Conclusion: Currently much good work is being done to address literacy in America, but the challenges are formidable. The effort to improve the literacy of Americans should not be limited to formal government programs. In the home, parents must promote literacy skills for their children at an early age. In the schools, educators must promote the habit of reading, and in the workplace, employers should provide opportunities for workers to continually improve their basic skills. Clearly, too many Americans are under-educated for our times. Education for all people must be a top priority in our nation. The more literate a person is the less likely he or she will be on welfare or be in prison, and the more likely he or she will vote and have a decent income. Access to basic education is—or at least should be—a basic human right. Opportunities for literacy education should be available to all Americans to ensure not only improvement in our economy, society, and families, but an overall better quality of life. A literate nation means a better America.

A TRIBUTE TO ANGELO R. MUSTO, NICARAGUAN PATRIOT
HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gilberto Wong, a leader in the Nicaraguan exiled community in the United States, and a man who has brought to Nicaragua by the power of his own perseverance and dedication, a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Nicaragua.

It is my privilege to pay tribute to Mr. Gilberto Wong, a leader in the Nicaraguan exiled community in the United States, and a man who has brought to Nicaragua by the power of his own perseverance and dedication, a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Nicaragua.

Gilberto Wong has been a close friend and colleague of mine for many years. His leadership and dedication to the cause of non-violent resistance to the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua has been an inspiration to me and to many others. He has been a vocal advocate for the rights of the Nicaraguan people and has worked tirelessly to promote peace and stability in his native country.

Mr. Wong was born in Managua, Nicaragua, in 1945. He received his degree in Economics from the University of Costa Rica and subsequently moved to the United States where he continued his education at the University of Miami. He has been a resident of Miami since then and has been an active member of the Nicaraguan community in Florida.

Mr. Wong has been involved in various aspects of the Nicaraguan community in the United States. He has been a member of the executive board of the Nicaraguan American Union and has served as its president. He has also been involved in the work of the Nicaraguan American Cultural Center in Miami, which promotes cultural and educational exchange between the United States and Nicaragua.

Mr. Wong has been a vocal advocate for human rights and democracy in Nicaragua. He has been a strong supporter of the peaceful civil society organizations that have emerged in Nicaragua in recent years. He has been a speaker at many events and conferences on Nicaragua, and his work has been widely recognized.

Mr. Wong is a man of integrity and principle. He has always been committed to the cause of justice and peace, and has been a leader in the fight against repression and violence in Nicaragua. He has been a strong advocate for the rights of the Nicaraguan people, and has worked tirelessly to promote peace and stability in his native country.

Mr. Wong will be remembered as a man of courage and conviction, and as a leader who has made a significant contribution to the cause of peace and democracy in Nicaragua. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and his legacy will continue to inspire us to work towards a brighter future for Nicaragua.

By the time I launched my first campaign for Congress in 1986, Anglo Musto had already cultivated the talents of three generations of East Boston's youth and drew on those far-reaching ties to create a formidable political presence in East Boston.

During that first campaign, I drew extensively on his detailed knowledge of the history of the community, reaching back to the arrival of the Kennedys in East Boston. Anglo knew the history, but most importantly he knew the people and the issues they cared about—qual-
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. Thousands 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 wanted to make sure 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.

MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS AND CONVERSIONS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, attached are two important articles that spotlight a significant perspective on this merger quite well and I endorse their content.

And there are several peculiarities to the circumstances surrounding the Blues' departure. Indeed, the circumstances surrounding Glasscock's departure are at the root of one of the fundamental charges levied against the Maryland and D.C. Blues by Fair Care. Glasscock repeatedly has refused to speak to the Baltimore media since his departure was declining, again, to comment for this story.

"He only wants to talk about his future with this company," said Patty Coyle, an Anthem spokeswoman. Others have criticized his golden parachute as a typical example of what happens when state regulators don't monitor the assets of Blue Cross plans—as states built up, in part, by tax breaks granted the Blues because of non-profit status.

The organization claims that officials not only knew Glasscock would leave after the merger, but that the merger was contingent upon his agreement to go. After Glasscock's departure, Jews took over his former jobs, becoming president and CEO of CareFirst and both Blue Cross plans.

"Bill Jews gave Larry Glasscock a $3 million 'tip' to get out of town," Newmyer said. "There was no hard evidence of that, and the Blues deny it vehemently."

Dwayne House, a director of the D.C. Blues until the merger was completed and a high-ranking executive at Anthem until retiring in recent months, said Newmyer's assertion is false.

"I operate to the best of my knowledge, he hadn't made a decision to leave" until after the merger was final, House said from his South Carolina home.

For the support of their contention, merger opponents point to changes that were made to Glasscock's contract with the D.C. Blues in the days leading up to the merger—changes that ensured Glasscock's golden parachute would safely open after the deal closed.