaled 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 may 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, cronyism, 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 its tawdry performance all but required, but today it is subject for close examination by the international community, including the aforementioned issue of The Financial Times.

One 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 biweekly 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, as exemplified by the sanctuary that a succession of Argentine presidents provided to fleeing World War II war criminals of the Nazi era. Other examples of outrageous behavior on the part of local Argentine authorities have been the Keystone cop antics surrounding 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 diligent in promoting the cause of human rights, and in urging the local authorities to investigate the unresolved bombing of the AMIA, one of the two aforementioned wantonly destroyed Jewish facilities.

We now have another opportunity to take action in helping to strengthen Argentine democracy. Unfortunately, as in this country we must face the fact that religious and racial persecution is found in many places in the Americas, representing a frontier that the international conscience must strive to conquer. Unequivocally, the facts surrounding the treatment of the Buenos Aries Yoga School reveal that this is one of a number of disturbing 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 inner light has been singled our for threats, intimidation, sexual harassment and a campaign of terror largely is because many of its members are highly distinguished cultural, professional, and academic figures of Jewish background. COHA's article on the ordeal experienced by BAYS sheds some light on the tribulations that all those in this country who really care about democracy will have to be concerned about. I call upon my colleagues to carefully read the following article by the director of the Council of Hemispheric Affairs, Larry Birns, and COHA research associate, Anna M. Busch.

COUNCIL ON HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS

ARGENTINA'S FLAWED COURT, CORRUPTED SOCIETY

By Larry Birns and Anna Busch

After years of being held in contempt by most Argentines because of its lack of professionalism and absence of even elemental integrity, the Buenos Aires police force has begun the protracted task of cleansing its own Augean stable, easily among the hemisphere's most egregiously corrupted institutions. Last December, 2,000 of its personnel were terminated and almost 50,000 were implicated in some form of corrupt practices.

The pressing need for massive restructuring in the police's selection and training procedures was highlighted by the alleged involvement of Buenos Aires' assistant police chief in the bombing of a Jewish community building, resulting in almost 100 deaths. Five years was then wasted on a scandalously farcical investigation. Although such facts have become widely known to the Argentine public, its sensibilities have been dulled by the hecatomb of corruption charges leveled from all directions at the government of President Carlos Menem.

Merely one of hundreds of examples where Argentine justice is chronically denied or manipulated to serve the ends of cronyism and venality, is the fate of the Buenos Aires Yoga School (BAYS), a tiny entity devoted to pursuing education and philosophic studies, akin to New England's literary Athenaeum movement of a century ago.

Although BAYS' ordeal has been hardly remarkable, it well illustrates the grevious condition of one of Argentina's basic institutions—its notoriously flawed court system. BAYS regards itself as an apolitical, non-religious, NGO. The Argentine government calls it a cult. The group has attracted a long list of tributes for its work in the fields of public health and in the war against drugs. In the arts, BAYS members also has made their mark through composing a number of major works, including an opera, a ballet, and a symphony, which have won plaudits worldwide. Nevertheless, the group has been greeted with singular hostility in Argentina.

A motivating factor for the judiciary's prejudice against BAYS is the high percentage of Jews in its leadership as well as among its members (no small fact in a country which is anti-Semitic to its marrow).

Legal proceedings against BAYS' members were initiated in 1993, and were accompanied by an unrelieved spate of hostile media coverage. The original trial judge was well-known for his neo-nazi ideology, redolent of that of the brutal military regime that had seized power in 1976, and which ruled for almost a decade through a level of violence unparalleled in Argentine history. The complaint against BAYS was entered as a counter suit to one filed by one of its own members, a 24-year-old student who accused her stepfather, a former employee of the military junta, of sexually molesting her. In turn, the stepfather charged that his stepdaughter was a victim of a cult which had ''corrupted'' her. The judge eventually recused himself, but only under pressure of his own imminent Senate impeachment on charges of having committed scores of illegal acts against BAYS. He imprisoned the innocent and demanded that children testify, but not in the presence of their parents or attorney, he questioned defendants for hundred-hour stints, carried out more than thirty illegal searches including raiding the offices of the defendant's attorneys, as well as authorizing the stealing of evidence.

The judge, well known for his sleaziness and his sexual improprieties, also insisted at the time that he was removing himself from the case only because he had been ''bewitched'' by the group. He then handed it to a fellow right-winger. Although the new judge favored a more discreet approach, he could barely contain his personal antipathy toward BAYS, capriciously adding fraud and larceny to the existing charges. He also openly ignored a superior court's decision nullifying part of the case on the grounds that no convincing evidence against BAYS was established. Nevertheless, the judge refused to invalidate the previous illegal actions sanctioned by his predecessor, and proceeded to recklessly indict even more individuals, as well as ignoring that the statute of limitations had run out.

BAYS' fate is illustrative of the corruption, bigotry and criminality that pervades every level of Argentina's court system and also infects its broader society. The nation's ill-reputed judiciary and police force are a liability for the nation's reputation abroad, which could hurt the country from fully benefiting from the opportunities afforded by the regional trade pact, Mercosur, as well as the FTAA, once enacted.

Demonstrably, Argentina is far less along the democratic continuum than Presidents Menem and Clinton wrongfully insist it is. On the eve of the Santiago Summit, in his speech gave to the Chilean legislature, President Clinton stressed the theme of ''deepening'' democratic institutions (millions of dollars already have been allocated from abroad to reform Argentina's bedeviled judiciary). Argentina and other hemispheric nations desperately need that ''deepening'' to make credible the now pseudo-democratic nature of their institutions.

It hasn't helped that Menem fosters political cynicism as his modus operandi, rather than providing genuine leadership or anything approaching a vision. His lack of class and his inability to comprehend strong ethical standards, has left the country without a moral compass. His readiness to participate in the cover up of a number of infamous cases, including the bombing of two Jewish entities, with heavy loss of life has emphasized the desperate need for reforming the region's deplorable court systems, beginning with Argentina's.

TIME TO BRING PEACE TO CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, it has been 24 years since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. In 1974, almost 200,000 Greek Cypriots—a 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 of 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, today there are still more than 1,600 unaccounted for Greek Cypriots.

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 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 have been found. In June, his remains were released to the Kassapis family for a formal burial. This tragedy is one of many that continue to occur in divided Cyprus.

The illegal occupation of 37 percent of Cyprus territory by the Turkish troops, as well as the unwillingness of Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership to conduct talks have caused the existing standstill. In the meantime, a new generation is coming of age amid a divided and militarized society within a country that will never be an equal free member of the European Community as long as it stands divided.

As a defender of freedom and human rights, we cannot allow ourselves to ignore this illegal

occupation and denial of human rights. As a nation, we must insist that turkey withdraw its occupying forces and allow the return of refugees to their communities.

We must send a clear message stating that violations of human rights and international law will not be tolerated, especially when perpetrated by a nation to which we grant significant amounts of foreign aid. A truly democratic foreign policy will seek the restoration of a united Greek-Cypriot state and serve as a testament to our commitment to democratic self-government and fundamental freedoms.

A TRIBUTE TO IAN B. ZELLICK

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, Mr. Ian B. Zellick, television pioneer and civic leader, who died on July 27 after a brief illness at age 73.

Mr. Zellick was the first staff member at a local television station in the City of Oakland KTVU–TV Channel 2 where he was hired in 1958 as employee number 001. He worked at Channel 2 for more than 32 years; first as a set designer and artist, but it is for his more than 20 years as Director of the Community Affairs Department that Mr. Zellick is best remembered.

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 the concerns of various ethnic and minority communities. 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, including The Oakland Ballet, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra of the West, Booth Memorial Home, the displaced Homemakers, the Oakland Symphony, and the Oakland Opera. People who knew him described him as a self-styled one-man community network, involved in education, music, dance, mental health, and pregnant teens. He was able to form links between dissimilar agencies. For instance, when an important resident service for pregnant teens was threatened, he facilitated an arrangement between Oakland's YWCA and the Salvation Army's Booth Center, thus insuring the service would continue.

After he retired from KTVU in 1990, Mr. Zellick concentrated on the Philharmonia Baroque, the San Francisco Early Music Society and the East Bay Agency for Children. EBAC runs residential and day care facilities for disturbed kids and he was honored by them for ''A Lifetime of Service to the East Bay Community.'' He received accolades and numerous awards, as a founding member of the Philharmonia and the Preceptor Award from the annual national Broadcasting Industry Conference in recognition of his work encouraging and supporting young people in the field of broadcasting.

Mr. Zellick was born on June 7, 1925 in San Francisco. He got his BA from San Francisco State University and his MA from Mills College. As a Marine during WWII, he saw action in the South Pacific. He is survived by his wife Beverly, a daughter Kate; two sons: Vaughn and Arch; and five grandchildren.

KHALISTANI DELEGATION TESTIFIES AT UNITED NATIONS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently a delegation of Khalistani Americans led by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulkah, President of the Council of Khalistan, testified before the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, which was meeting in New York City. While there, they exposed the massive human rights violations by the Indian Government in Punjab, Khalistan. Joining Dr. Aulakh were Dr. Paramjit Singh Ajrawat of Maryland, Professor Gurcharan Singh of Marymount University in New York, Judge Mewa Singh of New Jersey, and Malkiat Singh Heir, also of New Jersey.

The Working Group revealed that it has requested permission to visit India and has been denied. The same thing has happened to Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and others who have tried to conduct an independent human rights investigation. India obviously has plenty to hide.

Even though the government in Punjab is not led by the Sikh Akali Dal political party, there have still been over 150 atrocities documented since they formed a coalition with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1997. It is ironic that while the Khalistani delegation was testifying, the news broke that Rajiv Singh Randhawa, a witness who identified the police officers who kidnapped human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, was himself abducted by the police. A few days later, Japal Singh Dhillon, who worked with Mr. Khalra on his report exposing the mass cremations of Sikhs by the Indian Government, was also arrested on a false charge. Shortly after that, his lawyer, Daljit Singh Rajput, was picked up on the same false charge.

The July 9–15, 1998 issue of Awaze Qaum reported that the police picked up Kashmira Singh of the village of Khudial Kalan on the pretext that they were investigating a theft. They then tortured Kashmira Singh for 15 days. They rolled logs over his legs until he couldn't walk. They submerged him in a tub of water. They slashed his thighs with razor blades and stuffed hot peppers into his wounds. Then the police claimed that Kashmira Singh had escaped, a bad sign that he has most likely been murdered by the police. In addition, they arrested his father and brother, who I understand are also being subjected to torture. How can a country that systematically violates basic human rights like this call itself democratic?

It is clear from these events that there is no place for Sikhs or other minorities within India's borders. As Dr. Aulakh has said, ''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 has been active collusion by the Akali Government with police forces to cover up past abuses and to distract from present abuses. 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.'' With nuclear weapons involved in South Asia, these terrible violations of basic human rights are even more dangerous to the entire world.

I am inserting Dr. Aulakh's testimony and the Council of Khalistan's press release into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues. I urge them to read it carefully. It is frightening, but quite informative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TESTIMONY OF DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN BEFORE THE 54TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Ladies and Gentlemen: Let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to speak to the Working Group again this year. I would like to update you on disappearances in the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. When I reported to you last year, the Sikh homeland was in a deplorable situation. It has not improved. If anything, it has been made worse by the presence of Indian missiles deployed in Punjab after its recent nuclear tests.

This deployment puts Sikh lives at risk to preserve those of the ruling class. The BJP has shown an openly hegemonic agenda towards its South Asian neighbors. There is no doubt that if war breaks out between India and Pakistan, Punjab will be the battleground, as it was for the last three wars fought between the two nations and once again, Sikhs will bear the most casualties in this nuclear holocaust.

I would like to thank the many committed people whose efforts have helped us develop this information to present to you. My statement is more a result of their efforts than my own.

The human-rights situation in Punjab, Khalistan remains as bad as it ever was. The renowned journalist and writer Kushwant Singh has said last May that he personally approved of the police method of simply grabbing Sikh youth and shooting them in the head without bothering with the courts, he stated, and I quote, ''I supported the police in its extra-judicial killings.''

Former Speaker of the Indian Parliament Balram Jakhar said, ''If we have to kill a million Sikhs to preserve India's territorial integrity, so be it.'' In an interview broadcast by NPR on August 11, 1997, Narinder Singh, identified as a spokesman for the Golden Temple, said that ''The Indian government all the time they boast that they're democratic, they're secular, but they have nothing to do with a democracy, they have nothing to do with a secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to please the majority.''

On May 12, the chairman of India's National Human Rights Commission reported that the NHRC had received 38,000 cases in the last few months. This tells us the magnitude of human-rights violations in India because only a small fraction of cases are reported due to intimidation by the police, poverty, and illiteracy.

What terrifies the Sikh community about this dangerous scenario is the ease by which past Indian Governments have been able to make Sikhs disappear and kill them with impunity. Since 1984, an estimated quarter million Sikhs have lost their lives, but those responsible, men like K.P.S. Gill, are applauded in India as superheroes. It has been proven in the ballot box that when a political party, be it BJP or Congress, targets a minority community such as Muslims, Christians, or Sikhs, they win elections.

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 Awaze Qaum, the police picked up Kashmira Singh of the village of Khudal Kalan on the pretext of investigating a theft. They tortured him by rolling logs over his legs, submerging him in a tub of water, cutting his thighs with a blade and stuffing red peppers into the cuts. For 15 days they tortured him.

When his family and villagers came to see him, he could not walk. Then the police claimed that Kashmira Singh had escaped from the police station and they arrested his father and a minor brother. They, too, are being tortured, but they are so poor that they can not even go to court. The people of the village are afraid that Kashmira Singh was killed during the torture and that his body was disposed of as usual, another case of disappearance.

Keep in mind that Kashmira Singh is not a terrorist, the young man picked up on suspicion of theft, and he had never been formally charged.

In the July 10 issue of India West, it was reported that the National Human Rights Commission asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate the abduction of a journalist named Avtar Singh Mandar by the Punjab police. Mr. Mandar was a correspondent for the Punjabi daily Ajit who was abducted from his house in Jalandhar in 1992. His whereabouts remain unknown. This is just another typical case.

Recent reports show that a police official named Swaran Singh, known as Ghotna after a brutal type of torture he regularly employs, tortured Gurdev Singh Kaunke, the former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, and finally murdered him by tearing him in half. The next day, the government announced that Jathedar Kaunke had escaped from police custody. This is a typical disappearance.

You are all aware of the case of Jaswant Singh Khalra. Mr. Khalra has done accurate and detailed work regarding the disappearances and genocide. His findings are extremely useful in understanding the extent of State repression of Sikhs. For his work, Mr. Khalra was abducted by police from his residence in Amritsar on September 6, 1995. A few days earlier, Tarn Taran SSP Ajit Sandhu told Mr. Khalra, ''We made 25,000 disappear. It would not be hard to make one more disappear.'' The police subsequently murdered him, according to a witness, but they have never acknowledged his death.

Amnesty International issued a report on April 27 entitled A Mockery of Justice: The Disappearance of Jaswant Singh Khalra. In this report, Amnesty International noted that ''Khalra had been part of a campaign to highlight the plight of hundreds of people (Sikhs) who disappeared after being arrested by the Punjab police during the 1980s and early 1990s. Those who now seek to defend his rights are being threatened and witnesses are being intimidated.''

One example of this intimidation is a former police officer named Kuldip Singh. Chandigarh-based journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan reported in The Hitvada that Kuldip Singh heard the police murder Jaswant Singh Khalra at the Chhabal police station on October 27, 1995. Like so many of the innocent Sikhs whose disappearances he reported on, Khalra's body was thrown into the Harike canal.

Here is how Kuldip Singh described the killing: ''He was made to stand, thrashed and pushed onto the ground. His legs were stretched apart more than 180 degrees. Seven policemen kicked him in the abdomen and chest. Save me. Please give me some water, he cried. As I was about to fetch some water, I heard two shots. I ran back into the room and he was bleeding profusely. He had stopped breathing.'' This is what happens to someone when he tries to expose India's brutal policy of disappearances and mass cremations.

According to Indian Express, Kuldip Singh told the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that the brutal former Director General of Police, K.P.S. Gill, was involved in the Khalra kidnapping and murder. Kuldip Singh states that he was present when Gill met with Mr. Khalra just days before his death. The meeting took place at the home of Ajit Sandhu, who committed suicide when the Supreme Court of India ordered him indicted along with eight other officers for the Khalra kidnapping.

When Khalra and several police officers were riding back to the police station, according to Kuldip Singh, Satnam Singh, the SHO of the Chhabal station, told Mr. Khalra that ''if you agree to Gill, you will be spared.'' The Coordination Committee for Disappearances in Punjab, a human-rights group from Punjab, has demanded that CBI file charges against Gill for his involvement in the abduction and murder of Mr. Khalra.

After Kuldip Singh's testimony but before it became public, the government filed false charges that Mr. Khalra's widow, Paramjit Kaur Khalra, tried to bride Kuldip Singh. This was an effort to discredit Kuldip Singh's testimony and undermine Mrs. Khalra's case against the government. Even the Punjab DGP said that the matter was investigated by the crime branch, which found the case untenable. Kuldip Singh is now under the protection of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) because he fears liquidation by officials of the Punjab police.

Unfortunately, the Khalra kidnapping is typical practice by Indian security forces. Lawyers, journalists, and rights activists have been made to disappear to instill a fear psychosis among the people. According to The Hitvada, at least one journalist received a phone call warning him that ''it is dangerous to report against the government.'' The lawyer for Mr. Khalra's widow was subjected to an intimidation attempt in a courtroom in front of a judge and his tires were slashed. Mr. Sodhi, a lawyer from Ropar who was representing accused Sikh militants in courts, was abducted along with his wife and 18-month-old child. They went into the police station and never returned. Police dumped their bodies in the canal and falsely blamed the killings on militants.

Khalra found that at least 25,000 cases of cremating ''unidentified'' bodies have been recorded in various municipal cremation grounds throughout Punjab. Khalra's team found that in the Patti cremation grounds, a total of 538 bodies were brought to the cremation ground by police between 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 one body was burned with a single allotment of wood.

Last year I gave the Working Group a preliminary list of 4,694 Sikhs who have been in Indian police or security force custody, some going as far back as 1981. Despite their deaths being reported by Indian authorities, in virtually every case, the body has not been released to the families, no positive identification has been made of the deceased, post-mortem examinations have not been conducted and no death certificate has been issued. In those case where post-mortem examinations were conducted, the identification of the victim is always listed as ''unidentified.''

It is very important to note that because bodies are not returned, and no valid death certificate is ever issued, there is no confirmation that Sikhs who are reportedly killed are actually dead. These Sikhs must be considered disappeared until they can be positively identified as being killed.

Even with more recent disappearances there is an additional alarming trend, police regularly deny picking up an individual in the first place thereby bypassing the judicial system altogether. Sikh families are left with the fear and frustration of having their loved ones very abduction denied.

The patterns of these abductions are virtually the same wherever they occur in Punjab, Khalistan. Sikhs are either arrested openly, or a special squad is dispatched which raids the person's residence in the middle of the night. The person is handcuffed and taken to normal police headquarters or special interrogation centers set up in the 80's for the sole purpose of torture. Police methods include:

Rolling heavy wooden or iron rods along the victim's thighs rupturing the muscles.

Electrical shocks in sensitive areas, including genitalia.

Rape if the victim is female.

Hanging the victim upside down or by the hands until consciousness is lost.

Beating at the bottom of the victim's feet with hard blunt wooden staffs, and thick leather cudgels.

Stretching the victim's limbs.

Inserting an iron bar in the rectum and heating it up electrically. This causes tremendous pain and damage, but shows no exterior evidence of torture.

As you know, a battery of Draconian laws were issued throughout the 80's which, in addition to the cash bounty system, give the security forces shoot-to-kill powers with immunity from prosecution. These laws also give security forces broad detention powers.

In a much heralded declaration in May of 1995, the Indian government announced that the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (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, ''6,000 prisoners remain under TADA custody.'' But that number may be in the tens of thousands. Amnesty International, in its 1996 report, stated ''Legislation allowing detention without charge or trial remained in force in India. . . . many of those detained under its provisions remained in custody.''

Furthermore, TADA revocation only applies to crimes committed after the revocation date. As long as the police allege that the accused committed a crime BEFORE the revocation date, which they can do without any evidence to back their claim, TADA methods can be used to detain the accused indefinitely. For all intents and purposes, TADA remains in effect.

Today, there are thousands of detainees languishing in jails throughout India who are officially declared missing or escaped, but are in fact in detention. Exact 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 credibility. 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 violations 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 forth killings within a year after they allegedly occurred. Therefore, the vast majority of Sikh killings, disappearances, rape and other violations cannot even be brought before the NHRC!

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

The complaint for the illegal detention that Mr. Kumar sent to NHRC and India's 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 where, and I quote, ''the armed forces have for decades followed a systematic policy of terror to combat secessionist movements.'' He also stated, quote, ''Frankly I am worried about my safety when I travel in these regions . . . I am aware that a man like Jaswant Singh Khalra, who assisted me with 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 doing so 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 others 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 February, there was hope that finally peace, stability and a measure of democracy 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 has been active 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 indigenous Sikh party (the Akalis) and they therefore must be respectful of the human rights of their own people.

Yet the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, refuses to let his government investigate these disappearances and mass cremations. He proudly boasts that his government has not taken action against any police officer. Instead, former Supreme Court Justice Kuldip Singh, chairman 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 gathering by Indian and Punjab security forces. The members of the Peoples Commission have impeccable credentials. All are former jurists.

The People's 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 successful in documenting 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 model 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 temptation and used the police and security forces much like previous state governments, to eliminate any and all opposition to their rule; including political opposition.

I have enclosed a partial list of atrocities that lists almost 150 atrocities, including several disappearances, in Punjab since the Akalis took power in March 1997.

I had mentioned and submitted 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 by police have appeared before 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 convenor of the Movement Against State Repression, Inderjit Singh Jaijee which draws its figure from the Punjab State Magistracy.

It is my fervent hope, a hope shared by 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 group to consider:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Working Group should recommend the long-term presence of international human rights monitors in Punjab, Khalistan. In addition to UN Organs, groups like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch/Asia and other international groups must be allowed to operate freely throughout Khalistan.

Domestic institutions alone cannot deal with the human rights crisis plaguing the Sikh homeland. Neither the courts, the NHRC or the Punjab state government is willing to begin the arduous task of surveying 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 1978. Until there is a permanent and pervasive presence of international monitors throughout Punjab, who will be there until all of the facts of the genocide are collected, the fear of 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 investigation 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 as to what actually happened to the tens of thousands of Sikhs who were taken by police and never seen again.

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 Indian authorities cease abducting, harassing and murdering human rights activists and other Sikhs. The persons involved in the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra and that of Jathedar Kaunke 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 break into jail and alleged Sikh militants. No court magistrate has validated these charges by the police and when human-rights groups protested the charges, the police relented in their pursuit to arrest 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 capable for 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 and provide them with technical assistance 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 need international recognition of the Commission, but will make much harder for Indian security and government officials to harass or even kill those individuals involved in the very risky business required by the Commission's work. 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 measured and appropriate sanctions 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 they do help open Punjab, Khalistan to the international community. This must occur before any credible investigation regarding disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture and rape can begin.

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 Dr. Paramjit Singh Ajrawat, Professor Gurcharan Singh of Marymount University in New York, Judge Mewa Singh of New Jersey, and Malkiat Singh Heir, also of New Jersey.

The Working Group said that if they can get a list of the disappeared, they will investigate. They have asked India for permission to visit and were denied, as other independent human-rights monitors have been. They said that they will try again.

While the Khalistani delegation was testifying to the United Nations, word came out that the police abducted Rajiv Singh Randhawa, who was an eyewitness to the police kidnapping of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, yesterday. This abduction is typical of police conduct in Punjab. The police have murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Disappearances continue to be routine.

''With the Akali party election victory in the state of Punjab last February, there was hope that finally peace, stability and a measure of democracy would return to the Sikh homeland,'' Dr. Aulakh told the Working Group. ''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 has been active collusion by the Akali Government with police forces to cover up past abuses and to distract from present abuses,'' he said. He presented a partial list of almost 150 atrocities that have been reported since the Akali government took power in March 1997.

According to the July 9–15 issue of Awaze Qaum, the police picked up Kashmira Singh of the village of Khudal Kalan in Mansa district on the pretext of investigating a theft. They tortured him for 15 days by rolling logs over his legs, submerging him in a tub of water, cutting his thighs with a blade and stuffing red peppers into the wounds. Then the police claimed that Kashmira Singh had escaped 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.

In another recent development, Jaspal Singh Dhillon and four other human-rights activists were falsely charged with conspiring to blow up a jail to free an alleged ''militant.'' When the human-right community objected, the charges were dropped under pressure. The Punjab government under Chief Minister Badal has spent more than 2 crore (20 million) rupees for legal fees to protect the police officers who participated in the genocide against the Sikh Nation.

''Only 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, remaining undefeated during District 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 Dufrefne; 12—Sean Lucey; 13—Derrick Hume; 14—Scott Wrenn; 15—Brian Macphee; 16—Tom Janowski; 17—Darren Natoli; 18—Joe Lacombe; 19—Justin Blanchard; 20—Buddy Penny; 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.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF JAMES WELDON HADNOT, SR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I pay tribute to Mr. James Weldon Hadnot, Sr., a legend in the Bay Area and to the world of basketball, who left us on August 3, 1998. James was the father of my Oakland District Staff, Julie Hadnot.

James Weldon Hadnot, Sr., was born in Jasper, Texas on January 5, 1940 to Roosevelt and Arvetter Hadnot, the third of five children. At the age of three, his family moved to Oakland, California. James attended Oakland Public Schools graduating from McClymonds' High School in 1958. At McClymonds' he was a premier athlete, leading his basketball team to three outstanding seasons. In 1958, his team won the Tournament of Champions with a 28–0 win.

James received a basketball scholarship to attend Providence College in Rhode Island. While at Providence, he led his team to three consecutive NIT appearances, receiving First Team All-Tournament honors at each of these appearances. In 1961, James led the Friars to the NIT Championship award. His Providence Friars' team garnered a record of 68 and 16 during his career. In 1974, James was inducted into the Providence College Hall of Fame.

He graduated from Providence in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Shortly thereafter, he was selected by the Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association (NBA).

In 1963 he returned to Oakland to play for the Oakland Oaks of the American Basketball League (ABL). He later played for the Oakland Oaks of the American Basketball Association (ABA), which won an ABA Championship in 1969. Between 1982 and 1987 James coached basketball at Laney and Alameda Community Colleges and Holy Names College. In 1987, he rejoined the NBA as a Scout for the Sacramento Kings. In 1991 he began working with the New Jersey Nets as a Scout for the western region.

James was also an entrepreneur with three liquor stores in 1963. The most notable was Hadnot Liquors on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley. He later sold them and opened the Safari Cocktail Lounge on Foothill Boulevard in Oakland.

Throughout his life, James was actively involved in the civic and sports community. He was a member of the California State Package & Tavern Owners Association, the Grass Valley PTA, the Alameda County Cerebral Palsy Board, the American Basketball Association Alumni and the McClymonds' Alumni Association, just to name a few of the many. He also served as a Catholic Youth Organization Basketball Coach at St. Paschal's School in Oakland.

He found great pleasure in spending time with his family and friends. James was an avid golfer, spending many days as a Marshall at the Lake Chabot Golf Course.

James is survived by his wife Norma (Cookie), sons, Dorian, Shawn; daughters, Julie and Jana; daughter-in-law Ebony; grandson, James III; sister, Virgle Stringfield; brother,

Benny Hadnot; mother-in-law, Edith Del Prete; brother-in-law, Gino Del Prete. He was preceded in death by his son James, Jr. He will be missed by his family, friends, colleagues and the community.

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 Sun-Times 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 Service Center, now known as 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 Air Force has moved away from focusing on measuring processes to measuring performance, CASC has been a role 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 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 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. Phillip'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 what he is doing now.

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 grand jury 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 roving 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, a tribute to one of the black regiments which fought in the Civil War.

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 John Andrew.

He fought to do what saved the war:
Bring Blacks into the fray.
For up 'til 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 Gov'nor more than 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 to Robert Shaw
To lead this regiment.
For in this bold Brahmin he saw
The strength of firm commitment.

The men trained with exactitude,
To Milit'ry precision.
With courage, strength and fortitude
They faced their disposition.

Fort Wagner in South Caroline
Would prove their maiden 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
Ignoring shot and shell.

Young Colonel Shaw, while rallying forth
With sword clutched in his hand.
Exhorted, ''Onward Fifty Fourth''
His ultimate command.

He died upon the parapet.
He fell amidst his men.
All buried in a common pit,
Returned to earth as kin.

The standard bearer breathed his last;
The flag was going down.
Thrice wounded 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 denied.
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 fife 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 dialog is a precursor to the President and Congress addressing Social Security reform next year.

Last week, President Clinton participated in dialog in Albuquerque, NM, and he outlined five fundamental principles with are essential to 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 guarantee.

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 aged 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 want 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.

Of all the adults surveyed, 73 percent believe the Social Security system can work for young people when they retire if Congress will strengthen the system's finance and 69 percent of the adults surveyed that were between 18 and 34 years old agree. The survey inquired about private accounts and only 39 percent of those surveyed between 18 and 34 years of age supported allowing individuals to invest their Social Security contributions in the stock market, so that people can manage their accounts. Only 32 percent of all individuals surveyed support private accounts.

This survey helps us realize that Americans are concerned about Social Security, but they do not want the guarantee that is the fundamental principle of Social Security changed. Social Security has become a safety net for retirement for all American workers and we should not take action to weaken this safety net. We should consider all aspects of the Social Security system as we moved forward with the debate on reform.

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 Right 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 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 eliminate 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 righteousness are thinly-veiled attacks on the Voting Rights Act and 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 the 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, and 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 underserved 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 characteristically 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 American, 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 close to 4 million 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 party of Manuel Noriega. Twice in 30 years the PRD has stolen democracy from the people through military means. The last time this happened, 28 Americans lost their lives in order to restore the democratically elected President, Guillermo Endara.

Perez Balladares has hired Democratic party operative James Carville in an effort to ease any pressure that might have come from the White House to put a stop to Balladares' power grab. He should have saved his money. If one looks at the way this 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 is heartening 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.

These concerns are very important to the San Francisco Bay Area where healthy fisheries 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 beneficiaries of 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 Enhancement 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 affiliations between banks, securities firms, and insurance companies. This makes sense in light of the trends currently taking place in our economy: globalization, rapid technological change, and demonopolization. But the great truth of the Information Age is that the new telecommunications technologies that financial services giants use to create and market stocks, bonds, insurance policies, and loans to homes and businesses have a certain Dickensian quality to them: we have the best of wires and the worst of wires.

Electronic commerce can allow corporations to become more efficient and workers more productive. But this same technology can avail financial services conglomerates of the opportunity to track personal information, compile sophisticated, highly personal consumer profiles of peoples' buying habits, hobbies, financial information, health information, and other data.

As a consequence, as our nation moves to allow securities, insurance companies, and banks to affiliate, we must recognize that the resulting conglomerates will have virtually unprecedented access to the most sensitive personal and financial information, and they will be largely free to share this information among the various affiliates or even sell it to others. 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 tip off the securities 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 car 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 disasterous. 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 account balances. 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 that 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 NASDR 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 privacy of mutual fund investors and investment adviser customers. The legislation I am introducing today would address problems in each of these areas.

I think we should all be able to 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 among persons related by common 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 nongovernmental entities. Only seven states—Alaska, 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 private 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.

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 of interest to me was an 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 corrections 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

radio system in the country, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR). MPR owns and operates 30 radio stations around the state and in border states to provide public radio coverage to 98 percent of the residents of Minnesota. In most communities, they operate dual channels, a news and information station and a music station. In my district, they have stations in Appleton, Worthington and St. Peter. In addition, other parts of my district are served by stations in Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They are truly a state treasure, bringing 24 hour-a-day news coverage and classical music to many parts of rural Minnesota that would not otherwise get those services through commercial radio.

Minnesota Public Radio is however, more than just a treasure to my state. It is a national resource, producing more national radio programming than any radio station or system in the United States. Many people around the country identify Minnesota with the image of Lake Wobegon and the nationally known program A Prairie Home Companion produced by MPR in St. Paul. As for music, over 500,000 people a week from around the country listen to concerts on St. Paul Sunday, which is about the same number that attend live classical music concerts in the U.S. every week. In addition, MPR produces other nationally known programs such as Sound Money and A Splendid Table.

Minnesota Public Radio is also an international media entity and has the U.S. distribution rights to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio productions on BBC3 and BBC4, It also has U.S. distribution rights to certain productions of the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC).

In 1981, Congress, recognizing the likelihood of future federal funding shortfalls, urged nonprofit organizations like MPR to earn more of their revenues by stating the ''Public Broadcast stations are explicitly authorized to provide services, facilities or products in exchange for remuneration . . .''. In response to that challenge, MPR expanded its product marketing activities into catalog mailings and then, in 1987, launched the Greenspring Companies, a for-profit, tax paying group of companies. Working off its successful A Prairie Home Companion and the internal talent of its organization, it set up several for-profit companies to market products associated with its productions. Through sound management and understanding the value of its intellectual property, they turned one of those for-profit companies into one of the largest mail order companies in the country. Over the years, the for-profit companies contributed over $40 million to the growth of MPR and allowed them to build new radio stations in Minnesota communities like Appleton, Thief River Falls, and La Crescent.

As a for-profit company, Greenspring departed from the norm for ''unrelated business activity'' at nonprofit organizations and proceeded to employ all of the traditional mechanisms of capitalism, beginning with a strong, experienced, separate Board of Directors, state of the art facilities, recruitment of top industry professionals, incentive compensation, equity participation by employees and public reports similar to those of a publicly traded company. In 1998, after growing one of the for-profit companies, Rivertown Trading Company, from nothing to annual sales of $200 million, it was sold to the Dayton Hudson Corporation, another Minnesota company. That sale allowed Minnesota Public Radio to put $90 million into an endowment, the largest endowment of any public broadcasting company in the country. The bonus to management of the for-profit Rivertown Trading Company and Greenspring were about 6 percent of the sales price.

Some Members of Congress would have us penalize the success of organizations such as Minnesota Public Radio. They would say, that since organizations such as MPR are successful capitalists, they should be punished. I, however, believe in the marketplace and do not wish to punish that type of success.

In the meantime, Minnesota Public Radio continues to provide me and my family with our share of Minnesota, whether we are at home in Minnesota or here in Washington. I continue to listen every Saturday night that I can, to Garrison Keillor and all the news from Lake Wobegon and I hope you will also.

DEACTIVATION OF CASC

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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.

Mr. Speaker, in 1996 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 support this claim. Such efforts should be a role model for every federal agency.

CASC's efforts to incorporate state-of-the art automation into their work processes led to a significant workload enhancements and improved efficiency throughout the organization. These significant modernizations reduced the work force by nearly 300 people, however, all reductions were done without any involuntary separations. CASC workers retired, resigned or were placed in other organizations.

One of the technical accomplishments of CASC has been to identify crashed aircraft from the Vietnam War. CASC employees were able to match recovered aircraft parts to specific aircraft, making it possible to identify aircrews missing in action.

In 1983, CASC established a helpline (call center) to provide Air Force personnel with answers to complex logistic information questions. CASC's call center exceeds industry standards in all categories.

Over its twenty-two year history., CASC's innovative approach to cataloging has saved taxpayers over $60 million. the entrepreneurial spirit within CASC has led to agreements with non-DoD agencies such as the National Weather Service and the Federal Aviation Administration to provide cataloging services which have saved taxpayers $250,000 per year. Negotiations with further agencies continue.

Such efforts has moved CASC away from measuring processes to measuring performance. Their efforts are a model for our entire U.S. Air Force to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, as an Air Force veteran and on behalf of my constituents in Calhoun County, I am proud to offer this tribute in recognition of the accomplishments of the outstanding men and women of CASC.

PROTECTING THE CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 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 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 a few officers and insiders of the former credit union—not to mention the attorneys who encouraged the deal—wind up owning all the former credit union's capital in the form of stock. Thus, in order to prevent insiders and lawyers from walking away with capital which belongs to the entire credit union membership, and depriving that membership of their credit union access, NCUA instituted the majority vote requirement. This requirement was subject to notice and comment rulemaking in

1995. The agency received no comments opposed to the majority vote requirement while fully half the comments on this section urged the agency to institute a supermajority requirement. 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 tremendous pressure to convert to other types of institutions. Legitimate uncertainly about the outcome of the AT&T case, encouraged by lawyers who specialize in conversions, produced a record number of conversion applications over the past several years. These same lawyers then complained that NCUA processed applications too slowly and that the conversion requirements were too rigorous. They persuaded some members of the Senate Banking Committee to override NCUA's regulation 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 majority 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 H.R. 1151 will address the field of membership issue for most credit unions, other restrictions imposed by the Senate version 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 in the legal profession 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 applications. While it may seem as if NCUA has very little discretion in this area, the legislation does at least grant them authority to administer 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 our several ways in which NCUA can continue to exercise oversight over the conversion process within this 90-day period.

First, I encourage NCUA to strictly supervise the notification of members regarding the impending conversion vote. The legislation requires that notice be sent 90, 60 and 30 days before the conversion vote. NCUA should require that these notices be separate and distinct from other mailings and statements. The notice must go beyond NCUA's current notice requirement and explain to members not only the facts of the conversion proposal, but also the fact that they will lose their ownership rights and that the member capital of the credit union could potentially be converted to private stock. Now that the members lack the protection of the majority vote requirement, they must be informed about any and all possible outcomes of the conversion.

Further, NCUA must strictly supervise the process of taking the member vote. Where so much is at stake, both for the general membership and those seeking to convert, outside election monitors must be employed. NCUA should ensure that firms used for monitoring elections have no ties to the credit union, those seeking the conversion or the lawyers assisting in the conversion process. The monitoring firm 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 statements subject to criminal and civil penalties.

I would like to point our that such requirements 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 parallels 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 legislation. 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 affordable menu for anti-war demonstrators; it was also for Mayor Harold Washington, who loved the diner's oxtail stew.

The Busy Bee was for one-armed piano player Eddie Balchowsky, a friend of two-fisted running partner Nelson Algren. The Busy Bee was for Shakespeare District cops, particularly Officer William Jaconetti, who wrote the prose for the framed, weatherproof plaque that police and community members installed Thursday outside the restaurant.

The Busy Bee was for everyone.

The loss stings.

Jaconetti became a Chicago cop in 1968, the year all the Busy Bee's windows were broken in West Side riots. In part, the plaque reads: ''The American Dream was fulfilled by many who came to the Wicker Park; Bucktown neighborhood for over 100 years. Arriving in the neighborhood in 1965 was Sophie Madej who purchased the Busy Bee Restaurant in 1972. Sophie, a married lady with four children, had come from Poland in 1951, worked at a Chicago packing house for 10 years, saved her money and bought the restaurant . . .''

For 33 years, Sophie served her customers pierogis, homemade spinach soup, meatloaf and stuffed green peppers, all seasoned with love and understanding.

''Sophie is the pioneer of this neighborhood,'' Jaconetti said. ''They talk about community policing? It starts at a multicultural place like this. We will miss her. At tough times, she was always here for the police. For every Bulls victory, for every demonstration, for the Rolling Stones concert (at the nearby Double Door) she stayed open so the police would have somewhere to go. We're all friends with these people. This didn't happen because it was a business. She did something special. She opened the doors to everyone.''

Sophie had put the restaurant on the market before. This time it made sense. Sophie turns 70 on July 5. She wants to retire and visit her homeland. In 1943, Sophie was moved to Germany under the Nazis' forced-labor laws. She met her husband, Henry, in 1946 (they divorced in 1985) in Germany, where they remained until 1951, when Catholic Charities gave the young couple $100 to sponsor their voyage to America. They arrived in the United States with the cash, two children and two suitcases.

The new owner, Mitch Gerson, will close the Busy Bee, remodel it and upscale the 16 apartments above the restaurant. Sophie whispered, ''He has to do it that way. There's no way he can compete with this.''

There's no way Gerson's grand opening can compete with the Busy Bee's closing. Sunday will be just another day and nothing special will happen at 6 p.m. when Sophie closes the doors for the last time.

The Busy Bee has been buzzing with adoration for the Madej family over the last two weeks. Sophie and three of her children, Elizabeth, 50, Hank, 47, 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 Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency in Boulder, Colo.)

By noon on Thursday, the restaurant had run out of pierogis. Cops, friends and neighbors 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 family 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 doting son. Schacht, a painter-photographer, lives in a trailer in the woods of southwest Iowa. 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.

''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 home from Sophie's and walked right into crossfire with two street gangs. . . . I'm sad 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 set. And Mom's 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 BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL of Colorado. S. 1112 authorizes the minting of the original Buffalo Nickel design on a new commemorative silver half-dollar coin to help honor our nation's Native Americans. While this coin will be minted at no cost to the government, it will help raise funds for the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, which is scheduled to open in 2002. These funds will be used to set up an endowment and an educational outreach fund.

This coin has already received the full endorsement of the U.S. Mint's Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee and now needs our support in order for it to be minted in 2001.

This legislation is a bipartisan effort and has 17 original cosponsors. I ask my colleagues to join us in supporting the Buffalo Coin Act of 1998.

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. Informal 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 Menomonie, 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 66th 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 Staff 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.

Immigrating 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 Activities 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 philosophical difficulties with the Vietnam War culminated in his leading anti-war delegates as they walked out of the 1968 Chicago Democratic convention. This brave act of defiance against the 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 self-interest. Let us aspire 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 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 provides 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 cancellation 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

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY TO HIGH-RISK LOANS.

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

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 4(a) of the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–216) is amended——

(1) in paragraph (1)——

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "(other than a mortgage or mortgage transaction described in section 3(f)(1))";

(B) in subparagraph (A)(ii)——

(i) in subclause (II), by inserting "and" after the semicolon at the end; and

(ii) by striking subclause (IV); and

(C) in subparagraph (B)——

(i) in clause (i), by inserting "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in clause (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 "through (3)" and inserting "and (2)"; and

(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.——

"(1) IN GENERAL.—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 requirements relating to private 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.—A State law shall not be considered to be inconsistent with a provision of this Act if the State law——

"(A) requires termination of private mortgage insurance or other mortgage guaranty insurance——

"(i) 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——

"(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, will 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 make that support explicit and dedicate the phone excise tax to that purpose.

Furthermore, it will provide honesty to phone bills by shifting the revenue from the excise tax from the treasury to telecommunications. 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.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO ENSURE ZIP CODE ALLOCATION

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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. Signal Hill 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 this active 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 today would ensure that all 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 put, an economically independent community shouldn't be forced to share its identity with any other city simply due to geography and the failure of the Postal Service to make the right decisions. The city of Signal Hill is a distinct and viable city and deserves to be recognized as such. The passage of H.R. 4429 will assure that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of H.R. 4429 be printed at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 4429

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

SECTION 1. ZIP CODE REQUIREMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Effective 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, no ZIP code that is assigned to a city (or portion of a city) that is completely surrounded by any other city may also be assigned to any area outside of the city so surrounded.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''city'' means any unit of general local government that is classified as a city, town, or municipality by the Bureau of the Census, and within the boundaries of which 5,000 or more individuals reside.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by now most Americans know about the Year 2000 computer problem and understand that if preventive steps aren't taken, computer failures may cause serious problems. To mitigate the severity of the problem, Congress must not only act to ensure that the Federal Government's mission critical computers can function on January 1, 2000, but that the private sector can use all of the tools at its disposal to prevent unnecessary Year 2000 computer failures. Today I've joined with a number of colleagues from both sides of the aisle to introduce a modest, targeted measure to do just that.

I want to commend the President for calling attention to an important part of the Year 2000 problem for private sector firms. Many companies are afraid that the information they 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 this information from being used 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.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO SIMPLIFY THE CHILD CREDIT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will simplify the child credit in a revenue neutral 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 credit form that will be 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 deliberate decisions 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 above $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 1998, tax policymakers estimate that the minimum tax will cause roughly 700,000 taxpayers to 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 AMT will cause approximately 8 million people to lose some of the benefits of the nonrefundable personal credits.

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 disallows $1,477 of their credits.

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 interaction with the AMT. The legislation allows nonpersonal refundable credits against the minimum tax. Under current law, a taxpayer with three or more children is allowed a

partially refundable child credit and my legislation also simplifies this partially refundable credit by repealing the provision which reduces the credit by AMT liability.

In order to eliminate the complexities of the AMT for nonfundable credits and the child credit for families with three or more children, and to have revenue neutral legislation, the income limits for the beginning of the phase-out of the child credit have to be reduced from $110,000 to $89,000 for joint filers and $75,000 to $60,000 for single filers. Even with this reduction in the thresholds for the child credit, the thresholds are still higher than the thresholds which were included in last year's House Democratic substitute.

My legislation simplifies the child credit for all taxpayers. The vast majority of Americans will have a modest tax reduction or will not be affected. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation. Proposing such legislation is not without risk—opponents can distort it for political purposes. However, I believe that it is important to propose constructive solution to problems. The complexity of the child credit is a problem that needs to be addressed.

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

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. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Mollohan census amendment to H.R. 4276, the FY 1999 Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies, appropriations bill.

This important measure will remove language in the bill that withholds half of the FY 1999 appropriation for the decennial census until future legislation releasing the funds is enacted. By avoiding the risk of a census shutdown, the Bureau can proceed without hindering its ability to prepare for the most accurate census possible.

Americans want, and deserve, an accurate census conducted with the latest scientific methods and technology available. However, the recent census was the first census enumeration to be less accurate than its predecessor. It is estimated the 1990 census undercount, of which 8.8 million people were not included, was 33 percent less accurate than that of the 1980 census. Subsequently, 4 times as many blacks, 5 times as many Hispanics, American Indians, and non-Hispanic whites, and 2 times as many Asians and Pacific Islanders were not included.

As the U.S. Census Bureau prepares for the largest peace-time mobilization effort undertaken by the Government, we must apply modern scientific sampling methods to ensure a more accurate census.

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 school lunch program. With such 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 Mollohan 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 Mollohan 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 welcoming community for the citizens 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 JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

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 Northeast 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, what is particularly alarming 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 those 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 only to transfer medium-risk criminals 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

''committed murder and mayhem'' and were ''some of the most recalcitrant inmates to come out of'' the D.C. penitentiary.

In other words, the District of Columbia either was grossly negligent or they callously hoodwinked the people of Ohio. Either way, the gentleman from Youngstown, and I demand that the District of Columbia fully account for this situation and be held accountable, accordingly.

Mr. TRAFICANT'S amendment will help ensure that the events of the past are not repeated by the District of Columbia. In addition, I believe we should explore other avenues in coordination with state officials like Ohio attorney general Betty Montgomery, who has expressed to me her commitment to make sure that the people of Ohio are protected.

I urge support for the Traficant amendment.

CRISIS IN CYPRUS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, we are on the verge of yet another crisis in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriots propose to purchase new S–300 missiles from Russia, and by all accounts, Russia intends to proceed with delivery of the missiles this fall. The installation of these sophisticated new antiaircraft missiles and accompanying powerful air surveillance radars needlessly escalates the level of military confrontation in Cyprus, and pushes the two sides further away from a more sensible path of mutual arms reductions. It also raises the disastrous prospect of conflict between two of our NATO allies, Turkey and Greece. Indeed, the placement of these missiles in Cyprus seems intended for no other reason than to provoke conflict.

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 President Yeltsin 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 and armaments.

Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues and I have sent a letter today to the President urging him to speak directly to President Yeltsin 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 not limited to the subject of finance. 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 this makes it more difficult for us to cooperate on other issues.

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 this 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 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—a lethal cocktail.

As in many other nations of mixed nationalities, a tenuous civil 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 subtle Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios III, leader of the Greek Cypriot community and of the campaign against British rule, found himself obliged to concede a degree of self-government to the Turkish minority, offensive to all his notions of government or nationality. He did not have his heart in it, and with independence he systematically reneged on what he promised, seeking to create in effect a unitary state in which the Turkish minority would always be outvoted. The history of independent Cyprus was thus plagued by communal strife, and in 1967 Turkey's 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 submission to American preferences had been unwise and would never be repeated. I had always taken it for granted that the next communal crisis in Cyprus would provoke Turkish intervention.

Makarios nevertheless continued to play with fire. In 1972 he introduced Czech arms on the island for the apparent purpose of creating a private paramilitary unit to counterbalance those set up by the constitution. In 1974 he again took on the Greek-dominated National Guard in an effort to bring them under his control. Greece was then governed by a military junta, violently anti-Communist, deeply suspicious of Makarios's flirtation with radical Third World countries, which it took to be a sign of his pro-Communist sympathies. It therefore encouraged plans to overthrow him and install in Cyprus a regime more in sympathy with Greece, oblivious to the fact than an overthrow of the constitutional arrangement on Cyprus would free Turkey of previous restraints. . . .

On July 15—six days after my return from the Soviet Union and Europe—Makarios was overthrown in a coup d'état just as he returned from a weekend in the mountains; he was nearly assassinated. He was replaced by an unsavory adventurer, Nikos Sampson, known as a strong supporter of union with Greece. A crisis was now inevitable.

There was nothing we needed less than a crisis—especially one that would involve two NATO allies. Whomever we supported and whatever the outcome, the eastern flank of the Mediterranean would be in jeopardy. . . .

During the week of July 15 I therefore dispatched Joe Sisco to London, Ankara, and Athens. Britain, as one of the guarantor powers, was seeking to mediate between the parties. Sisco's mission was to help Britain start a negotiating process that might delay a Turkish invasion and enable the structure under Sampson in Cyprus to fall of its own weight. But Turkey was not interested in a negotiated solution; it was determined to settle old scores. On July 19 it invaded Cyprus, meeting unexpectedly strong resistance. . . .

During the night of July 21–22, we forced a cease-fire by threatening Turkey that we would move nuclear weapons from forward positions—especially where they might be involved in a war with Greece. It stopped Turkish military operations while Turkey was occupying only a small enclave on the island; this created conditions for new negotiations slated to start two days hence, with the Turkish minority obviously in an improved bargaining position and with some hope of achieving more equitable internal arrangements.

On July 22, the junta in Athens was overthrown and replaced by a democratic government under the distinguished conservative leader Constantine Karamanlis. Within days, the mood in America changed. The very groups that had castigated us for our reluctance to assault Greece now wanted us to turn against Turkey over a crisis started by Greece, to gear our policies to the domestic structures of the government in Athens and Ankara regardless of the origins or merits of the dispute on Cyprus, to take a one-sided position regardless of our interest in easing the conflict between two strategic allies in the eastern Mediterranean. . . . For two weeks we maintained our tightrope act, but during the weekend following Nixon's resignation the crisis erupted again, culminating in a second Turkish invasion of the island. While Ford struggled to restore executive authority over the next months, a free-wheeling Congress destroyed the equilibrium between the parties we had precariously maintained; it legislated a heavy-handed arms embargo against Turkey that destroyed all possibility of American mediation—at a cost from which we have not recovered to this day. . . .

What I learn from this is that we do a disservice to ourselves and to the cause of peace in Cyprus by being too quick to take sides in the matter. The situation requires a steady hand and an honest broker, and we do not contribute either if the Congress of the United States is waving the flag of one of the parties to the dispute.

I hope the President can persuade our friends in Russia to adopt this same approach, and to abandon this very dangerous new transfer of weapons to Cyprus.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

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. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaign for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3526, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1998, the Shays-Meehan substitute. This important measure will remove the element of ''soft money'' raised at the Federal level, while curbing its influence on Federal elections through State parties.

By weighing in on such unlimited contributions, we can overwhelmingly reduce the appearance of wealthy individuals placing a stranglehold on our Nation's party system. It is our responsibility to close these loopholes which encourage the endless quest for funds in our election system.

While strengthening the laws governing campaign finance, Shay-Meehan seeks to weed out the special interests who attempt to influence elections with unregulated sham advertisements. This measure expands the definition of what constitutes ''express advocacy'' advertisements by third party groups who circumvent current campaign finance regulations. Such advertisements, while purporting to be issue advocacy, have created a negative and costly environment for candidates to debate issues during the campaign season.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have weighed the merits of measures that seek to improve our political system against those that have an adverse influence on it. Unfortunately, there have been attempts by our colleagues to weaken the Shays-Meehan substitute by imposing ''poison pill'' amendments to the measure. Some of these would not only limit the effectiveness of Shays-Meehan, but would hinder specific rights provided for all voting Americans.

For example, I strongly oppose efforts allowing States to require picture identification in order to vote. This affront To Federal anti-discrimination requirements has no place in a debate over campaign finance. Additionally, I take exception to amendments requiring candidates to raise a specific percentage of campaign funds from within their home State and the elimination of particular fundraising mechanisms, such as ''bundling.'' I have voted against these amendments because such limitations place far too many candidates at a disadvantage, especially minorities and females, while still not remedying the core problems relating to our current campaign financing system.

It has become clear that the financing of Federal elections has become too large a concern for both congressional candidates and incumbents alike. During the 1996 election cycle, candidates for both the House and Senate reported spending over $765 million, a 72 percent increase over 1990. As campaign costs continue to outpace the rate of inflation, 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 Shays-Meehan substitute. I believe now is the time to restore the American people's faith in the electoral process by reining in on the unsavory special interests who pollute our political system. Support the Shays-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 fair manager, I have maintained close ties to this organization and it holds a very special place in my life.

As one of many 4–H Fairs in the State of New Jersey, it is the only fair that does not charge admission. The Fair exhibits a variety of 4–H youth projects for public observation. The Somerset County 4–H Fair is located at the County Fairgrounds at North Branch Park on Milltown Road in Bridgewater and attracts more than 75,000 people annually.

I am pleased to be part of the 4–H program that gives the youth of our county 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 in Flemington and then 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 creative programs like 4–H that year after year continue to bring about positive change.

Make no mistake about it—4–H makes a positive difference in the lives of so many children. When they are learning to choose between right and wrong—4–H is there to show them the right thing to do. And the skills that they learn stay with them for life.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to spending a great deal of time at the Somerset County 4–H Fair over the district work period and spending time with participants, volunteers, and parents that make this program and this fair such a great success.

A TRIBUTE TO ROGER KUNKEL ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PASTOR OF RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roger Kunkel, pastor of the Riverside Presbyterian Church in my district, as he retires from 21 years of dedicated service to his congregation and community.

Roger Kunkel was appointed the Interim Pastor of the Riverside Presbyterian Church in March 1978, and shortly thereafter became Senior Pastor, a position he held until this past May of 1998. As a man of faith and friend to the community, Roger Kunkel served his congregation with kindness, grace and leadership in promoting ministry and fellowship.

Roger Kunkel is a man with visions, and saw the needs of the church to expand the ministry staff to serve the congregation more efficiently, which directly increased to activity in the youth programs. In addition, Roger Kunkel organized the Ryan Womack Scholarship Fund that has awarded over $100,000 in college scholarships since its inception in 1991. Because of his service and dedication, the congregation not only grew in number, but also in spirit and fellowship.

Roger Kunkel is a man of great faith who has touched the lives of many. Roger Kunkel's service and dedication will be remembered by all he came in contact with. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend my warmest wishes as 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 at 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 mail 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 River salt 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, emphasizing that from the very beginning the people of this fine community were concerned with keeping it special.

Over the past 100 years, Caseville has been a major economic center for the Thumb of Michigan, a geographic feature recognized from the Michigan elementary school student to the orbiting Space Shuttle astronauts. The history of commercial fishing, saw mills, iron and salt processing, are important elements in Caseville's development. Agriculture was vital to this area as well, going from the early days of the Indians in Michigan who grew corn in this area, to today's bounty of corn, wheat, sugar beets, dry beans, and other specialty crops. Railroads, beginning with the Pontiac, Oxford, & Port Austin Railroad, have been vital arteries of commerce, even though their presence today is less significant than it had been in the past.

Today, Caseville is known as a tourist destination offering ideally sandy beaches, camping, marinas with access to Lake Huron and all of its bounty, and a way of life that is envied by its thousands of annual visitors. Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that we take the time to congratulate Caseville on its Centennial. I urge you and all of our colleagues in wishing its residents the very best on this occasion, and the very best as 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 Macedonia, 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 Christian Ministry and the traditions 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 collage 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 found 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 BYKOFSKY 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 are aware 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 on purpose. It is a bipartisan, indeed 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 Variety club 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 ambulances, 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 turmoil 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 Reagon'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 in problems of national and multi-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.

In 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 Sekelhid, Hungary the following year. After escaping from a Budapest prison in 1944, he and his wife overcame 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 the president of both 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 Williamsburgh. Rabbi Lefkowitz also founded and became the mayor of the Kiryas 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''PROTECT AMERICAN JOBS THROUGH THE FOREIGN TRADE ANTITRUST IMPROVEMENTS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998''

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues, Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, and Commerce Committee Ranking Member John Dingell, in introducing today the ''Protect American Jobs Through the Foreign Trade Antitrust Improvements Amendments Act of 1998.'' This bill clarifies one of our most important U.S. antitrust laws in order to enshrine the principle that U.S. law reaches anti-competitive foreign cartels, acts, and conspiracies designed to unfairly exclude American products from overseas markets. The principal aim of my bill is to codify the U.S. Department of Justice's current and correct interpretation of the Foreign Trade Antitrust Improvements Act (''FTAIA'') which is embodied in footnote 62 of the International Antitrust Guidelines. The footnote makes it clear that there are no unnecessary jurisdictional or legal roadblocks to challenging anti-competitive acts and conspiracies that take place outside our borders.

We live in an era of economic globalization. Today, America's prosperity depends, not just on vigorous competition within our territorial borders, but on free and fair access to markets in Japan, Europe, Africa, 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 domestic cartels and combinations that the Sherman Act sought to address at the turn of the century.

The opening of global markets has advanced 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 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 leaders in producing and selling high-quality innovative glass products around the world; and in 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 foreign firms. It does not change U.S. antitrust law. Instead, it is designed to codify and clarify U.S. antitrust doctrine. Although most observers would agree that the FTAIA established conclusively that DOJ and U.S. firms have jurisdiction to bring an antitrust case against foreign firms engaged in anti-competitive conduct that harms U.S. exporters, enforcement officials misinterpreted the law and said so in a footnote to the International Antitrust Guidelines. That footnote—Footnote 159—created a higher burden for U.S. exporters than Congress had intended by requiring that they show harm to U.S. consumers in order to get their day in court.

This bill would ensure that the will of Congress and the plain meaning of the FTAIA could never again be misconstrued by the federal antitrust agencies, a foreign litigant or a U.S. court. In doing so, it would assist in breaking down anti-competitive foreign barriers to U.S. exports.

While the correction to Footnote 159 was drafted by Assistant Attorney General Jim Rill in the Bush Administration, it has been fully endorsed by the Clinton Administration. I commend Assistant Attorney Generals Rill, Bingaman, and Klein for their strong leadership in strengthening international antitrust enforcement and for bringing cases under the authority of the FTAIA.

By clarifying the jurisdictional requirements of the FTAIA, I hope to encourage the Department of Justice and injured industries to make any necessary use of this important power by challenging cartels, such as those blocking distribution of U.S. products in the U.S. courts, before U.S. juries, under U.S. law.

My bill makes a simple and straightforward point. Anti-competitive foreign cartels and conspiracies are subject to the long-arm of U.S. antitrust law. Foreign producers can run . . . but they can't hide. The global economy may be a reality, but U.S. law applies fully to anti-competitive international cartels, combinations, and conspiracies.

This bill already has the support of industry leaders, including Kodak, PP&G Industries, and Guardian International Corporation, and the National Association of Manufacturers. I look forward to working with other 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.

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 recent New York Times article has shown, NAFTA has been a boon to the big companies, and to Mexican labor, but has created ghost towns in American border communities where vibrant, growing cities once burgeoned.

''This whole free-trade thing turned out to be for the big companies, not the little guy,'' Ricardo Grando, a manager at a Brownsville money exchange was quoted as saying in the Times article. For many in the border towns, NAFTA has not brought prosperity, like its supporters claimed, and border communities hoped for. With tariffs removed, workers in Brownsville, El Paso, Laredo, and other towns have watched their jobs walk across the borders to cities like Ciudad Juárez and Matamoros. In fact, Ciudad Juarez boasts a lower unemployment rate than its sister city El Paso.

Ciudad Jaurez's largest employers are corporations such as General Motors, Ford, and United Technologies, where average wages are $1.36. Compare this to the $7.71 for factory jobs in El Paso, when there are no jobs. The largest employers in El Paso are two schools and a military base. With lower wages just feet away, it is no wonder why companies take their operations across the border.

Mr. Speaker, NAFTA's ill effects can be seen along the U.S.-Mexican border. Just as I and other critics of NAFTA said in 1993, the cheap, unsafe labor markets in Mexico are too inviting to U.S. companies, and American workers are losing jobs by the thousands. Not only 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.

PANAMANIAN ELECTION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the Panamanian people are soon to encounter an important vote that may affect the future of their democracy. On August 30, Panama will hold a plebiscite to decide whether to amend the constitution to allow the current president, Ernesto Perez Ballardares, 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. I trust the Panamanian people will recognize the importance of this vote. In addition, I hope international election observers will help guarantee an honest vote.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN H. BLOSSOM

HON. GEROGE 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 allowed other physicians to enter and start their own practice.

For nearly three decades, Dr. John H. Blossom has worked to establish physician training programs in rural clinics through his long-standing relationship with the University of California, San Francisco-Fresno Medical education program.

Dr. Blossom began training family practice residents in decentralized rural clinics. This idea of recruiting physicians to generally underserved areas worked well and has since been used in many other parts of the country.

Dr. Blossom first came to Fresno for training at Valley Medical Center and was appointed chief resident in 1974. Once he completed his residency training, Dr. Blossom became a medical director of a community health center in Mendota, a small rural town west of Fresno.

During the two years that he provided patient care services there, he introduced that

site to medical education, forging an alliance between the Fresno Family Practice and the Firebaugh-Mendota Health Center. This brought medical students from a variety of west coast medical schools.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Dr. John H. Blossom. Dr. Blossom's life long dedication and 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.

GRATULACJE, POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS LADIES AUXILIARY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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 objective of this group is to bring moral 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 Consolidating 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 the lives of others. Their efforts should not go unrewarded. 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 right to vote in 2007, contrary 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, Blacks will lose the right to vote. The recent editorial by Brandy Darling, ''Blacks' right to vote ends by the year 2007,'' is the latest reinforcement of well-intentioned but frightening misinformation. There is no expiration date on African-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 Blacks from 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. Prohibitions against poll taxes, literacy tests and the like have no expiration date. Technically these protections could be removed by amending the law, but that would provoke a monumental battle.

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 the legal 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.

Generally, the Voting Rights Act was first applied to any stake or political jurisdiction that used tests or other devices as a condition for voter registration. The law was amended by Congress in 1970, 1975, 1982 and 1992 to expand coverage beyond the southern states and to apply 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.

Soon 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 voters did not vote 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 power, imagine what can be done if all 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 diluted. There is a need to monitor political threats and to inform the president and Congress of your concerns.

EXECUTION OF BAHA'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. Iranian President Mohammed 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 are apparently using Iran's largest religious minority, the Baha'is, to send a rebuke to both the moderates in Iran and to the international community.

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 incommunicado for ten months, was evidently not accorded basic legal protections such as access to an attorney. 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 ministries have issued strong denunciations and Representatives of the European Union have made their disapproval and concern known to 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.

For its part, the Iranian judiciary—which is controlled by Khomenni 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 judiciary, it is not insignificant that this execution happened close in time to the conviction of the mayor of Tehran, an ally of President Khatami, and a long-scheduled visit by the European Union troika to discuss normalization of relations. I believe that the Baha'is and others who are at odds with the hardliners will continue to be used as pawns to weaken President Khatami's hand in this power struggle. I urge the hardline elements of Iranian government in the strongest possible terms not to compound this grievous situation by harming the other Baha'is in custody. I also call on President Khatami to give substance to his statements about religious freedom and the rule of law by taking a strong stand against the reactionary clerics who want to keep Iran isolated from the international community and the modern world.

STATEMENT ON INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Marianas Delegate Act, to provide for a non-voting Delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is the newest and only American territory acquired by the United States in this century. The composition of the CNMI includes the principal islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota as well as other northern islands in the Mariana Island chain. Guam is also located in the Marianas chain and sits as CNMI's closest neighbor in the Pacific and sister American territory. It is befitting that the people of Guam have the honor today to share in the introduction of this bill for our neighbors, and for our brothers and sisters of Chamorro heritage in the Northern Marianas who share Guam's indigenous identity.

The Northern Mariana Islands began its relationship with the United States more than fifty years ago. On the beaches of Saipan and Tinian, American Forces expelled a colonial power that had acquired these islands as part of its larger Pacific empire. In the following years, the seeds of American democracy sprouted a young vibrant American community eager to venture their own path. In 1976, the Northern Mariana Islands entered into a commonwealth arrangement with its American liberators and have since made great strides in developing its unique island community and economy.

This legislation is consistent with recommendations of the Commission of Federal Laws appointed by Presidents Reagan, which recommended a CNMI Delegate in 1985. The Commission outlined three reasons for this recommendation: Fairness, Democratic principles and Practical utility.

Today the American citizens who live in the Northern Marianas contribute and participate in the life of our nation in all the same ways that every other American citizen does in his own community. They pay taxes, serve in the military and work hard for the progress of their communities.

America's experiment with democracy continues to evolve and develop. We seek and pursue a more perfect union. We are a proud nation of free citizens that enjoy elected representation in the federal government. It is unfortunate that our current system dictates that Americans in the fifty states enjoy perfect representation in the forms of Congressional representatives and U.S. Senators, representation of our citizens in the territories and the District of Columbia are by Delegates and a Resident Commissioner who cannot vote on the floor of this House and then there are 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. At elections, our 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 too 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.

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 amongst 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 contribution to the Treasury. I do not recall that a deposit into the treasury is a condition for your rights as a citizen.

There are those who will resist entertaining this issue because there are problems 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.

Whether 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 a denial of the basic right to represent oneself in the formation of public policy.

Participation must be extended to all citizens. Our American citizenship has as its

foundation a promise of fair and equal treatment by our government and that promise extends into 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 granted Guam 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 fails with my ability to represent my constituents. How unfair, how unkind, how un-American 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 and I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the Northern Marianas Delegate Act.

For the record, I am attaching a statement from CNMI Resident Representative Juan 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 republic, 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 population (about 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 nationals of American Samoa, a population of approximately 27,000, 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 governed us.

Our hopes rose again in 1986 when the Commission on Federal Laws appointed 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 in Congress;

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 needs and 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 Representative 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 Legislature 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. Flaeomavaega, Ms. Norton, Mr. Romero-Barceló, 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. Hamilton, Mr. Romero-Barceló, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Kim, and Mr. Rahall. The Northern Marianas Delegate bill was reported favorably by the Resources Committee. Opponents, however, were able to discourage 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 Nation's governance. This argument is technically correct. The Constitution makes no provision for representation in Congress for US citizens not residents of the several States. However, since the very first days of our Republic, this Congress has acknowledge 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 superseded by technology and 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—if privilege it be—has been denied the people of the Northern Marianas for twenty-three years, since long before the issue of foreign labor abuse 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 govern 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 make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live.'' It is with respect for that fundamental principle that we ask for passage of the Northern Marianas Delegate Act.

HONORING GREG GOODMAN FOR HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Greg Goodman, a valued constituent of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee.

Greg Goodman has taken top origination honors for the State of Tennessee for the third year in a row. Greg is a vice president of Sun Trust Bank in Nashville and has been with the bank since graduating from David Lipscomb College in 1991.

Greg has closed over $240 million in residential loans since 1991. Greg is not only number one in the State of Tennessee, but also has the honor of being one of the top originators in the southeastern United States. Greg has completed Course I at the School of Mortgage Banking at Charleston University and is one of the top marketers in the United States.

Greg's secret is based on the utilization and building of relationships. In his words: ''My commitment starts with relationships. Relationship selling is focused on the customer. Exceeding expectations is the single most powerful way our team has of building credibility.'' Greg is a strong advocate of under-promising and over-delivering.

Greg is an active social person, married to the former Alethea Barker, a member of the Church of Christ, and he celebrates his 30th birthday on August 14, 1998. Greg is destined to continue breaking records in selling. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HEFLEY AMENDMENT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, last night I voted against the Hefley Amendment. As Ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, I strongly opposed the Hefley amendment because I believe that no employee, federal or otherwise, should be subjected to employment discrimination.

Executive Order 13087, signed by President Clinton on May 28th, creates no new rights, it merely codifies existing non-discrimination policies already in force in every Federal department and agency throughout the executive branch. The Executive Order simply says that supervisors in the Federal government may not consider race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, in hiring, firing or promotion decisions. It states a fair and reasonable policy with which no true believer in our nation's founding principle of equal justice under law could disagree.

The Hefley Amendment would prohibit the expenditure of funds to implement the Executive Order. By doing so, it sends the wrong

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 AAA ''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 deliberated 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 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 achievement, 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 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 Tom 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 BAISAKHI–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 BAISAKHI–1999, which is the Tercentenary Celebration of the birth of Khalsa. BAISAKHI–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.

BAISAKHI–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.; Bhajedra Singh Haumdard, M.P.; Didar 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 Anandpar Sahib, a 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 modified 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 for individual taxpayers. The principal modification would reduce the basic deduction from gross income for the net capital gains of individual taxpayers to 38 percent, rather than 40 percent in the original legislation. Another modification would change the taxation of collectibles so that any gain or loss from the sale or exchange of a collectible would be treated as a short-term capital gain or loss. Consistent with the treatment of capital gains under current law, the tax rates that apply to capital gain income for regular tax purposes would also apply for alternative minimum tax purposes.

Under current law, the Schedule D has become very burdensome for ordinary taxpayers as they attempt to comply with the current capital gains tax law. The IRS estimates that a typical taxpayer with a capital gain will spend 5 hours and 20 minutes filling out his or her Schedule D. This is two hours more than in 1994. Moreover, the changes of making an error in filling out this complicated 54-line form have increased due to this additional complexity. In this respect, this bill's simple 38 percent exclusion for capital gains would be substituted for the confusing array of capital gains tax rates under current law, and at no cost to the U.S. Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, should the Ways and Means Committee decide to take up a tax bill this year, it is my hope that this legislation would be included as part of any ultimate package. We need to make the tax code less complex—and less burdensome—for the American taxpayer. The Capital Gains Tax Simplification Act of 1998 would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

Several of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, including Representatives RANGEL, STARK, MATSUI, KENNELLY, MCDERMOTT, LEWIS, NEAL and BECERRA, join me in introducing this legislation. I urge my other colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this capital gains simplification bill.

RETIREMENT OF JACK B. CRITCHFIELD

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

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 Vice 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 Chairman of the Commission's Education Committee. Dr. Critchfield also worked persistently behind the scenes to bring professional and major league baseball to the state of Florida.

Jack has obviously been a very ambitious and 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 daughter. 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.

THE NOTCH BABY HEALTH CARE RELIEF ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to assist the over 6 million senior citizens who have been negatively impacted by the Social Security Amendments of 1977. Seniors born between the years 1917 and 1921—the ''Notch Babies''—have received lower Social Security monthly payments than those seniors born shortly before or after this five period. My legislation, the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, will offset the reduction in Social Security benefits by providing a tax credit for Medicare Part B premiums.

The approach taken in my new bill is different than that taken in my Notch Baby Act of 1977 (H.R. 146) or in any other Notch bill introduced in this Congress. In fact, the approach taken in this legislation was suggested to me by one of my own constitutents—adjust Medicare insurance payments for Notch Babies. Specifically, my new bill provides a refundable tax credit for monthly Medicare Part B premiums for senior citizens born between the years 1917 and 1921, their spouses and their windows or windowers. The bill also eliminates the Medicare Part B premium late enrollment penalty for these individuals.

As health care expenses can take up a large proportion of a senior's retirement income, this tax credit can go a long way to both correct the inequity caused by the Notch and to help seniors meet their health care needs. I urge my colleagues to review the Notch Baby Health Care Relief Act, to discuss this legislation with the seniors in their districts, and to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

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 history, 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 together hundreds of thousands of people to collectively focus on family values, the power of hope, self-discipline and the strength of a unified 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, HRDI, 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 DuSable Museum of African American History is the nation's oldest, nonprofit institution devoted to the collection, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of African American History; and

Whereas the Human Resources Development Institute, Inc., (HRDI), is the largest African American behavioral healthcare and social service organization in the State of Illinois committed to improving the quality of life for people in all communities; 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 spiritual 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 dusties to primarily the African American communities; and

Whereas WGCI AM/FM, winner of many awards, ''Plays the Hits'' and ''All Dusties

1390'' plays Chicago's favorite dusties of all time; and

I therefore proclaim August 29, 1998 ''V–103 FM and WGCI AM/FM Unity Day 1998 in Chicago''.

HONORING MARIA OSUNA VALDEZ FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maria Osuna Valdez for her life long commitment to being a role model 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 Tambor, 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 stayed with their children before moving 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 while 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 guide and 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 Catholic faith, her husband, her children and grandchildren. She is survived by her children Beatrice, Rudolph, Gloria, Ofelia, Michael, William, Robert, George; her brother Oscar; and 22 grandchildren and one great-grandson. Maria left her family a legacy of undying love, a devotion to her faith and a deep sense of family values. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maria Osuna Valdez for being an outstanding resident of Montebello, California.

THOMAS AND MIRIAM RYAN: A CELEBRATION OF THEIR 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, anniversaries are special, treasured milestones in life, a time to gather 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 Pine City, Minnesota.

Dozens of Tom and Miriam's friends joined their 82 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for a spiritually uplifting mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Pine City and a joyous reception—lunch at the Rock Creek City Center, to re-live and remember. Tom and Miriam's inspiring forty years together.

I have known and loved this special couple and their beautiful family for over thirty years, and felt very privileged to participate in their remarkable festivity. I was profoundly moved by the outpouring of love and joy from all who shared with Tom and Miriam their anniversary, whose spirituality and majesty were best summed up in Fr. Michael J. Lyons' homily and the children's Tribute, both delivered at the mass, and which I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD, in the expectation that Americans everywhere will be ennobled and inspired by Tom and Miriam Ryan's beautiful example of life together.

HOMILY FOR THE FORTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS AND MIRIAM RYAN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH, PINE CITY, MINNESOTA, JULY 25, 1998

Forty years together in a union so time-prone 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 predeceased their present 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 their share of Gethsemane to remove the dross of selfishness and produce the kind of union they have achieved. All things considered, time has assayed their marriage and has marked it as genuine.

A fortieth wedding anniversary reminds us that the marriage covenant is not an instant achievement. As we say, the wedding 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 all too easy to forget the constant faithfulness of the heart and the single-minded dedication that are needed to arrive at this hour of recognition and acclaim. Instant food and communications, the immediate availability of so many consumer goods, masks the care and well-planned preparation and personal attention that the union of marriage demands. French fries are a long way from the care and preparation that mashed potatoes need. And cell-phones do not replace the time and companionship that the friendship and intimacy of marriage requires. And I might add, no one can replace parents in the task of forming children in the values that ultimately matter.

Incidentally, my personal experience of Miriam's cuisine is surely symbolic in the truest sense of the self-giving that is so characteristic of her marriage to Tom, most notably during his recent illness. I cherish the memory of the Sunday brunches at their home in Pine City, the silver cutlery, the linen and fine delft, the overall ambiance but most especially the food prepared and arranged with the touch of the excellent visual artist that she is, and always in the tradition of French cooking of course. Considering which, the notion of ''french fries'' does seem to be a contradiction in terms!

Tom's dedication to Miriam too is a noteworthy 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 democrat—the 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 I was privileged to celebrate with my parents some seven years ago, a moment of quiet wonder and thankfulness for them and for every member of the family involved. I remember especially the way in which my parents seemed to be tolerantly amused by all the fuss, sensing at times our tendency to celebrate them as trophies. After all their love did survive the raising of myself! Behind their bemusement however, I sensed a secret quality to their happiness that not even their children could know, but which they would hopefully discover in their own marriages in due course; a subject of their constant prayer I suspect.

Children it seems nearly always 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 make a man's soul or a 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—and God knows 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 proven yourselves as 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 there was a widowed man with 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 here with us in 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 even night designated as ''must go'', 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—filling two or more grocery carts brimming full. Trying 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 away conservatively.

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 controversial 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 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. ''It's my turn 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. Two got the floor usually by screaming dibs 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 the 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 saying of mom's when we would say 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 we never questioned that saying. Only 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 most often makes a Dairy Queen stop . . . his car seems to smell them out. He never hears a single complaint.

Through the years mom tried to find ways to help with the clothing needs of so many young teenage girls. There was Beeline home clothing partyshows . . . no need to hire a model, all she had to do was bribe me with new clothes. Actually I loved doing it! The Chic Shoppe came later. A dream of mom's. A women's brand name clothing store with sizes to fit women and teens. What a boon for the four teen girls at the time. I think it was more a dream for us than for her; though she kept a good handle on her inventory.

Dad is always one to be in the forefront of technology, first in the neighborhood to get a color tv, vcr, or videocassette recorder. I often wonder how such an intelligent person can be so electronically progressive and not have a clue on how to keep his tv remote control programmed or run his telephone answering machine. But then there is a time for everything and maybe that's one reason why he has so many children.

Leisure activities always included games for the whole family. Evening ping pong matches were common, as were card games for those deemed able. You knew you came of age in this family when you were included in the weekend card games, buck eucker, hearts and bridge, to name of a few. This was the true passing into adulthood!

Dad, you have continued to inspire your children through your example of lifelong learning, and many of us have stepped forward to follow in your steps and have sought and gotten degrees as adults.

Mom, your appreciation of art and the beauty you alone are able to create on paper and canvas makes it a joy. To see your newest creations puts such pride in our hearts. Some of your children and grandchildren have been blessed with your artful talent. We see the beauty in life because of you!

Experiences both good and bad have a part in shaping who we each are and have become. Thank you, mom and dad, for loving each other in sickness and in health, through good and bad, and for living life to the fullest. You have laid both the foundation of life, as a married couple, and our strong family values. You can be proud!

As dad always says, ''It's hard to be humble when you're perfect in every way''. Isn't it?

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. GREG GANSKE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, soon the House will adjourn for the August District Work Period. Members will scatter to the four corners of the nation and return to their hometowns.

Over the next month, we will have the time to speak with our constituents at countless county and state fairs, town hall meetings, and other gatherings, both formal and informal. It will be an opportunity for us to communicate what we have done and for the voters to tell us what they would like Congress to do.

I think that we will find it next to impossible to pick up a newspaper or hold a town meeting without hearing another story about how a managed care plan denied someone life-saving treatment.

And no public comment poll could convey the depth of emotion about this issue as well as movie audiences around the country who spontaneously clapped and cheered Helen Hunt's obscenity-laced description of her HMO.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer some thoughts on what we are likely to hear from our constituents about this issue over the next month.

Two weeks ago, the House approved a Republican Task Force bill which was advertised as addressing consumer complaints about HMOs. But, Mr. Speaker, I think an examination of the fine print is in order, particularly when we compare it to the Patients' Bill of Rights, a bi-partisan proposal I support which has been endorsed by close to 200 national groups of patients and providers.

Last year, Congress and the President were able to reach agreement on a plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy. Included in that package were several provisions to protect seniors enrolled in Medicare HMOs. One of the most important was language to ensure that health plans pay for visits to the emergency room.

We had heard frequent complaints that health plans were denying payment if the individual was found, in the end, not to have had a condition requiring ER care. The best example is the man who experiences crushing chest pain. The American Heart Association says that is a sign of a possible heart attack and urges immediate medical attention.

Fortunately, there are other causes of crushing chest pains, but seniors whose EKG were negative were being stuck with a bill for the emergency room care, since, in retrospect, the HMO said it was not an emergency after all.

The Medicare law passed last year took care of this problem, by ensuring that plans paid for emergency room services if a ''prudent layperson'' would have thought a visit to the ER was needed. This prevented the sort of ''hindsight is 20-20'' coverage denials that consumers had complained about.

The Patient Bill of Rights, which I support, would have extended the same protections to consumers in all health plans. Instead, the Republican Task Force bill passed by the House contains a watered-down version of the prudent lay person rule.

On Tuesday, the *New York Times* published an excellent article by their noted health reporter, Robert Pear. In it, Mr. Pear outlined just how different the protections in the Republican Task Force Bill are from those we passed for Medicare and Medicaid.

A key difference is exactly how much patients will have to pay for emergency care. The Patients' Bill of Rights, which I supported, provides that patients could not be charged more money if they seek care in a non-network emergency room.

By contrast, the Republican Task Force allows the health plan to impose higher costs on those who are so careless as to allow emergencies to befall them in places not close to a network-affiliated hospital!

Mr. Speaker, consider what this means. HMOs require enrollees to use certain hospitals, because the plan has some financial arrangement with them.

But when a young child splits his head open by falling down a flight of stairs, I fail to see that any good is served by giving patients a financial incentive to delay care until they can get to one of the HMOs own emergency rooms.

Consider the case of James Adams. Age: six months. At 3:30 in the morning, his mother Lamona found James hot, panting, and moaning. His temperature was 104 F.

Lamona called her HMO and was told to take James to Scottish Rite Medical Center. ''That's the only hospital I can send you to,'' the Medicare nurse added.

''How do we get there?'' Lamona asked.

''I don't know,'' the nurse said. ''I'm not good at directions.

About 20 miles into their ride, they passed Emory University's hospital, a renowned pediatric center. Nearby were two more of Atlanta's leading hospitals, Georgia Baptist and Grady Memorial.

But they didn't have permission to stop there and pressed on. They had 232 more miles to travel to get to Scottish Rite.

While searching for Scottish Rite, James' heart stopped. When James and Lamona

eventually got to Scottish Rite, it looked like the boy would die.

But he was a tough little guy. And despite his cardiac arrest due to the delay in treatment by his HMO, he survived.

However, the doctors had to amputate both of his hands and both of his feet because of gangrene.

All this is documented in this book, ''Health Against Wealth.'' As the details of James' HMO's methods emerged, the case suggested that the margins of safety in HMOs can be razor thin. In James' case, they were almost fatal, leaving him without hands or feet for the rest of his life.

Think of the dilemma this places on a mother struggling to make ends meet. In Lamona's situation, under the Republican Task Force bill, if she rushes her child to the nearest emergency room, she could be at risk for charges that average 50 percent more than what the plan would pay for in-network care. Or she could hope that her child's condition will not worsen as they drive past other hospital an additional 20 miles to get to the nearest ER affiliated with their plan. And woe to any family's fragile financial position if this emergency occurs while they are visiting relatives in another State!

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 an initial screening. After that, payment must be made only for additional emergency 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 John 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 and court decisions interpreting the standard of a 'prudent lay person,' or 'reasonable man,' as it 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 to 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 individuals 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 ''gives the appearance of providing privacy rights. But it may actually take away rights that people have today under state law 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 people 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 regulations. For years and years, States have shown themselves able to craft workable consumer protections for health insurance. But thanks to a 25 year old federal law known as ERISA, millions of Americans are in health plans regulated by the federal government and are therefore beyond the reach of state consumer protections.

Instead of giving consumers more control over health care, the Republican Task Force bill actually places more people in ERISA-regulated health plans. Does this solve our health care problems? Certainly not. Does it add to them by denying people the protections of state law? Definitely.

Instead of improving access to insurance, these proposals could have the exact opposite effect. By exempting multiple employer welfare arrangements—known as MEWAs—from a range of state insurance regulation, the Republican bill will make it more difficult for states to fund high-risk pools and other programs to keep health insurance affordable. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners and the National Conference of State Legislatures are concerned that these GOP provisions could ''undermine the recent efforts undertaken by states to ensure their small business communities have access to affordable health insurance.''

Take a look at this little boy, born with a cleft lip. In many states, HMOs are required to pay for coverage to give this boy a normal face.

Mr. Speaker, I would guess that many of my Republican colleagues would be surprised to learn that because a cleft lip is considered a ''condition'' rather than a ''disease,'' plans serving HealthMarts in the GOP bill would not be required to cover needed treatments for this deformity!

This is not just my interpretation of the Republican bill. The Commerce Committee staff member who helped draft the provision confirmed to me that HealthMarts would not be bound by state laws requiring coverage of cleft lips and similar birth defects. If the Republican Task Force bill becomes law, I think it will be very difficult for Members to explain to the parents of a child like this why Congress exempted HealthMarts from this state law protection.

Second, the Republican bill does not contain protections for doctors and nurses who serve as advocates for their patients. Both bills ban ''gag rules'' that some health plans have used to limit discussions between patients and their health care providers, but the Patients' Bill of Rights recognizes that doctors and nurses need to be advocates at other times too.

It prevents health plans from taking action against them for speaking up at internal and external reviews or for alerting public health authorities to safety concerns. These are protections not present in the Republican Task Force bill.

A third 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 their 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, a patient may have a need 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 have 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 formularly 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 Patient's Bill of Rights would allow individuals with serious or life-threatening illnesses 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

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 ongoing access to specialists for chronic conditions. Many chronic conditions, such as Multiple Sclerosis or arthritis, require routine care from specially-trained physicians, like neurologists or rheumatologists.

It is one thing to ask an enrollee to get a referral 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 Republican Task Force bill.

A sixth distinction between the two is that the Patients' Bill of Rights does more to ensure 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, but the Republican Task Force bill contains a loophole that renders the protection a hollow one for millions of Americans.

Under the Republican bill, a health plan would not have to offer employees a 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 only actuarial speculation that the costs would increase and they are relieved of having to offer employees this benefit.

Perhaps more amazing is the fact that this exemption is triggered even if the employees selecting the point of service option would pay all of the costs of the improved coverage themselves. Under the Republican Task Force bill, employees who are willing to pay the entire added cost for the ability to obtain out-of-network care can be denied access to this benefit if the employer is able to speculate that the costs might be higher.

That is the ultimate in paternalism. The bipartisan bill I support, the Patients' Bill of Rights, lets the employees decide for themselves if they want to purchase this enhanced coverage.

A seventh key difference between the two bills is that the Patients' Bill of Rights ensures that health plans not place inappropriate financial incentives on providers to withhold care. Medicare regulations very explicitly limit the kind of financial arrangements that health plans can have with providers protecting seniors from providers who may get a financial windfall by delivering less care.

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 sandwiches. 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 former presidents. In fact, 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 deserved.

'HELEN'S CAFE'—CAPITOL CONCESSIONAIRE REMINISCES

As the red neon sign bearing her name shines brightly above, Helen Sewell busily prepares for the day at her cafe. As manager of a small concession stand offering a variety of sandwiches, soups, sodas, coffee, candy, ice cream and other snacks, she caters to a unique clientele—Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, Majority Leader Dick Armey and the 226 other Republican Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Helen's domain is the concession counter in the Republican Cloak Room, located just outside the House of Representatives Chamber. The cloak rooms are private enclaves where Members can relax, make phone calls and, thanks to Helen, enjoy everything from a light snack to a hearty sandwich. Now 80 years of age, she has been working at the counter since the 1930s when she was a teenager helping her father prepare snacks for Members of Congress. ''It was intimidating at first.'' Helen recalled, ''but I got used to it, and now I just love it.''

With more than 60 years of service, Helen has become something of an institution. In comparison, Helen's counterparts in the Democratic Cloak Room have come and gone for more than three generations. Currently, Cindy Edmondson works (as she has for a dozen years) in the Democratic Cloak Room concession.

According to Helen, her father came to Washington from Lovejoy, Ill., with his Member of Congress who helped get him a job as an attendant in the cloak room. ''But he got so tired of just hanging up coats and hats,'' Helen reminisced, ''so one day he brought in fruit, candy and drinks for the Members, and they really appreciated it.''

Each Member who visits ''Helen's Cafe'' is part of her extended family. ''I know every Republican Member of Congress . . . I fuss with them, and they fuss back. We're like family here and we're extremely close.'' It is obvious that her customers consider her to be a part of the family as well. They bought her a television so she could keep up with her favorite soaps; former Congressman Pat Roberts, now a Senator from Kansas, also gave Helen a new chair because he was concerned about her health; Amory Houghton of the 31st Congressional District of New York, commissioned the neon sign that proudly announces ''Helen's Cafe.'' ''They worry about me to much,'' Helen says modestly.

In fact, when she was hospitalized a few years ago with a heart attack, she received dozens of get-well cards and bouquets of flowers. She is convinced that the Members really missed her sandwiches. ''I'm pretty heavy-handed with my sandwiches,'' Helen admits, referring to the generous size of her culinary creations.

Working in the cloak room over six decades, Helen has witnessed much of the nation's history. She has a photographic memory and vividly remembers events such as the day in 1954 when Puerto Rican nationalists fired several shots from the House Gallery and wounded five Members of Congress. She has met many of the Members' spouses and children, including the Society's President, Clarence Brown, when his father served in Congress before him.

The recent deaths of Bill Emerson and Sonny Bono particularly sadden Helen. ''I remember 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.

Away from the Capitol, 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-grand children. A life-long resident of Washington, 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 member of the Northwest Boundary Civic Association. For fun, she admits with a chuckle, she occasionally visits the casinos in Atlantic 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 physically 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 Jersey, which is celebrating their twenty-fifth year of providing health care services to the caregivers and citizens of New Jersey.

In the face of our nation's every-changing healthcare system, the Home Health Assembly of New Jersey has served as a consistent and reliable source of support, education and advocacy for those who administer home health care and to those who receive it. As the state's largest and most comprehensive professional home care association, home care providers, hospices and associations have relied on their knowledge and insight for a quarter-century.

Mr. Speaker, home health care allows so many of our citizens to receive necessary health care in comfortable and familiar surroundings. 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 shoulder to lean on makes one's illness more manageable 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 Assembly continued success in the future years of service which they will provide to the people of New Jersey.

HONORING THE T.L.L. TEMPLE FOUNDATION

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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 non-profit 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 major 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 ''Buddy'' 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.

TRIBUTE TO MAC MCCUE, A CONSTITUENT

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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 behind the scenes, 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.

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 Reserves.

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—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!

RECOGNITION OF THE COMPLETION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 72

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

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 of the citizens of Alabama 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 precision in Kosova 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 tonight 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 ''proud 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 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.

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 the Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans.

I think there are so many issues surrounding the youth of today, things like success—we care 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 throughout 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.

Basically, what the Green Mountain Teens do is, we are a peer-awareness and prevention group. We provide healthy alternatives to doing drugs or drinking and things like that. We have coffee houses, we have haunted houses, winter balls, dances, anything you can imagine, any other kind of healthy lifestyle habit, we promote that, in order to tell teens that there is something else out there. We are setting examples for teens by being teens, and telling them that there are other choices. And we are trying to show the adults in the community that we need their support also, that we recognize there is a problem, and that it needs to be changed.

Congressman SANDERS. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT BY JOSH LEMIEUX, MARK BOYLE, CARL HALBACH AND RICHARD GONZALES REGARDING SKATEBOARD COMMUNITY BUILDING

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 things they would like to do and 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 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 think about doing, 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 dwell on the fact 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 State of Vermont, 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 we are just raising money right now. We have the communities behind us, just trying to.

Carl, did you want to add something?

CARL HALBACH. Yes. 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 handed to us. There 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 are in a much 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 Gridmore and Doctor Chip. I mean, they don't do work for us, but they help organize stuff, because not all community members are going to be totally accepting of a bunch of rag-tag kids coming and saying, can we do 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 are really appreciate it.

Congressman SANDERS. This is an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY ERICA HEPP, MICHELLE PATTERSON, AMANDA BRUCHS, RYAN BAGLEY, KYLE LYNCH AND PAUL BERRY REGARDING COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

KYLE LYNCH. We are students at Milton High School, and we will be speaking about the cost of higher education. We think the cost of higher education is too high. The students in the middle income bracket are in a tough position. There is not enough Merit aid available and not enough incentive for students to do well.

AMANDA BRUCHS. College costs are rising, making it nearly impossible for students to afford a higher education. The average total of tuition, room and board nationally for a private college is $17,636, and $11,444 for a public school. This year my tuition, room and board costs for St. Lawrence University, a private institution, are approximately $31,000. This amount stands to increase every year. $31,000 is over half of my parent's income. The Federal Government needs to do something to curb college costs now, before higher education becomes a luxury that only a privileged few can afford.

MICHELLE PATTERSON. These high costs make it 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 scholarships are need-based. Therefore, even 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.

RYAN BAGLEY. 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 two National Merit scholars, neither of which received any merit-based money. Colleges are giving out more scholarships money to athletes than to students. Out of the 69 scholarships in this VISAC scholarships 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.

ERICA 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 the case anymore. I am the valedictorian of my class, and the rest of the students with me are all in the top ten percent, yet none of us have been rewarded financially for our efforts. I will be paying $30,000 a year to go to my first choice school. Other students at Milton have had to settle for safety schools because of financial reasons.

There needs to be more financial incentive for students to achieve high standards in school. Right now, school achievement just doesn't make a difference.

PAUL BERRY. In light of all these points, what we want is federal legislation that will lower the cost of higher education and the ability to get more financial and Merit aid.

Congressman SANDERS: Excellent.

STATEMENT BY JESS WALTERS, AND LINH NGUYEN, AND RYNA LAFEBVRE, AND GARY BAILEY REGARDING BURLINGTON'S OLD NORTH END.

RYAN LEFEBVRE. Hello. My name is Ryan. I am here to represent Burlington's Old North End. We decided that one of the most important issues to us is how teens in the Old North End spend their out-of-school hours.

Each day, teens in the Old North End decide how they will spend at least five of their waking hours when not in school. For many of these, the hours harbor both risk and opportunity.

For many that are home alone, the out-of-school hours present serious risks for substance abuse, crime, violence and sexual activity, leading to unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Time spent alone is not the crucial contributor to higher risk; rather, it is what young people do during that time, where they do it, and with whom, that leads to positive or negative consequences.

According to a 1990 survey, my community contains 29 percent of the Burlington's population, and has the highest percentage of people of color in the city. Over half of the households are female-headed, and over 60 percent of these families live below the poverty line.

Poverty is especially pronounced for the Old North End's children, 42 percent of whom lived in poverty in 1990. That percentage is higher today. The Old North End has 32.1 percent of its residents living below the poverty level, compared with 19.3 percent for the city as a whole.

Recently, a number of focus groups were held, where youth, senior citizens, and business people spoke out about concerns they have about the Old North End. The following issues and concerns were continually mentioned: Public drinking, drug dealing, continuing poverty, racial tensions, and potential gang violence.

We proposed a teen center that would directly address many of our community concerns, as well as issues many of you will be 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.

First, they all have limited teen hours. For instance, I have nowhere to go after school until 5:30, and most youth centers close at 9:00 at night. My friends usually hang out on the street until teen hours start or until they have to go home.

Due to things mentioned by Ryan, North Street isn't really a safe place for teens to hang out. Most of the teens that live in the Old North End go to Burlington High School, where there is no computer and Internet access available to us after school. Currently, there is nowhere to go to do research or study after school hours. The other youth centers don't have a place for us to do this.

The final issue is the adults' role. Other youth centers have too much supervision and not enough opportunity for independence and creativity. There are also a lot of little kids around.

Now Gary is going to tell you about what our teen center will be like.

GARY BAILEY. Hello. My name is Gary, and I would like to tell you about our teen center.

Our teen center will be run by youth, it will be for ages 13 through 19, and it will be free of charge. We feel that it should be open for longer hours, like she said before, because other teen programs like the one we want to open will have to be open for younger children also, so we only have a section of the day that we can go there, so we are still out in the streets.

We feel that it should have a resource room run by adults, with a minilibrary, mentoring and tutoring facilities, a career college center, and information on social services. Also, a job board for a list for people to get jobs easily, and maybe once a week somebody in there helping them out, somebody like Becky Trudeau or something,

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 computers to get an essay done, so 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 prevention, 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, Henderson Foundation, Texas Criminal Justice Division, local Community Supervision Departments, 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 dependency. The ADAC believes that chemical dependency is treatable and offers its education and intervention services to the chemically-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 education has been provided to approximately 200,000 school age children, intervention services are provided to 6th, 7th and 8th graders, an age at which children are under great pressure 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 congratulate 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 fisherman on his 90th birthday. His friendship with my family dates to before my time.

Mr. Wallace has devoted his life to the outdoors. He has always claimed to be a farmer but most of us see that as little more than an excuse to be outdoors and spend more time pursing his twin passions of hunting and fishing.

He has been instrumental in teaching generations 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 technique, his ability to locate highly productive 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 tolerance 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 chastise 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 better hunter and fisherman, and the kind of individual that makes the heritage and culture of the First Congressional District so special.

Happy Birthday Wilbur.

THE NEW TERROR AGAINST THE BAHA'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 Baha'i in Iran is unfortunately not a new issue to this House. Congress has passed resolutions on any number of occasions condemning the vicious persecution of the Baha'i at the hands of the Teheran regime, but the persecution continues.

In the last month the persecution has intensified, 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 Baha'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 Baha'i prisoners, who like Mr. Rowhani are guilty of nothing other than the nonviolent exercise of their faith, are now believed to be in grave and imminent danger. Since the current regime took power in 1981, over 200 Baha'is have been executed on account of their religion. 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 Baha'i are a peace-loving community, members of a religion that had its origin in Iran but that has adherents the world over, including many Americans. The extremist regime in Iran considers the Baha'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 extremists. Baha'is cannot elect institutional leaders, organize schools, or conduct other religious activities. The elected assemblies which had governed the religious community were disbanded by government order in 1983. All Baha'i cemeteries and holy places were seized soon after the 1979 revolution. Under the law now in force in Iran, Baha'is may not hold government jobs, Baha'i students may not attend universities or even graduate from high school. Baha'i marriages and divorces are not recognized, the right to inherit is denied, and contracts with Baha'is 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 moderate after all.

Mr. Speaker, the White House reacted to the execution of Mr. Rowhani with a statement noting that ''[t]he world ha[d] 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 government that commits such gross forms of persecution on account of religious belief and practice as have been perpetrated against the Baha'i must not be accorded the privileges of membership in the community of civilized nations. The United States must bring all of its dealings with Iran into conformity with this principle, and must encourage other nations, international organizations, financial institutions, 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.

CRISES 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 Members of the High Court. 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 Multi-lateral 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 follow the orders of 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 act of violence. Girls of the same age are made into sexual slaves. 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 wanted to move but lacked the money 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 to watch their countrymen suffer 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 colleagues, 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 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 a few officers and insiders of the former credit union—not to mention the attorneys who encouraged the deal—can wind up owing much or all the former credit union's capital in the form of stock. Thus, in order to prevent insiders from walking away with capital which belongs to the entire credit union membership, and depriving that membership of their credit union access, NCUA instituted the majority vote requirement. This requirement was subject to notice and comment rulemaking in 1995. The agency received no comments opposed to the majority vote requirement, while fully half the comments on this section urged the agency to institute a supermajority requirement. 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 tremendous 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, produced a record number of conversion applications over the past several years. These same individuals then complained that NCUA processed applications too slowly and that the conversion requirements were too rigorous. They persuaded some members of the Senate Banking Committee to override NCUA's regulation and to weaken conversion requirements by allowing conversions upon a majority vote only of those members voting. This means that a very small fraction of credit union members could force a credit union to convert, even against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of members who are either unaware or did not participate in a vote. This same faction can then profit by a further conversion to a stock institution.

While H.R. 1151 will address the field of membership issue for most credit unions, other restrictions imposed by the Senate version 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 outside consultants 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 enhance its close scrutiny of conversion applications. While it may seem as if NCUA has very little discretion in this area, the legislation does at least grant them authority to administer 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 several ways in which NCUA can continue to exercise vigilant oversight over the conversion process within this 90-day period.

First, I encourage NCUA to strictly supervise the notification of members regarding the impending conversion vote. The legislation requires that notice be sent 90, 60, and 30 days before the conversion vote. NCUA should require that these notices be separate and distinct from other mailings and statements. The notice must go beyond NCUA's current notice requirement and explain to members not only the facts of the conversion proposal, but also the fact that they will lose their ownership rights and that the member capital of the credit union could potentially be converted to private stock. Now that the members lack the protection of the majority vote requirement, they must be informed about any and all possible outcomes of the conversion.

Further, NCUA must strictly supervise the process of taking the member vote. Where so much is at stake, both for the general membership and those seeking to convert, outside election monitors must be employed. NCUA should ensure that firms used for monitoring elections have no ties to the credit union, those seeking the conversion or the lawyers assisting in the conversion process. The monitoring firm 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 statements subject to criminal and civil penalties.

I would like to point out that such requirements 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 parallels 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. It allows disapproval for example, if there is less than a majority of members voting, as that would put a cloud over the efficacy of the notifications.

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.

CONGRATULATING MONSIGNOR ALLIEGRO ON THE TWENTY-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. Alliegro as he celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Since his ordination in May 1973, Monsignor Alliegro 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 Alliegro held various leadership posts in which he assisted parishes and citizens with their spiritual needs, in addition to helping to increase vocations to the priesthood.

The community-at-large has also benefitted from Monsignor Alliegro'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 Alliegro dedicates to those in need of clothes, food, emotional and physical support is an example which all of us should model.

Monsignor Alliegro'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 Alliegro 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 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. 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 and the Judiciary for crafting an equitable bill that addresses many of the problems facing coastal areas like Long Island.

Brown Tide is a micro-algae bloom that was first reported in the bays of Long Island in June of 1985, devastating Long Island's million dollar scallop industry and reducing a harvest of 278,532 pounds in 1984 to just 250 pounds by 1988. Virtually every coastal state has reported some type of harmful algal bloom. In this bill we have given $19 million dollars to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Ocean Program (COP), $1.2 million above the President's request and $1.8 million above Fiscal Year 1998.

NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program, is 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.

Also included in this legislation is an additional $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 1970's. While it has long been recognized that this decline may be attributable to a number of factors, some evidence suggests that the situation may be further changing. A key acquaculture company in New York, Bluepoints, just announced that it will be discontinuing its hard clam production due to a great decrease in growth rates. Other reports indicate that natural 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. I thank the Committee for providing these funds needed to preserve an important estuary and an industry on Long Island.

Billions of dollars in economic growth, thousands of jobs and countless recreational opportunities are being wasted as a result of over-fishing our commercial and recreational fisheries. I support the priorities set within the nearly $3.4 million of funding the Committee has provided for NMFS. The Committee has increased the ''Resource Information'' account in the NMFS budget $200,000 over last year's level, providing funds for Southampton College of Long Island University to establish a Cooperative Education Marine Research (CEMR) program with NMFS. I will work closely with Southampton College and NMFS to ensure an education and research program is developed at Southampton College that will address problems with the bluefish and striped bass fisheries off Long Island.

Also, I fully support the Committee's decision to examine the problem of unavailable and sometimes incomplete scientific information that make management decisions difficult, to say the least. It is unfair to ask those who fish for lobster and scallops to spend thousands of dollars on new equipment to reduce fish by-catch and whale entanglements without clear evidence that these efforts will be effective, and we have begun to address this problem by funding new scientific, comprehensive studies of changes in fish stocks, particularly to determine whether stocks have declined or merely moved offshore—an issue of extreme importance also to the Bluefin Tuna fishermen of Long Island.

There are still some serious issues that need to be addressed, such as the National Marine Fisheries Service's often controversial, and I would say faulty, quota allocations among elements of our fishing industries. Long Island's Bluefin Tuna fishery has closed prematurely during the past three years, creating severe economic hardship for many Long Island fishermen, due to these faulty quotas. Also included is a provision to address the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) repeated closures of the Altantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery and its impact on Long Island's fishing industry.

Relying on those inaccurate figures, NMFS has tried to maintain its quotas in each of the past three years by closing the fishery just as the Bluefin Tuna moves into New York's ocean waters in late summer. NMFS's management of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna has been an embarrassment and their repeated closures of this fishery have wreaked havoc with Long Island's multi-million dollar recreational and commercial fishing industries. In this bill the Secretary of Commerce is directed to report to the Committee on the Department's efforts to fully resolve this problem caused by NMFS's reliance on faulty reporting practices that produce inaccurate estimates on the number of Bluefin Tuna caught.

Managing our coastal resources must go beyond managing fish stocks. We must also focus on habitat restoration and clean-up. Since 1985, Long Island Sound has been recognized as an ecologically diverse and threatened estuary by Congress. It was one of the first estuaries included in the National Estuary Program. The federal government has spent about $1.725 billion on environmental clean-up and assessment of pollution in Long Island Sound. We have provided $63.5 million 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 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.

Finally, 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 to give a little to get 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.

Well, 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 the families and friends of those injured, 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 Act, 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 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. 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 to deny funds for federal preemption of state and local laws on the grounds that they are inconsistent with international trade and investment agreements. These letters reflect the widely held conviction in meaningful, democratic government and the laws it can produce.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS,
STEPHEN WISE CONGRESS HOUSE,
New York, NY, July 27, 1998.

Hon. DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

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. If the World Trade Organization were to rule 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.

Under the United States Constitution, states and cities have rights that cannot be abridged by the federal government, and this includes the right to punish Swiss banks as long as those banks remain recalcitrant in making appropriate restitution. Your amendment denying taxpayer funds for litigation against American cities is clearly necessary to protect the rights of cities to impose such sanctions.

Thank you for your leadership in proposing this amendment.

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 legal 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 and human rights. We do not 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, and 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.

August 3, 1998.

Dear Representative, American Lands representing grassroots environmental groups across the country urges you to support of 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 governments at the national, state, and local levels 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 the city to buy only sustainable produced tropical timber has been stalled after the timber industry argued that such selective purchasing legislation is a violation of US trade policy. 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. 4276.

B'NAI B'RITH,
July 23, 1998.

Hon. DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KUCINICH. As the Executive Vice President of B'nai B'rith, which is one of the founding members if the World Jewish Restitution Organization, I was pleased to learn that you and a number of your colleagues, including Congressman Sanders, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman DeFazio and Congressman Stearns have offered an Amendment to H.R. 4276.

I am writing to support your proposed amendment that would protect sanctions laws that are currently under consideration in a number of jurisdictions around the United States. Without such an amendment, I am concerned that these legislative initiatives will be placed in jeopardy should the World Trade Organization consider them illegal.

Thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

SIDNEY M. CLEARFIELD.

CITIZENS FOR PARTICIPATION
IN POLITICAL ACTION,
July 21, 1998.

Representative DENNIS KUCINICH,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH. We at Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX), a Massachusetts statewide 4,000 member citizens lobby, would like to offer our support in favor of the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Steams, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations bill.

Dedicated to state sovereignty and local democracy, CPPAX played a pivotal role in the passage of the Massachusetts Burma Selective Purchasing Law in 1996 and continues to support laws in defense of democracy and human rights in Nigeria, East Timor and Tibet. We firmly believe in selective purchasing laws as a means to uphold the rights of citizens to decide how and where to spend their tax-dollars. Accordingly, we strongly support your effort to defend these laws from legal challenges that arise from their inconsistencies with the World Trade Organization's International trade and investment agreements.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Please keep us updated as to actions that we may take to continue to support your efforts on this cause.

Sincerely,

LAURIE WAINBERG,
Organizing and Policy Director.
ANDLEEB DAWOOD,
Intern at CPPAX.

CITIZENS' ALLIANCE OF SANTA BARBARA,
Santa Barbara, CA, August 4, 1998.

Representative LOIS CAPPS,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CAPPS: We are writing to urge you to support the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill.

The Citizens' Alliance of Santa Barbara (the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Alliance for Democracy), has been concerned for some time about the effects of ''Free Trade'' and investment deregulation agreements on our democracy and on the economic future of our communities, our businesses and our families. At our meeting this weekend, we voted unanimously to ask your support for the Kucinich, et al. amendment. We understand that this amendment would deny funds for federal legal challenges to state or local laws that the World Trade Organization decides violate international trade or investment agreements, thus preventing the administration from taking states or communities to court to enforce WTO rulings unless Congress consents. We feel that this would provide a very important safeguard for shielding local democracy from the rule of international institutions that are undemocratic and unaccountable to the American public. A recent quote in the Journal of Commerce offers an excellent perspective on the issues involved: ''Trade and investment should not short-circuit democracy. And if it does, something's wrong.''

We hope that you will support the Kucinich, et al. amendment and protect the right of states and communities to retain some democratic control over our own economic affairs.

Sincerely,

RON ROWE,
Chair, Citizens' Alliance of Santa Barbara.

Joining me in this letter are the following concerned Santa Barbara residents: Ellis Englesberg; Dr. Frank Gordon; Dan Hankey; Ann Kobsa; Tonia Jauch; Ann Marshall; Maureen Parker; and Steve Shafarman.

CITIZENS TRADE CAMPAIGN,
Washington, DC, July 27, 1998.

Vote Yes on Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-Stearns Amendment to Commerce, Justice, State Approps

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Citizens Trade Campaign urges you to support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-Stearns Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill.

Citizens Trade Campaign (CTC) is the national coalition of labor, consumer, environmental, religious, family farm, and other U.S. citizens groups fighting for fair trade. CTC has local chapters in 30 U.S. States.

This amendment stops the use of taxpayer money to impose on states and localities the threats and rulings of international trade and investment tribunals, such as those of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The State Department has become a frequent voice in state legislators trying to influence local elected officials to pass WTO-consistent laws and not to laws the Administration claims may conflict with World Trade Organization dictates. It's unacceptable for our tax dollars to be spent to pressure Maryland legislators not to pass laws concerning Nigeria's dictatorship or to pressure Massachusetts to weaken a law castigating the Burmese dictatorship.

The evidence builds monthly of how international trade and investment agreements are resulting in challenges and threats against our democratically-passed laws.

The Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-Stearns amendment ensures that U.S. tax dollars are not used to assist these unaccountable international bureaucracies attack U.S. democracy.

The insistence of international trade and investment tribunals that U.S. federal, state and local laws must be conformed to their orders is the strongest argument that the international bodies, not U.S. laws, that must be changed. So far the executive branch refuses to take accountability for this threat to our sovereignty and instead works to help impose the pacts' undemocratic dictates. This must stop.

This amendment would end the use of federal tax dollars to impose the ruling and threats of anti-democratic international tribunals.

Please vote in favor of the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-Stearns amendment.

CO-OP AMERICA

To: Members of Congress
From: Co-op America
Date: July 23, 1998

Co-op America, a national nonprofit consumer organization working for social and environmental justice, represents 55,000 individual members and 2,000 business members nationwide.

On behalf of the members and staff of Co-op America, I am writing to express our strong support for the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill (HR 4276) that 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.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH ELLIOTT MCGEVERAN,
Managing Director.

FREE BURMA COALITION,
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE,
Milwaukee WI, July 21, 1998.

Hon. DENNIS KUCINICH,
U.S. House of Representatives, VIA FAX

Dear REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: I write to thank you for the tri-partisan Kucinich-Sanders-Stearns-Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce/State/Justice Appropriations Bill. The amendment would deprive the Administration of funds needed to bring legal challenges against any state or local laws that the World Trade Organization finds inconsistent with international trade and investment agreements.

This amendment is necessary, because multinational corporations have begun an organized and serious assault on human rights, by opposing local selective purchasing laws designed to protect taxpayers from supporting corrupt and violent governments abroad.

During apartheid's reign in South Africa, a student-led and inspired movement swept across America, through the enaction of local ''selective purchasing'' laws, which prohibited individual localities from doing business with South Africa. This strategy brought about a federal statute prohibiting American companies from doing business with South Africa, international sanctions against South Africa, and eventually led to the downfall of apartheid.

The strategy is being used again by activists concerned about human rights, environmental, workplace, and other serious abuses in countries such as Burma, Nigeria, and Indonesia. Rather than confront the charges of oppression head-on, multinational corporations that support tyranny are attempting to work around the people, and use the WTO to fight local selective purchasing laws.

Ultimately, this means that local taxpayers will be deprived of the right to decide how their local dollars are spent.

The Kucinich amendment would ensure that no federal monies would be used to fight

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,
July 22, 1998.

Representative NANCY PELOSI,
Via fax: 202–225–8259.

DEAR REP. 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 purcashing legislation. Trade sanctions are condoned by Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and she has US companies to not do 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 obstacles to free trade. Free trade should not happen with out fair trade and respect for human rights. This amendment would prevent this kind of blind challenge to trade restrictions based 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
July 27, 1998.

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 World Trade Organization's rules. It is the proper role of Congress to withhold funds from policies that are injurious. This will put our federal government where we believe it ought 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 withdraw business from countries held to be violators of human rights, such as Burma, Nigeria, Indonesia, and apartheid South Africa. Citizens have also persuaded state and local governments, as well as universities, to refuse to do business with such countries. Are they wrong to use what leverage they have in support of almost universally accepted standards of decency?

In 1994, Congress was debating legislation to implement the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, leading to the creation of the WTO. Opponents claimed then that the new trade regime would threaten many local, state, and national initiatives. Other countries would be able to sue on behalf of corporations, contending 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 Janice Schakowsky (now a Democratic nominee for Congress) was trying to find cosponsors for a food labeling bill. She said she was told, ''Oh, 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 have the right not to 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 only the powerful. The majority world needs effective and responsible representatives to protect their interests in an increasingly globalized economy. There must be far more winners than losers.

The Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment puts humane values above financial gain. It is a step toward blocking the threat to local initiative 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 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 realms. Through the autocratic 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 have the federal government turn against the states, localities or tribes and sue them to repeal their existing, long-standing laws. Moreover, even the threat of potential WTO challenges now converts the 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 subvert our democratic processes and health and safety standards to the autocratic WTO?

I urge you to support the amendment.

OBLATE CONFERENCE,
Silver Spring, MD, July 29, 1998.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: As Executive Director of the Oblate Conference, a religious organization with over 500 members in the United States at present, I am writing to express my organization's support for the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Bill.

The bill 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. The Oblate Conference supports local government resolutions such as the Massachusetts Burma Law, and we believe it is the proper role of Congress, not the Administration, to pre-empt state legislation.

Respectfully Yours,

SEAMUS P. FINN, *OMI.*

PEN AMERICAN CENTER,
July 22, 1998.

JARON BOURKE,
Legislative Assistant, Congressman Dennis Kucinich.

On behalf of PEN American Center, a fellowship of writers dedicated to defending free expression and advancing the cause of literature, I write to express our support for the Kucinich, Sanders, 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.

Sincerely,

DIANA AYTON-SHENKER,
Director, Freedom-to-Write.

PENINSULA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER,
Palo Alto, CA, July 29, 1998.

Re Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen Amendment to the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Bill

HON. ANNA ESHOO,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN ESHOO: I am writing to urge you to support the above-referenced amendment to the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Bill. This amendment would deny funds for the Administration for any attempt to sue to bring local statutes into compliance with World Trade Organization regulations.

As you are no doubt aware, the city of Palo Alto has a law which may be challenged under WTO regulations. This law prohibits the city from making any substantial purchases from companies doing business in Burma. The law was passed after nearly a year of effort by local activists and is aimed at addressing the terrible human rights situation in Burma. Many other such laws around the country are threatened by WTO regulations.

I look forward to hearing that you have supported this amendment. I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL GEORGE,
Director.

PREAMBLE CENTER,
Washington, DC.

Hon. DENNIS KUCINICH,
U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: We write in support of the Kucinich-Sanders-DeFazio-Ros-Lehtinen-Stearns amendment to the Appropriation 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 which 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 in the United States are turning to 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 how local 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 legislation on the basis of obscure provisions of international trade and investment agreements that the local legislators were previously unaware that they were party to or bound by. Under these agreements, if state legislators refuse the entreaties of federal officials, the U.S. government is required to sue state and local governments to force repeal. We support your efforts 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 an advocate for foreign governments and corporations against local democracy and sovereignty in the United States. We applaud your efforts to put a stop to this dangerous erosion of democracy in the United States.

ROBERT NAIMAN,
Preamble Center for Public Policy.

July 26, 1998.

Hon. DENNIS KUCINICH,
United States Congress.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: As director of Project Maje, an independent information project on Burma's human rights issues, I am writing in support of your bill to protect state and local sanctions.

The Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns Bill is a crucial item of legislation to protect our American birthright of opposing injustice and oppression through our own lawful processes.

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 which fund dictatorships involved in horrendous acts of abuse.

I am very happy that the bill is co-sponsored by Rep. DeFazio, from Oregon. Here in Portland, earlier this month, the City Council passed a selective purchasing resolution regarding the brutal Burmese 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,

EDITH T. MIRANTE,
Project Maje.

PUBLIC CITIZEN,
Washington, DC, July 26, 1998.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Public Citizen, on behalf of its members nationwide, urges you to support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-Stearns Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill. The vote on this amendment is expected Tuesday morning.

This important measure ensures that taxpayer money will not be expended to impose on states and localities the rulings of international trade and investment tribunals.

In recent months, State Department staff have been sent to pressure state legislatures not to pass laws the Administration claims may conflict with World Trade Organization dictates. It's unacceptable for our tax dollars to be spent to pressure Maryland legislators not to pass laws concerning Nigeria's dictatorship or to pressure Massachusetts to weaken a law castigating the Burmese dictatorship.

Just this week, the newest trade agreement threat became reality as the Canadian government was bullied into paying $14 million in legal fees and damages after the Ethyl Corporation used NAFTA provisions to *directly* sue the Canadian government. The case provides the latest evidence that international trade and investment agreements are creating an epidemic of costly government legal efforts to avoid or defend trade challenges and threats against our democratically-passed laws.

The Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-Stearns amendment ensures that U.S. tax dollars are not used to assist these unaccountable international bureaucracies attack U.S. democracy.

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.

The executive branch continues to deny that recent trade agreements are undermining our sovereignty while they help impose the pacts' undemocratic dictates.

This amendment can't stop such false representations. But, it can stop the use of federal tax dollars to impose the ruling and threats of anti-democratic international tribunals.

Please vote in favor of the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-Stearns amendment.

Sincerely,

LORI WALLACH.

RESEARCH AND POLICY REFORM CENTER, INC.
21 July, 1998.

Congressman DENNIS KUCINICH,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KUCINICH: I am writing to express my utmost support of the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen Amendment. As Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi implored recently, we must use our freedom to promote Burma's.

It is with great thanks for your sponsorship of the amendment that I send you my letter of support.

Sincerely,

MAUREEN AUNG-THWIN,
Director, Burma Policy, RPR.

SACRAMENTANS FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS,
Sacramento, CA, August 3, 1998.

Hon. ROBERT MATSUI,
650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MATSUI: We are writing to state our support for the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill that 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. Please join us in supporting this amendment.

Sincerely yours,

HEIDI MCLEAN,
Legislation Coordinator.

SEATTLE BURMA ROUNDTABLE,
Seattle, WA, July 28, 1998.

Representative DENNIS KUCINICH,
1730 LHOB

DEAR REP. KUCINICH: It is with gratitude that our organization offers its support to your amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill that would halt 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 unaccountable bureaucrats from the WTO. If our elected officials make these types of decisions, they are accountable to us, their constituents, and to no one else.

We must never forget that local sanctions laws were incredibly important in accomplishing peaceful political change in South Africa. Similarly, the current campaign to put economic pressure on Burma's military dictatorship, called for by Burma's elected leaders, is working well. Now is not the time to try to tell Americans that such campaigns are somehow illegal.

We will be sending letters of support to our representatives, including Adam Smith, Linda Smith, Jennifer Dunne, Jim McDermott, Rick White, Jack Metcalf, Doc Hastings and George Nethercutt.

Thanks again for efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,

LARRY DOHRS,
Chairman.

SIERRA CLUB,
Washington, DC, July 28, 1998.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Sierra's Club more than half-million members, I urge you to support an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and State Department Appropriations Act (HR 4276) sponsored by Reps. Kucinich, Sanders, Ros-Lehtinen, DeFazio, and Stearns (''The Kucinich Amendment''). The Kucinich 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 law is already under imminent threat under international trade rules:

In April 1998, the State Department pressured the Maryland state legislature into rejecting legislation to sanction the government of Nigeria for environmental and human rights abuses. Similar state and local sanctions helped to topple South Africa'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 legislation violates US trade policy. That legislation 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 Florida lifted a ban on Orimulsion, a highly-polluting fossil fuel produced by Venezuela's state oil company.

By adopting the Kucinich Amendment, Congress can take immediate action to ensure that state, local, and tribal governments can set their own environmental and health standards, free of unnecessary interference by international trade rules. Yet, the Executive would still be free to pursue state preemption on important matters where Congress first made a specific appropriation. Please vote ''yes'' to the Kucinich Amendment to HR 4276.

Sincerely,

CARL POPE,
Executive Director.

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER,
MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE,
July 27, 1998.

Hon. DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KUCINICH: The Simon Wiesenthal Center is grateful for Congressman Kucinich's leadership in proposing Amendment H.R. 4276, which will have the effect of forcing the Swiss Banks who have profited from stolen Nazi loot to promptly return to the negotiating table with representatives of the Holocaust survivors and the Jewish community.

Please let us know if the amendment becomes law.

Once again, on behalf of the 400,000 constituent families of the Simon Wiesenthal Center we commend you and your colleagues on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

RABBI ABRAHAM COOPER,
Associate Dean.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SERVICE COMMITTEE,
Cambridge MA, July 29, 1998.

Hon. DENNIS KUCINICH,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH, I applaud your leadership in sponsoring the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice and State Department Appropriations bill that would deprive the Administration of funds to bring legal challenges to any state and local laws based on the contention that the WTO finds these laws inconsistent with international trade and investment agreements.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has been involved in efforts to focus public attention on the need to end repression and foster democracy and human rights in Burma since 1995. As you probably know Burma's repressive military junta established a totalitarian state in that nation in 1988. The military crackdown begun at that time has resulted in the deaths of over 10,000 people. This regime has brought Burma, renamed Myanmar by the military, the dubious distinction of having one of the world's worst human rights records. One very effective way to focus public attention on the human rights crisis in Burma is to enact selective purchase legislation at the state or local level that bars government agencies from purchasing goods produced by companies that do business there. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and several cities, towns and counties have passed such legislation. However, unfortunately federal government officials have tried to pressure many of these governments and their legislative officials to repeal or modify that legislation because of objections raised to it by the WTO.

The amendment you have proposed would end this type of interference. After all, how Massachusetts—or any state or city decides to spend its tax dollars is a matter for the citizens of Massachusetts or any other state or city to decide. I wish you every success in passing this important amendment.

Sincerely,

JEFF SIEFERT,
Acting Director.

TRANSAFRICA

Re: Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276
To: Members of Congress
From: Randall Robinson

I write in strong support for the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276, the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriation.

This amendment will provide necessary protection to state and local initiatives that promote human rights and justice. Earlier this year, the State of Maryland was considering passing a selective purchase law to promote human rights and correct environmental abuses in Nigeria. The Federal government lobbied in Annapolis to preempt this state action. An official from the State Department said to the Maryland lawmakers that the law would be WTO-illegal. The threat of a federal lawsuit stood behind the State Department official's warning. Maryland backed down.

With the threat of WTO decrees and consequent federal lawsuits, what state or local legislature will be able to pass important procurement laws like the Nigeria selective purchase law? Had the states been bound by such trade rules during our struggle to free South Africa, Nelson Mandela might still be imprisoned.

I hope you will support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276.

U.S. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COUNCIL,
July 29, 1998.

Re: The Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to HR 4276
To: Republican Members of Congress
From: Kevin L. Kearns, President, USBIC

On behalf of the more than 1,000 member companies of the United States Business and Industry Council (USBIC), I strongly urge you to support the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns Amendment to HR 4276, the Commerce, Justice, State appropriation bill.

This amendment, which would deny the use of taxpayer funds for federal government challenges to state, local, and tribal laws deemed inconsistent with America's NAFTA and World Trade Organization obligations, will serve as a vital bulwark in the defense of American sovereignty.

As an organization that for more than 60 years has promoted policies to serve the broad national interest, USBIC does not believe in general that sub-national authorities should have the right to make their own trade and foreign policies. The Constitution reserves these powers for the federal government, and USBIC believes that this arrangement has served the nation well.

Yet the ultimate fate of these sub-national policies should be decided by the American political system—which, after all, is the only political system on earth that places first and foremost the interests of the American people and the only one that is fully accountable to them. Foreign governments and international bureaucracies should play no official or formal role whatever in these decisions.

For more than 200 years, the American people have looked to their own elected leaders to safeguard national security and manage their international economic affairs. They have never voted to delegate these responsibilities to foreign bodies, or give such bodies binding oversight. The American political system has all the legitimacy it needs to act on their behalf. This legitimacy—along with the power to enforce the decisions made by the system—is the sine qua non of U.S. sovereignty.

Using taxpayer money to finance U.S. federal government court challenges ordered by an international organization to overturn political decisions made by legitimate American officials and legislators at the state or local level betrays more than two centuries of struggle and sacrifice for American independence and freedom. It's bad enough that President Clinton and his multilateralist advisors have meekly acquiesced in the creeping power grab being engineered by the World Trade Organization. If Republicans and conservatives don't stand up to them, who will? I strongly urge you to vote for the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment.

If you should have any question about the amendment or the sovereignty issue in general, please feel free to contact either myself or USBIC Educational Foundation Research Fellow Alan Tonelson at 202–628–2211.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague, Representative DREIER and I introduced the ''Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure Act.'' Its purpose is to help solve the Year 2000 computer problem. Billions of computer chips are in devices from telephones to oil rig valves, and billions of lines of software code now run computer systems we rely on for issuing paychecks to operating traffic signals. Now we are faced with the threat these devices and systems may not operate because they cannot read the number 2000 as a year.

The challenge to solve the so-called ''Y2K'' problem is an incredibly complex process in our interconnected world. Each of us has a stake in all of us succeeding. After all, if a business that issues paychecks or another that operates our elevators fixes its Y2K problems, what will be accomplished if the electricity needed by those businesses cannot be delivered or transit systems cannot provide transportation for the employees of those businesses?

Solving this problem means that every company must make available as much information as is possible, as soon as possible, so that others can use it to meet the threat present in the Y2K problem. Unfortunately, current law provides an opportunity to file frivolous lawsuits against those providing this information and subject them to costly litigation. Consequently, these Y2K ''Good Samaritans'' are reluctant to provide vital information because of the litigation they may have to endure.

This bill will give companies the freedom to disclose Year 2000 readiness information to

help all of us deal with this unique crisis, without penalizing them for their efforts. With January 1, 2000 fast approaching, more information rather than less—shared sooner rather than later—may be the difference between inconvenience and disaster.

I am pleased to see the Administration has proposed similar legislation to address this issue. It is a worthy effort, although it may fall short in some areas. For example, the Administration bill protects statements that are good-faith mistakes but does not include protection for statements shown to be true. The bill introduced today by myself and Mr. DREIER will protect all Year 2000 disclosure statements, giving companies incentives to provide more information, not less.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can quickly pass this timely legislation during this Congress, and I look forward to working with the Administration and others on this important issue. Also, I welcome suggestions on how we may improve the legislation introduced today. The Y2K challenge is extensive and the stakes are very high. I believe the legislation we have introduced here today is a critical step in successfully meeting that challenge.

I hope my colleagues will join me and Mr. DREIER in supporting this bill.

PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND RESEARCH ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, for the past seven years, since the Persian Gulf War ended, our veterans have suffered from a myriad of symptoms with no end in sight—dizziness, severe headaches, chest pain, shortness of breath, aching joints and depression, to cite just a few examples of what they are going through.

Seven years ago, when the Persian Gulf War ended, a hearing was held here in Washington to investigate reports that Persian Gulf Veterans were suffering a series of mysterious symptoms. But there were no veterans at the witness table in the Committee room. So in 1992, I held a hearing in Boston to gather testimony from sick veterans who could tell me about their health problems. At that time, sick veterans were being called malingerers or worse, by the Defense Department. People didn't believe they were really sick.

But by early 1993, it was clear that there was a problem. Literally hundreds of veterans were calling my office to report of symptoms ranging from skin rashes and respiratory problems to kidney failure and cancer that they believed were linked to service in the Gulf conflict. The Pentagon continued to deny any link but was forced to take a closer look at the facts once countries that were members of the Persian Gulf Coalition began reporting exposures of their own troops to chemical and biological weapons.

Finally, in April 1996, the CIA released a report showing solid evidence that thousands of chemical weapons had been stored at Khamisiyah and that our troops may have been exposed to those deadly agents after the allied forces bombed the storage facilities.

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 service might be linked to these horrible illnesses that have so devastated their family 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 War Veterans Health Care and Research Act of 1998'' with Chairman 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 on what kind 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 become available from research 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 ''YEA''; 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 ''YEA''.

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 upon 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 an issue 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—except 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 handguns. 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 that ''The Brady Law'' infringes on the rights of the American people to keep and bear arms; ask them what right does any American have to go into ''The House of the People'' and kill two brave men.

For those who say that ''The Brady Law'' is too costly to the American taxpayer; 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 John Gibson have endured.

For those who say ''The Brady Law'' is too confining and restricts would-be gun owners; ask them if they believed restrictions are more confining than the one Jim and Sarah Brady deal with on a daily basis.

In closing, I concur with Senator Dick Durbin (D–IL.) 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, over 95% of this nation's law enforcement officers use this 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 of us on the 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 G. Rouses 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.

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 our great nation 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 recognized the service that veterans 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, and 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.''

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 that, 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's efforts. The Network's organ 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, the United States Postal Service, and Wisconsin donor families and transplant recipients, on the occasion of its issuance.

RECOGNIZING EDWIN J. KORCZYNSKI FOR HIS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the heroic volunteer efforts of a constituent of mine from Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Edwin J. Korczynski.

On September 11, 1997, a fire erupted at an apartment building in the City of Northlake, Illinois, which resulted in severe damage to the structure. Fortunately, a constituent of mine, Edwin J. Korczynski, had spent the entire previous day planning an all-department HAZ/MAT drill, and upon learning about the fire, went to the scene and worked to coordinate volunteer efforts to serve the victims of the fire.

Mr. Korczynski's volunteer efforts were crucial and have been recognized by the City of Northlake, the Polish American Police Association and others as an outstanding example of heroism and public service.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Mr. Korczynski for his brave and community-oriented actions.

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 true 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 Riemke, Tom, Michael Miller, stepsons Ben, Andy Camp; mother Connie Conklin Miller; sisters Beverly Stevens, Barbara Miller, brothers V. 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 to improve 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.

MAP INTERNATIONAL

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to a Georgia-based private voluntary organization, MAP (Medical Assistance Programs) International. With an upcoming humanitarian shipment, MAP International will pass the $1 billion mark in the value of donated medicines and medical supplies shipped to people in the developing world who have little or no access to these life-saving medicines. During its 44 years of service, MAP International has responded to disasters worldwide and regularly stocks hospitals, clinics and remote health posts in over 100 countries.

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.

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 for a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Gilbert Wales, better known as Gibby by an adoring community, and one of Michigan's most beloved lifetime residents died on April 10 at the age of 76. He was a loving husband, dedicated father, fellow state representative and longtime friend of mine. So I stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, to commemorate the life of Gibby Wales.

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, when he could share his excitement and enthusiasm with others. He was very successful in spreading his love of sports in many different ways, whether it be by working for an organization in which he was able to advance athletics through scholarships and grants, personally mentoring a child in the 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. Hanna 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. Gibby committed himself to insure that democracy would work for everybody. His ten years work in the state house and his political philosophy are still greatly admired and appreciated throughout the state of Michigan.

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 reprehensible 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 aided immeasurably 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 part 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 businesses 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 children can keep the business or farm in the family and avoid paying death taxes on it. All they have to do is continue to run the business as a family enterprise for ten years and plow the profits back into the business over the same time period.

TRIBUTE TO ''BIG'' WALTER PRICE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Houston's best known blues legends, Walter Price.

Blues as a truly American art form has spun many legends throughout its' history, but those who are unique to each region of this nation are the most precious of all. Big Walter Price is just such a legend in blues circles in the City of Houston.

Big Walter, 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 novelty 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 Schueller at Gold Band Records on Lake Charles after Don Robey sold Duke/Peacock records. At Gold Bank 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 has 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.

CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORIES HAVE THEIR VIOLENT COSTS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as demonstrated by the recent tragedy that we witnessed in this building, crazy conspiracy theories can have violent and horrific costs.

Accordingly, this Member commends to his colleagues an excellent editorial which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald, on August 5, 1998.

OTHERS FED GUNMAN'S FANTASIES

A sketchy but disturbing portrait is emerging of Russell E. Weston Jr., the accused gunman in the July 24 U.S. Capitol shootings.

He is being described as a mental patient who fell through the cracks, resisted treatment and, somewhere along the way, had his head filled with paranoid claptrap.

FBI agents who searched his remote cabin in Montana found guns, ammunition and books about espionage. Family members said Weston maintained an abiding fear of the federal government. He believed that federal agents were spying on him through a neighbor's satellite dish.

Authorities were also told that Weston thought the federal government had planted land mines on his property. Documents among his possessions contained references to the Freemen, a group whose members have been involved in confrontations over their insistence that they are not bound by U.S. laws.

More than a few people on the fringes of society say they consider the U.S. government evil. Among them are some militia members and radical survivalists whose far-fetched notions can sometimes be heard on late-night talk shows or read on the Internet.

At times their ravings seem almost comical. One group, for example, sees sinister implications in the yellow fringe with which some American flags are trimmed. The yellow fringe, if we have it right, is proof that the United States is secretly under martial law.

But there's nothing comical when such ideas are pumped into the head of someone whose grasp of reality is less than adequate. Then the result is all too often ugly and violent. Russell Weston spent part of a day in Illinois killing cats. Then he traveled to Washington, where he killed two Capitol police officers in a senseless attack.

Certainly the Tim McVeighs of the world—and Russell Weston, if he is found guilty—must be punished for their crimes. But punishing them doesn't excuse the people who concoct and repeat the crazy conspiracy theories that cause the bomb-builders and the shooters to become so agitated. Russell Weston may be a dangerous criminal, or he may be hopelessly ill. Either way, whoever convinced him that the government is the epitome of evil deserves some of the criticism for what happened at the Capitol.

IN HONOR OF WEBB JOINER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in the 12th Congressional District, the people of Texas, and the men and women of the American aviation industry, it is my pleasure to express sincere good wishes to Mr. Webb F. Joiner, Chairman and CEO of Bell Helicopter Textron, on the occasion of his retirement. During Webb Joiner's 38-year career at Bell Helicopter Textron, the company has built a worldwide reputation for his commitment to the highest standards in customer service and manufacturing quality.

I am proud to say that the Bell products that America's armed forces depend on to carry out airlift missions around the world are built in my district by the men and women of Texas. The OH–58D Kiowa Warrior is the Army's premier scout-attack helicopter, the modernized UH–1N utility helicopter, and the new V–22 Osprey tiltrotor to take the Corps

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.

Thanks to the standards of 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 1938. 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, Robertson 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 1997 to receive the Justinian 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 in 1967 and served on the City Commission. Further, in service to 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 Jester to the Sabine River Authority board of directors in 1949, Murph served for 7 years, during which time several well-know 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 yet 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 exporters. They must be protected from those pirates who in the blink of an eye—can steal these works and make hundreds if not thousands of copies to be sold around the world—leaving our own industries uncompensated. This theft cannot continue.

By implementing the WIPO treaties this year, we can help to ensure that authors and their works will be protected from pirates who pillage 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-rich society—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 the free market—two of 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 public library and use the 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 Secretary of Commerce which will be conducted every three years. I thank Mr. OXLEY for offering this original amendment at Subcommittee and I thank Chairman BLILEY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KLUG and Mr. BOUCHER and their staffs for their efforts in reaching this important agreement. I would also like to thank Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. LAZIO for their participation in reaching this agreement.

Similarly, by adopting my amendment on encryption research, Commerce Committee again made an invaluable contribution to this important legislation. The amendment provided for an exception to the circumvention provisions contained in the bill for legal encryption research and reverse engineering. In particular, these exceptions would ensure that companies and individuals engaged in what is presently lawful encryption research 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 concerns of webcasters. Webcasting is a 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 make it as easy as possible to comply with. It is a worthy change to the bill and again, my thanks to Mr. WHITE and Mr. SCHAEFER.

I can't emphasize enough to my colleagues the importance of not only this legislation, but also the timing of this legislation. An 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 encouraged here. But in pursuing that goal 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 the White House'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 service 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 borders 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 leaderhips 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 nuclear 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 thwarts 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. Renaming 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, but 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 went on to have 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 dedication 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 Substitute to 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 broadcast rates 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. I ask my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to 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 operations budget, 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 determine their own future and rise out of poverty.

As the agency looks to the millennium with programs operating throughout the developing world, peace-building and reconciliation, gender responsive programs, the development and strengthening of civil society are active parts of its work in the promotion of social justice in the countries in which it works.

The policies and programs of the agency reflect a philosophy of working in ways that maximize and optimize the resources, expertise and talent that may be brought to bear on the solution of the problems of the poor and disenfranchised.

CRS has programs focusing on education, emergency assistance, enterprise development, food security, health, human rights, peace-building and reconciliation and welfare.

Long-term solutions to the problems of injustice and underdevelopment are fostered by over 2,000 development and reconstruction projects. These projects promote food security through production, access and utilization; improve health care; develop water/sanitation systems; address deforestation problems; enable poor women to start small businesses; stabilize the environment; create village banks, and provide vocational/agricultural/health care training. Integration of these strategies in all CRS programs operating in potential conflict areas is a major thrust for the agency.

In the CRS sponsored Small Enterprise Development programs, for example, nearly 90 percent of the entrepreneurs participating in these programs are women.

These programs foster financial independence and sustainable development at the grassroots level. CRS involves the beneficiaries in the operation of the program. Participants manage the loan portfolio and ensure savings are accrued and invested. For most, it is the first chance to participate on an equal footing with men in their societies.

While the obvious beneficiaries of these programs are the women entrepreneurs, beneficiaries also include the next generation. CRS has found that women who participate in the program spend a portion of their earnings on the health and education of their children—needs that otherwise would not have been met. Therefore, for example, girls who would not have attended school are now students. The benefits of literacy as a determinate of good health, income and agricultural productivity have been proven time and time again around the world. The benefits for the women of the future are innumerable.

Another value of this program is the savings generated. CRS has helped entrepreneurs participating in these programs to save an average of more than $250 per person. In countries where people live on $1 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.'' It seems 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 to require at least half of a federal candidate's campaign funds come from 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, it may take something like that to enact reasonable, constitutional reforms.

H.R. 1865, SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS ACT

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 7, 1998

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the action of the House early this morning in passing H.R. 1865, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act.

The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. MCINNIS, and also by our colleague Ms. DEGETTE. I greatly appreciate their support, and in particular all Mr. MCINNIS has done to make it possible for the House to consider the bill today.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman from Idaho who chairs the Subcommittee and her

ranking Member, Mr. HINCHEY, 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 peak rises 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 fact, the State of Colorado has designated the Spanish Peaks as a Natural Area, and the peaks are a popular destination for hunters, horseback riders, and hikers seeking an opportunity to enjoy an unmatched vista of Colorado's mountains and plains.

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 a number of 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 Senators 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 1993 bill also required 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 825 acres where the United States owned neither the surface nor 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 water—would apply 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 headwaters 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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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. 4380) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues 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-raised 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 constituents.

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 D.C. 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 pittance 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 not 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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

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. 4380) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

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 when it is appropriate; what they do not need is to have their resources taken away for programs which can only benefit a few.

We will hear that the main motivation for the establishment of vouchers is to improve the public schools. This is simply not the case. 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 do not like public schools.

I don't mind this. If you want to do this, it's OK, but do not do it at the expense of public schools and do not say you are doing it to improve those schools. You are doing it because you don't care about the public schools which

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 we like and 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 know 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 in communities all around 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 laws.

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 were head and shoulders 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 sexuality.

I am particularly glad to be able to contribute to a discussion about an urgent and often overlooked facet of international human rights law and activism—that dealing with human rights violations perpetrated because of sexual identity and conduct.

Documentation from around the world confirms that lesbians, 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 arbitrarily deprived of basic liberties because 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 promoting violence by official and unofficial state actors (ranging from police to immigration officials to prison guards). Factors such as gender, culture, race, ethnicity, age and geographic location affect the various forms of violations which take place. But no region escapes culpability—sexual behavior and identities are criminalized or vilified, albeit in different ways, all over the globe.

My argument here is quite simple—these abuses occur every day, they pose very real dangers to many, 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 complicated issues implicit in these experiences. This information, as well as that included in Regan, Scott and Serkan's presentations, is designed to be useful to you as lawmakers, as human rights supporters and as concerned citizens.

Lest I be too vague, let me first set context with a range of specific examples (and please note that because I cite specific countries in these examples it should not be interpreted to mean that these violations don't take place in many other nation-states):

The following information has been compiled and documented by Amnesty International, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the Magnus Hirschfield 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 physical and mental 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 cleaving bodies in two.

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, or with the consent of, the state): In Colombia, death squads—often consisting of off-duty police—have been known to target areas where gay men 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 Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment: In Saudi Arabia, male same-sex sexual behavior can be punished by flogging.

On 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.

Consider the following quotation 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.'' [Amnesty International, ''Breaking the Silence: Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation''—1997]

And to cite a particularly relevant and recent example in the United States—most of you will remember the case of Abner Louima, a Haitian man who was attacked by

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 perpetrated the attack.

Other topics which fit into this category of abuses include:

Forced psychiatric treatment to alter homosexuality;

Forced medical treatment;

Rape and other sexual abuse; and

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 stated: ''When I was in America some time ago I saw a rally of 300,000 homosexuals! If you have a rally of 20 homosexuals here, I would disperse it.''

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'' charges. (Scott)

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 are more often 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 this 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 theoretical points to keep in mind:

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 note that 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.

Distinctions in perceptions, labels and identities open up doors for arbitrary discrimination based on appearance. This discrimination could, and does, elicit harassment and violence by police or 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 here 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, due to codified government 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 in ways that affect their mobility. This has particular bearing on lesbians' (and all women's) ability to leave the countries in which they are being persecuted in order to (a) simply escape, and (b) engage in an asylum process.

Partly because of this difference in access to public space, gay men are more often targeted under 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 in some countries (Armenia, Chile, Ghana and India, among other nations, target only male same-sex sexual behavior).

While some might argue that this invisibility ''protects'' 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 differ from culture to culture, and within the U.S., from state to state. There are no fixed definitions of sodomy, no standard understandings of what comprises it or who can commit it. ''Sodomy'' can mean two men in a longstanding monogamous relationship having sex in the privacy of their bedroom, or it can mean particular sex acts committed by married heterosexual people.

The last main point:

Police, other state agents and government officials often act with impunity—It is too often true that the general public as well as law enforcement institutions/sites (including courts, police precincts, borders) will not come out publicly in favor of the rights of gay, bisexual and transgender people to be free from harassment and violence. These attitudes allow state actors the sense that they can violate the rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people with little chance of accountability. This, in turn, affects the willingness of gay people to report harassment, physical abuse and other violations. Fear of reprisal also inhibits proper reporting. Ultimately, there is the risk of a shroud of silence encircling these violations, and the risk of a cycle of abuse as a direct result.

In this final section, and in conclusion, I wish to delineate a few of our shared primary goals as human rights activists and lawmakers with regard to human rights violations and sexual orientation. (Please note that we've drawn up specific recommendations which are geared much more to practical use by U.S. lawmakers—I encourage you to take copies before you leave today).

Our work—and by ''our'' work I specifically mean that of the domestic non-profit sector along with concerned actors in the U.S. government—i.e. we on this panel and you in this audience—our work calls on all governments to be aware of and accountable for the violations of human dignity, physical integrity and fundamental liberties targeted at lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people.

Our work calls for governments to end cycles of impunity which surround violations connected to homosexuality by punishing perpetrators to the fullest extent allowed by law.

And our work calls upon us all to consistently include issues of sexuality in all of our conversations and documentation about human rights violations.

Given the severity 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 you as we all face those who will engage in both vitriolic hyperbole and subtle attacks on dignity and bodily integrity.

This, after all, and at its core, is a matter of principle. As we seek to create a world in which all people recognize that human rights protections are indivisible and afforded to all people, we must work toward providing protections and recourse for those most vulnerable to sexuality-based human rights violations. We must argue together that human rights violations enacted because of sexual orientation are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

SCOTT LONG, ADVOCACY COORDINATOR, THE INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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 for kissing each other at night in a park. They were taken to a local police station and beaten, nonstop, for twenty-four hours. Their teeth 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, for so-called ''sexual perversion.''

In 1995 Mariana Cetiner, a woman living in a small Romanian town, was arrested for asking another woman to have sex with her—which is illegal 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.''

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 held in prison for three months, pending trial. There they were both 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.

I am not telling these stories to single out Romania as a uniquely repressive place. Far from it: these stories could happen in many countries around the world; they could even happen in many localities in the United States. Topeka, Kansas, for instance, has a law which prohibits two people of the same sex from having a conversation about having sexual relations. Quite literally, if an undercover policeman approaches another man, says, ''Do you want to have sex?'' and the other man answers anything at all—short of running away, speechless—that other man has committed a crime.

My point is that all these arrests, and the laws under which they happen, are wrong wherever they take place. The principle we are collectively here to represent is simple: that treating people differently before the

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—even, I believe, in Washington, D.C. To impose these punishments on comparable acts simply because they are committed by people of the same sex is both barbarous and absurd.

This principle of equality has been affirmed, as Ms. Ralph noted, by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which is a landmark decision—Toonen v. Australia, in 1994—held that no state can allot discriminatory enjoyment of any right in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights because of someone's sexual orientation. 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 in a country, it 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 policies and practices, affect 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 if their rights are violated? And here I want to refer back to Mr. Altan's testimony about Turkey: a country in which homosexuality 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 the IDS of patrons, and ostentatiously write down their names and addresses. In Thailand, the Ministry of Education tries to ban gay men from becoming teachers; in Bulgaria, the bar association tries to ban them from becoming lawyers. In numerous countries there are laws against certain kinds of stigmatized public behavior, laws which may not even specifically mention homosexuality, but which are used against people whose demeanor or clothes or friends put them under the suspicion of being different. In China and in other countries with Communist-era legal codes, provisions against ''hooliganism'' are used to arrest gay men whenever they gather for any purpose. In Cuba, Romania, and elsewhere, laws punish homosexual acts ''which cause public scandal''—meaning that if a private sexual act becomes known to anyone else who disapproves, it can earn a prison term. In many Western countries, laws against so-called ''public lewdness'' are used to impose fines or prison terms on people who simply look gay in public when seen by the discriminating eye of a policeman.

Moreover, some of the worst abuses against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people are not committed directly by the state—but by non-state actors, who inflict them with the indifference or even connivance of the police. In Brazil, as IGLHRC has documented in its report ''Epidemic of Hate,'' gays and transgendered people are murdered daily by gangs and death squads. But similarly, on the streets of American and Western European cities, hate crimes—violence, beatings, and bashings—ensure that people will think twice before they wear a pink triangle in public, or hold hands on the street.

And in many countries, the attempts of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people to organize in response to these abuses are also met with repression. In Argentina, in Hungary, in Lithuania, in Russia, gay and lesbian organizations have been declared illegal on pretexts—because they allegedly ''threaten public morals,'' or ''public health.'' These actions violate rights to assembly and association which are protected in virtually every international human-rights instrument. Gay and lesbian publications have been 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 ''beasts,'' ''perverts,'' ''worse than dogs, and pigs,'' and stating repeatedly that ''homosexuals have no rights whatever.'' What has been the result? Last month, Keith Goddard, one of the leaders of that 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 evidences 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, for sodomy. He now faces up to seven years in prison.

And why has the President of Zimbabwe devoted years to vilifying gays and lesbians, to blaming them for all his country's economic 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.

The power of human rights in our century, of a discourse, as a symbol, is that it counters this demonization. Human rights knows no scapegoats, it recognizes no sacrificial lambs, and it accepts no exceptions to the rule. It insists that people cannot be singled 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 Caucus, we ask you to join us. Let us insist together.

Insist that 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.

Insist that the US State Department specifically monitor sexual orientation as a category in its yearly review of countries' human rights records.

Insist that public officials, in law enforcement and elsewhere, across the United States be trained in human rights and in issues surrounding sexual orientation; and insist that in US programs to promote human rights abroad, sexual orientation be recognized as a category and component.

Insist that, as one first step toward creating a culture of non-discrimination in this country, states repeal their remaining sodomy laws; and insist that bills before this current Congress which expressly and invidiously target groups based on sexual orientation be defeated, as they deserve.

Insist that the US ratify human rights covenants it has so far refused to endorse, including the Convention on the Right of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; for it is sheer hypocrisy for us to hold others to noble promises that we have not even made ourselves.

We ask you to speak out, because silence is deadly. I would like to close by quoting the lines of a Hungarian poet, who was gay—and who suffered from that imposed silence, silence about the self, that I have spoken about here. Mr. LANTOS will not mind if I cite him first in Hungarian:

Akik a termeszettol felnek, termeszetellenesnek neveznek bennunket. De eygedul a hallgastas termeszettellenes.

''Those who despise nature call us unnatural. But silence is the only unnatural act.''

REGAN E. RALPH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S RIGHTS DIVISION, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Thank you, Congressman Lantos, your colleagues on the Human Rights Caucus and your staff for inviting us to discuss this important human rights concern.

It has been fifty years since governments from around the world created the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The fundamental and very simple idea underlying the declaration and the very notion of human rights is this: all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

No one should be denied their fundamental human dignity no matter what their race, their sex, their religion, their politics, their national origin, their birth or other status.

No one should be denied personal security. No one should be tortured. No one should have his or her private life invaded. No one should be forced to live as a second-class citizen, denied the rights extended to others.

A very basic guarantee of dignity agreed to fifty years ago. And yet in the past fifty years the world's commitment to really and truly protect everyone's fundamental dignity and human rights has been tested time and again.

Protecting women's human rights, to give one significant example, until recently simply was not seen as the responsibility of governments. Yet by exposing abuses against women and the role of governments in perpetrating or allowing the abuse, women have claimed the recognition that they too are entitled to enjoy their basic rights.

At Human Rights Watch, we have documented the violence, coercion and discrimination inflicted on women by governments and individuals around the world. Violence that directly destroys women's right to physical security and that limits women's ability to exercise other basic rights. Discrimination in law and practice that seeks to keep women under the thumb of some other authority.

Oftentimes, this violence and discrimination directly targets women's sexual and reproductive lives. Women are raped in war, sometimes with the express purpose of making them pregnant with the ''enemy's'' progeny. Women and girls are forced to undergo virginity tests. In many countries, they are forced into marriage at a young age or trafficked into forced prostitution and repeatedly raped. All of these violations grossly abuse women's fundamental rights. All of them are prohibited by international law. And, after years of silence, the international community has strongly condemned such actions.

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 against arbitrary detention; the right to privacy, and the prohibition against discrimination—extend to all individuals regardless of their status.

In fact, international law condemns the denial of fundamental liberties to persons on the basis of qualities inherent to their individuality and humanity. These include race, 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 against 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 perfectly legal activities.

At the same time, the principle of universality is being upheld. Flagrant violations of human rights have been denounced at 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 summer that employers could not deny the same employment rights to lesbian couples that are extended to unmarried, heterosexual couples. Another European body, the Court on Human Rights, has repeatedly held that laws criminalizing consensual, private sexual acts between adults violate internationally protected right to privacy.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee, the body charged with monitoring compliance with the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, considers sexual orientation to be a status protected from discrimination under international law. In Toonen v. Australia, the Committee declared that the rights protected by the Covenant cannot be denied or limited on the basis of sexual orientation or identity.

In closing, I would like again to underscore the principle of universality; human rights guarantees must extend to all. If it is deemed acceptable to exclude one group from human rights protections, it is that much easier to exclude another group and another and another. The only way we as individuals and members of a democratic society have of preserving our own rights is to ensure that no exceptions are made in respecting the rights of all.

SERKAN ALTON

Aslan Yuzgun, the writer of Homosexuality In Turkey says ''Without a doubt, homosexuals are the worst treated minority in Turkey.'' The worst thing to be in Turkey is to be a man who is openly homosexual. Not only is it despised, it is seen as an affront to Turkish culture and an insult to Turkish manhood.

The police use terror and violence against homosexuals by permission of the central government. It is impossible for us to achieve any legal redress. No one—including the government, the police, the media—cares about how homosexuals are treated. Turkey has been a huge prison for all of us, mostly for homosexuals.

Any boy aged 8 years or older who displays any hint of effeminacy is very likely to be raped. Then the torture starts, especially in school. We homosexuals learn in school, along with other things, that we are going to be raped, beaten, and tortured both by the public and the police.

When I was 11 years old, I moved to Istanbul, the most modern city in Turkey.

When I turned 12, I started to go to a private school.

I soon realized I was an outcast. They started to call me names like ''queer,'' ''boy,'' ''faggot,'' which I was not familiar with because I looked and acted like a girl. Things got worse when Rock Hudson had AIDS. Then my nickname became ''AIDS''. Still I had no idea what it meant to be a homosexual.

Everywhere I went, I was followed, taunted, and insulted. There were many kids who would ty 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 they were going to hit and insult me, but I took it.

When I was 16, the head of the class forced me to have sex with him. He was known as one of the strongest guys in the school. Then he told every detail to everybody. While he became a hero, I was emotionally and physically abused more. 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 saw the pictures of gays who were arrested because of their homosexuality on the cover of the nationwide daily newspapers. The headlines were ''The End of a Queer, Homosexual Hunt,'' I still remember the pictures. They were dropped on the floor, beaten by metal covered truncheons and their heads were forcefully shaved. I still remember one particular picture of a transsexual whose breast implants were beaten out, covered all over with blood because of the torture.

I knew what would happen to me if I admitted my homosexuality. I put books on my head so I could walk better, I tied my wrists up with wood pieces so I would 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, then used salt. I screamed, I yelled, I hit my head from one wall to another. I tried to kill myself three times. There was nobody I could talk to.

In the school, many teachers including the president of the school knew exactly what was going on. The president even invited me to her room and asked me if I was mentally ill. She implied I was homosexual. I was 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 washed by cold water in the winter time. I was told, ''You are a faggot. God will not forgive you, you are wasting your time.''

They took my money from my wallet and said, ''You are a faggot, you can find the money from someone.'' They were trying to say that I could make money by selling my body. They even came to my house when I was alone and sexually harassed, then robbed me.

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 was 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.'' 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 leader, Ibrahim Eren, gave a press conference in 1990 and he said that the same police chief had beaten transsexuals. The police chief then stomped on their chests until their breast implants were forced violently and bloodily through the skin.

Recently, a gay festival designed to draw attention to gay and AIDS issues was banned by the central government because, ''it is against Turkish culture and public morality.''

Just like I have, gays in Turkey experience cruel, inhuman attacks from the government. We can't do anything. Gays who report police torture are silenced or tortured more and more. The Turkish government meanwhile does a great job of denying and covering up all this torture.

We have to tell the Turkish government that it is not OK to attack, torture, and kill anyone just because they are gay.