both history and as an unfolding of human tragedy. I am confident that the Commission’s efforts will demonstrate that as Americans we are willing to confront our own past, and in so doing, we will demonstrate our leadership in the international effort to obtain justice for the victims of the Holocaust and their families.

**NAFTA-TAA**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL OF NEW YORK**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the authorizations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program and the NAFTA Trade Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) program expire today, June 30, 1999. Accordingly, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the programs through fiscal year 2001. There should be no gap in the authorizations for these vitally important programs, which have long enjoyed bipartisan support.

Efforts to increase the participation of the United States in global trade are essential to the continued growth of our economy. However, when increased trade is a cause of displacement for some U.S. workers and firms, we must be prepared to respond. The TAA programs are the cornerstone of our longstanding efforts to cushion the impact of the blow for employees and businesses who have been harmed by imports. Most important, TAA provides retraining and technical assistance so these workers and firms can thrive in the new economy.

A number of reforms in the TAA programs have been proposed recently. The legislation that I am introducing today is intended to continue these programs as their Congressional authorization is set to expire. However, the bill is not meant to preclude important discussions of broader, systemic changes.

**CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST ANGELES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the West Angeles Community Development Corporation (CDC). This thriving community development organization was founded in 1994 as an outreach program of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, a 15,000 member congregation in the Crenshaw area, located in my Congressional District. The West Angeles CDC is dedicated to economic empowerment, social justice, and community transformation for its surrounding South Los Angeles area.

The West Angeles CDC has achieved success in developing a school-based training program in peer mediation named Peace-Makers, launching a job placement assistance program, providing renters’ assistance and case management services to families displaced from housing, and providing emergency food assistance to those in need. In addition, the CDC recently built the West A Homes, a 44-unit apartment complex for large low-income families.

In recognizing the significant outreach ministry of the West Angeles CDC, I must highlight the outstanding leadership of the organization’s distinguished Board of Directors: Bishop Charles E. Blake, Pastor of the West Angeles Church; Lula Ballton, Esq., Executive Director of the CDC; Dr. Desiree Tillman-Jones, Chairperson of the Board; Mrs. Belinda Ann Bakkar; Mrs. Jeulene Bleavins; Mr. Mack Bruisine; Ms. Stasia Cato; Mrs. Nancy Harris; Mr. Harold T. Hunter; Rev. Jane Johnson-Welch; Ms. Nathalie Page; Ms. Sandra McBeth-Reynolds; Rev. Donald T. Paredes; Mr. Maurice Perry; Mr. Mark J. Robertson; Mr. Roy Sadakane; Mr. Paul H. Turner; and attorneys Patricia S. Cannon, Anne C. Myles-Smith, and Wyndell J. Wright. These dedicated individuals have selflessly fulfilled the vision of the West Angeles CDC by bringing compassion, hope, and healing to the Crenshaw community they serve.

The West Angeles CDC’s contributions to the South Los Angeles community have been invaluable. I congratulate them on their outstanding work and offer my best wishes for their continued success. With construction underway of a beautiful new West Angeles Cathedral, I am confident the West Angeles Church of God in Christ and the West Angeles Community Development Corporation can look forward to a long and prosperous future.

**CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM ACT**

**SPEECH OF HON. PATSY T. MINK OF HAWAII**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1658) to provide a more just and uniform procedure for federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1658, the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.

The Constitution is the foundation of our great nation. From an early age we are taught that we are entitled to basic rights and liberties, and we cherish these rights and protections afforded under our Constitution. When these rights are violated, we are quick to demand action and correction.

But a time when we must demand action and correction. The current civil asset forfeiture laws abuse individual rights by denying basic due process.

Under current law, there are two kinds of forfeitures—criminal asset forfeiture and civil asset forfeiture. Under criminal asset forfeiture, if you are indicted and convicted of a crime, the government may seize your property if your property was used, however indirectly, in facilitating the crime for which you have been convicted.

I have no problem with that law. Not only is it a good deterrent against a number of crimes, but it does not deny anyone their Constitutional rights.

However, under civil asset forfeiture, the government can seize your property, regardless of the guilt or innocence of the property owner. The government can seize property merely by showing there is probable cause to believe that these assets have been part of some illegal activity. This means that even if there is no related criminal charge or conviction against the individual, the government may confiscate his or her property.

And property can be anything—your car, your home, your business. The government can take anything and everything premised on
the weakest of criminal charges—probably cause.

Moreover, the current law gives little consi- deration to whether the forfeiture of the property results in a mere inconvenience to the owner, or jeopardizes the owner's business or livelihood.

To reclaim this property, no matter the incon- venience, the property owner must jump through a number of hoops. First of which, the owner must pay a 10 percent cost bond or $5,000, whichever is less. For low-income people or for people who have been wrongfully accused by this civil asset seizure, coming up with the money for this bond may be extremely difficult or impossible. This bond serves to discourage people from contesting the seizure.

If a property owner can come up with this money, he still has the burden of proof. The government should have this burden. We are still "innocent until proven guilty." And under criminal law, that is the way it is. If someone is charged with a crime, the government has the burden to prove that the person is guilty.

However, under civil asset forfeiture, it is the exact opposite. The owner must prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that either the property was not connected to any wrongdoing or the owner did not know and did not consent to the property's illegal use.

And to top it off, if the owner succeeds in reclaiming his property, the government owes him nothing for his trouble—not even an apology.

H.R. 1658 calls for reforms that protect the rights of innocent citizens while still allowing the government to pursue criminals and their property. First, H.R. 1658 puts the burden of proof, by clear and convincing evidence, onto the government, where it should be. Second, it gives the judge the flexibility to release the property, pending the final disposition, if the confiscation of the property imposes a substantial hardship on the owner.

Under H.R. 1658, Judges also would be able to appoint counsel in civil forfeiture proceedings for our poorest citizens to ensure that they are protected from the government's exercise of power. Furthermore, property ow- ners would no longer have to file a bond, and could sue if their property is damaged while in the government's possession.

In our haste to punish drug traffickers, Con- gress failed to adequately protect the rights of our citizens. H.R. 1658 restores these protections and returns law enforcement in drug crimes to the basic tenets of criminal jurisprudence.

**LEGISLATION TO OPEN PARTICI- PATION IN PRESIDENTIAL DE- BATES**

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, J.R. OF OHIO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, July 1, 1999**

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to open participation in presidential debates to all qualified candidates. I urge my colleagues to support this legisla- tion.

My bill amends the Federal Election Cham- paign Act of 1971 to organizations staging a presidential debate to invite all candidates that meet the following criteria: the candidate must meet all Constitutional requirements for being President (e.g., at least 35 years of age, born in the United States), the candidate must have qualified for the ballot in enough states such that the candidate has a mathematical chance of receiving the number of electoral votes necessary for election, and the can- didate must qualify to be eligible for matching payments from the Presidential Election Cam- paign Fund.

This legislation will ensure that in a presi- dential election campaign the American people get an opportunity to see and hear from all of the qualified candidates for presidential. Stag- ing organizations should not be given the sub- jective authority to bar a qualified candidate from participation in a presidential debate sim- ply because a subjective judgement has been made the candidate does not have a reason- able chance of winning the election.

The American people should be given the opportunity to decide for themselves whether or not a candidate has a chance to be elected president or not, at stake in a presi- dential election. A presidential election isn't just a contest between individual candidates. It is a contest between different ideas, policies and ideologies. At a time when our country is facing many complex problems, the American people should have the opportunity to be ex- posed to as many ideas, policies and pro- posals as possible in a presidential election campaign. My bill will ensure that this hap- pens. It will give the American people an op- portunity to hear new and different ideas and proposals on how to address the problems facing our nation. I have confidence that the American people are wise enough to make a sound decision.

Some of the basic principles America was founded on was freedom of speech and free- dom of ideas. I was deeply disappointed that in the 1996 presidential campaign, the ideas of qualified candidates for president were not allowed to be heard by the American people during the presidential debates. It is my hope that Congress will pass my legislation and en- sure that the un-American practice of silencing qualified candidates for president is perma- nently put to a stop. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**TRIBUTE TO THEODORE "TED" JAMES**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS OF COLORADO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, July 1, 1999**

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I take a moment to rec- ognize the remarkable life and significant achievements of one of Larimer County's lead- ing businessmen. Theodore "Ted" James. An entrepreneur and developer of Grand Lake Lodge and Hidden Valley Ski Area, Mr. James died at his home on June 8 in Estes Park, CO. While family, friends and colleagues re- member the truly exceptional life of Mr. James, I too would like to pay tribute to this remarkable man. Mr. James was a resident of Estes Park for 46 years; moving to Larimer County in 1953 to run sightseeing buses, two lodges, and a store in Rocky Mountain National Park. During his time in Estes Park, Ted was the president and manager of the Hidden Valley Ski Area, Trail Ridge Store, Grand Lake Lodge, and the Estes Park Inn.

A graduate from Gleeley High School, Ted attended the University of Nebraska at Lin- coln. During his college career, Mr. James re- ceived numerous football awards and was se- lected by Knute Rockne for the All-West foot- ball team. Upon graduating college, with a bachelor's degree in business, Ted played football for the Frankford, PA., Yellowjackets, new known as the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League. Many years later, Mr. James was inducted to the Nebraska Hall of Fame at Memorial Stadium.

In 1947, Mr. James was instrumental in merging the Burlington Bus Co. and American Bus Lines to create American Bus Lines in Chicago. With previous experience as the manager of the Gleeley Transportation Co., Ted was immediately offered a job as the president and general manager of American Bus Lines Chicago branch.

In 1953, Mr. James was given the oppor- tunity to develop Hidden Valley Ski Area by the Larimer County Park Service. He was a park concessionaire for Hidden Valley, Grand Lake Lodge, and the Trail Ridge Store, as well as operating the Estes Park Chalet.

Mr. James was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, Scottish Rite and Estes Park Knights of the Belt Buckle. He was commis- sioner of the Boy Scouts of America in Den- ver, president of Ski Country USA, and mem- ber and director of Denver Country Club.

Although his professional accomplishments will long be remembered, most who knew him well will remember Ted James as a hard working, dedicated, and compas- sionate man. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. James for their profound loss.

**ISSUES FACING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY**

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS OF VERMONT**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, July 1, 1999**

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for 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.

**CHILD CARE IN VERMONT**

(On behalf of Jody Foster, David Verge, Alicia Norris and Bobby Colone)

David Verge. Our issue is about child care in Vermont, and with the young people be- cause a lot of the younger people are having kids now. According to child care funds in Vermont, a family could not afford care in 75 percent of the homes or any center. Vermont child care subsidy is at too low of a rate, only $83.70 for field time centers, and $67.45 for full-time care and home care. People of low income levels cannot even $50 to make up the difference that the state does not pay.

If they want to come and encourage people to work, we need to make it worthwhile. If you are working and your whole paycheck is going to the cost of...