

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TEEN VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor three special constituents from my district who have been selected to take part in the "Voices Against Violence Congressional Teen Conference," to be held here in Washington, D.C. on October 19th and 20th, 1999.

I am pleased to announce that after a rigorous selection process, three bright young students from my district will join 400 teenage boys and girls from around the country to take part in the "Voices Against Violence Congressional Teen Conference." Jonathan Chambers, Steven Hoak, and Seth Caton have been chosen to come to the Conference to share their views and insight into the problem of teen violence.

Violence among our youth is a concern nationwide. We, as Members of Congress, can learn a great deal from the youth of our nation. They bring to us a fresh perspective based on real-life experiences. It is our responsibility to work with them to come up with realistic solutions.

One of the purposes of the Conference will be to draft a House Resolution that will define action Congress can take to help prevent youth violence. These 400 teenagers will present us with legislation that will guide us toward helping families, schools and communities in our districts solve this tragic problem.

Jonathan, Steven, and Seth were selected to participate in this monumental event because they demonstrated a true commitment to their schools and to their communities. Jonathan is a Senior at Trinity High School in Washington County; Steven is a Sophomore at California High School, also in Washington County; and Seth is a Senior at Laurel Highlands High School in Fayette County.

I know they are looking forward to being active participants in this Conference, and I am honored to have them represent the 20th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO MURIEL WATSON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and dedication of a hometown heroine from my district, Mrs. Muriel Watson. On November 4, 1989, Mrs. Watson assembled a group of people with 23 cars on Dairy Mart Road where they turned on their headlights and shined them into Mexico for a half-hour as a protest against illegal drugs and aliens coming into California from across the border. Mrs. Watson's late husband had been a Border Patrol agent for 30 years.

The enthusiasm of the participants made this event such a success that Mrs. Watson began to distribute flyers to friends, and friends of friends. On December 10, 1989, Mrs. Watson held another "Light Up the Border" with 60 cars, and the following month over 100 cars participated. The event was featured on the Roger Hedgecock radio show and in February, over 200 cars took part and in March over 1,000 cars showed up. By this time, Mrs. Watson was providing participants with printed instructions, asking them to stay in their cars for 45 minutes, turn on their lights for 30 minutes and then turn them off.

At about this same time, we were able to obtain an engineering unit from the California National Guard to work on border enforcement projects. This unit, under the direction of Captain Wade Rowley, began building several roads and a 10-foot high steel fence made of surplus steel landing mats. This fence was successful in stopping drive-throughs by drug smugglers and illegal aliens, but did not prevent several people from crawling under, or climbing over the barricade. It was then that Mrs. Watson's event was brought to my attention by my District Deputy Chief of Staff, Cato Cedillo, and I felt that her concept should be applied on the border on a more permanent basis. Consequently, we have added lights, sensors, and other detection devices to assist the Border Patrol agents with their responsibilities.

Before her work with "Light Up the Border", Mrs. Watson started a scholarship fund in 1982 for children of Border Patrol agents, providing two \$500 scholarships herself out of her own funds. Impressed with her commitment, I wanted to help this effort and in 1994 began to auction off signed lithographs of Olaf Weighost pictures with the proceeds going to the Watson Fund.

Mr. Speaker, in a time where apathy is the common attitude towards most of our problems, Mrs. Watson is a shining example of how one person can make a difference. Mrs. Watson not only created "Light Up the Border", but she herself lights up any gathering she attends.

TRIBUTE TO AARON ADOBERAVOSKI AND C.J. TRUJILLO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the heroic acts of twelve years old Aaron Adoberavoski and nine year old C.J. Trujillo. Aaron is a seventh grader at Kennedy Middle School and C.J. is a fourth grader at Tomasita Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In April 27, 1999, these two young boys were riding their bikes around Sandia Vista Park when they saw a man eluding some po-

lice officers. After a short while, the boys spotted a bag of money dropped in haste in a tunnel just off the park. The bag contained \$1,900. The money had been stolen earlier from a Norwest Bank branch in a Furr's grocery store. C.J. and Aaron found a police officer at the park and turned the money over to him.

Too often we do not recognize the positive things kids do. Aaron Adoberavoski and C.J. Trujillo showed that honesty is often its own reward and they were willing to act without hesitation.

Please join me in thanking Aaron Adoberavoski and C.J. Trujillo for this act of citizenship. They are true models of honesty and integrity in our great community of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

IN HONOR OF THE SAINT SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th anniversary of the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Cleveland, OH. The festivities will be held on the weekend of October 23, 1999 to commemorate this great milestone in their history.

In the past 90 years the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral has been a cornerstone of the Serbian community in Cleveland. Now, almost a century later, the cathedral has developed into a cherished place for learning, teaching, and growing. Through the leadership of its members and clergy, the cathedral has succeeded in passing on many beliefs and values. The cathedral has helped young children develop their heritage and learn about their culture. It is here that the members come together as a community and a family to share in their beliefs and traditions. Organizations like the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral must be applauded and recognized for their years of dedication to so many generations of Clevelanders.

I urge my fellow colleagues to please join me in recognizing the dedication and faith of the families of the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral as they celebrate 90 years of service in the Greater Cleveland area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent the morning of Wednesday, October 13, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall vote 494. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 494.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE IN
SPACE EXPLORATION**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today the House has passed the conference report of the bill making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies. This bill includes vital help for the city of Downey, California, as it adjusts to changes in America's space program.

For nearly seven decades, Downey has been a creative center in our efforts to explore space. At one time, some 28,000 workers were employed at NASA's manufacturing facilities in Downey, producing the Apollo command and service modules that took Neil Armstrong and our other astronauts to the moon and back. In more recent times, Downey has produced the Space Shuttle, but now all manufacturing work is being phased out and the remaining 3,000 workers will leave Downey's plants by the end of this year.

As the city makes the transition to new development and new jobs for this area, it also plans to preserve the rich heritage of Downey's role in our space program. This bill helps that effort by providing funds for a Space Science Museum and Educational Program as a key part of the new development.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the subcommittee chairman, Representative JIM WALSH, the ranking member, Representative ALAN MOLLOHAN, Representative JERRY LEWIS and all of the other Members and staff who have helped make this assistance a reality. When a community loses 3,000 high-skill jobs, it is a devastating blow. I am confident that Downey will recover and that it will, in fact, thrive in the years ahead, but it is very appropriate that we assist that recovery in any way we can and that we do so in a way that not only preserves a heritage that is important to Downey but to all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK DILLMAN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our country's great veterans, Mr. Frank Dillman. Frank was a member of the old Fourth Marine Regiment which was stationed in China before being shipped out to the Philippines during the outbreak of World War II. This regiment arrived in the Philippines days before the Japanese arrived to continue the attack they had initiated at Pearl Harbor.

With no hope for reinforcements because of the destruction of the American Naval fleet days before, the Philippines were forced to surrender shortly after the fighting began. Frank survived the Bataan Death March, was interned in a prisoner-of-war camp before being transported to Japan where he was forced to work slave labor in a Mitsubishi-owned copper mine until Japan surrendered in 1945.

Following his release, Frank was asked by Marine Corps General Lem Shepherd to write

a history of his ordeal. Frank agreed and, while working on his project, began collecting pictures, artifacts and stories that would eventually become an exhibit known as the Pacific Memorial Freedom Foundation. This exhibit includes the first American flag to be pulled down and desecrated by the Japanese at Baguio and an original copy of the Freedom Proclamation issued by General Douglas MacArthur. The exhibit has been displayed at a number of high school libraries in San Diego County and is currently located at the Veterans Memorial Center in Balboa Park in San Diego.

As news of the exhibit spread, Frank still receives pictures and artifacts as he continues to write extensively on the collection and the American and Filipino soldiers involved with the conflict. As we all know, America allowed Filipinos to enlist in the U.S. Navy while in the Philippines where they would eventually visit and experience San Diego during their travels. Many decided to make San Diego their home and, as a result, San Diego County has the greatest concentration of Filipinos of any county in California.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Dillman's vision has created an exhibit that reminds us all of our important history. His efforts honor our Nation's veterans and provide a unique service, not just to those in San Diego, but to our country as well.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH EMERY

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention Elizabeth Emery of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a gold medalist in the women's individual time trial cycling event at the 1999 Pan American Games.

Elizabeth started cycling at the age of 27. To some this would be described as a late start, however through hard work and commitment she made up for the time lost. Elizabeth Emery serves as a role model to young people, especially young woman. Her outstanding gold medal performance proved what can be accomplished when you set a goal, and work hard. We know that young women who are involved in sports are more likely to stay in school, set and achieve their goals and make positive life choices. Ms. Emery is a successful woman athlete we can all learn from.

Please join me in commending her for proudly representing the United States and securing a spot on the US Team to compete at the 1999 World Cycling Championships, October 1999 in Italy.

IN HONOR OF MS. OLIVE
WHITMORE ON CELEBRATING
HER 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Olive Whitmore as she celebrates her 99th birthday on October 14, 1999.

Ms. Whitmore is a native Clevelander, where she has lived and prospered. A member of the West Boulevard Church since she was three years old, she is now the oldest living member. Her faith in God and her belief in the everlasting have carried her through an amazing life. Her religious values are remarkable.

Olive Whitmore was a charter member of the Order of Eastern Star and a charter member of the Electra Club. While a member of the Electra Club she sang with the choir under the direction of Charles Dawes of the "Cleveland Orchestra". They sang at the first 4th of July festival at the Cleveland Municipal Stadium. It was said that the gathering was so large that the following year it was moved to Edgewater Park where it is still celebrated.

Ms. Whitmore worked at Halle's Department Store, downtown from 1957 to 1970. During her work at Halle's, she managed to help thousands of Clevelanders, always with a smile on her face, a twinkle in her eye, and a bounce in her step. After her retirement she became a noted traveler, visiting places from Nova Scotia to the United States. While a noted visitor to other places, her heart always remained grounded in her hometown.

Ms. Whitmore is the oldest of three children. She has a contagious joy for life and is a delightful woman. My distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Ms. Olive Whitmore on her 99th Milestone Birthday.

HONORING PATRICK HARTEN ON
HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an Irishman who has lived a long, full life of devotion to God and family, Patrick Harten, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Patrick Harten, who is my great uncle, was born on October 17th, 1899 in the Parish of Mullagheran in County Cavan, Ireland. He was the third child of eight children raised by Patrick and Rose (White) Harten.

Patrick attended the Carnagh Upper National School, then later received training as a radio operator in Dublin.

Around the age of 28, Patrick immigrated to Canada. Patrick lived for many years near Toronto, where he farmed and also worked as a lumberjack.

Patrick's family in Ireland remembers his great kindness and generosity during World War II. He never forgot his family thousands of miles across the Atlantic in war torn Europe, and sent many packages of fruit, tea, as well as other goodies for the children—items that would have otherwise been unavailable to them during those adverse times.

Patrick's concern for his family is also related by his sister-in-law Mae who remembers the long letters the two would exchange as Patrick inquired about the family's well being. Several years after the war, Patrick returned to Mullagheran to visit the Irish Hartens.

Currently, Patrick resides at the Maynard Home in Toronto.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Patrick Harten for a remarkable life on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE MERGER OF PICADA AND DANE COUNTY YOUTH CONNECTION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the staff and board of directors of the newly merged PICADA and Dane County Youth Connection. This recent collaboration has been positively received by members of the community and civic leaders, who recognize the importance of high profile prevention and early intervention strategies. Such work is far reaching and immeasurable. The practice of making healthy choices is crucial for individuals and families in Dane County. I invite my colleagues to proudly join me in commending the union of these two exemplary organizations.

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF
MATTHEW SHEPARD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the memory of Matthew Shepard. One year ago, this 21-year-old college student died in a hospital bed in Fort Collins, Colorado, the victim of a brutal and senseless act of hate. I don't think anyone will ever forget the imagery of him being pistol-whipped, beaten, robbed, tied to a rough-hewn fence and left for dead on a cold October morning outside of Laramie, WY. And all of this because he was gay.

It is ironic that his life would be taken in such a violent way, considering the fact that Matthew wanted to dedicate his life to creating a world of peace and promoting human rights. He did not die in vain. His death shook us by our shoulders and forced us to deal with the issue of hate crimes and come to grips with the hate that brews in so many people's hearts. A crime motivated by hate is more than just another crime committed against an individual—it is intended to put fear into a whole community whether it is the African-American, Asian, Latino, disabled, gay and lesbian or senior communities.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. Every person is entitled to respect and human dignity, and no person should live in fear for being who they are. Our nation is strong because of our diversity, not in spite of it. We must speak with one voice to erase violence and hate from our communities and from our hearts. And we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This piece of legislation may not end all hate violence, but it will send a strong message that this Congress will not tolerate hate crimes, and that people who commit such acts will be met with swift and equal justice. And it will renew our commitment to creating an America where there is "liberty and justice for all."

IN RECOGNITION OF JOAN KRON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joan Kron as she is honored by the Saul Weprin Democratic Club on Sunday, October 17th, 1999 at the club's 42nd annual dinner dance.

Joan Kron has been a long time member of the Board of Governors of the Saul Weprin Democratic Club. She is an experienced educator who has been employed by the New York City Board of Education for twenty four years. For the last twenty years, Joan Kron has been the Resource Room teacher at P.S. 186 in Bellerose, Queens.

An alumini of Lehman College, Joan Kron earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Special Education. She is currently pursuing a Certificate in Supervision and Administration from Queens College.

For the past year, Joan Kron has served as the UFT representative for her school and has been involved with various union issues. She is a passionate community activist who has given both of her time and her energy to a number of worthy causes.

Joan Kron is a devoted wife to her husband, Barry, and dedicated mother to her daughter, Beth, and her son, Jonathan. Beth is currently attending SUNY College at Oneonta and Jonathan attends Townsend Harris High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my congratulations to Joan Kron as she is honored by the Saul Weprin Democratic Club for her years of dedicated service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BENEDICT
J. BENAKOVIC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Benedict J. Benakovic on the 50th Anniversary of ordination into the priesthood. On Sunday, October 17, 1999, the parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker Croatian Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, will honor its jubilarian priest. Father Benedict's 50th Anniversary festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the church, followed by a reception in the church hall.

Father Benedict was born on January 18, 1923 in Slavonski Brod, Croatia. He entered the minor seminary of the St. Jerome Province of the Croatian Conventual Franciscans on September 6, 1935, and pronounced his solemn vows on December 26, 1945. He completed studies in philosophy and theology at the Archdiocesan Seminary in Zagreb, Croatia, and was ordained a priest on June 29, 1949 in the cathedral in Zagreb. Father Benedict offered his first Mass on Sunday, July 3, 1949 in Zupanja, his family's hometown.

After one year of military service, Father Benedict was appointed assistant pastor at St.

Anthony Church in Zagreb. In 1962, he was sent to the United States to minister to the faithful in a Croatian parish. On February 13 of the same year, he came to Gary, Indiana, where he has lived ever since. The very Reverend Andrew G. Grutka, Bishop of Gary, appointed Father Benedict assistant pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Croatian Church in Gary, Indiana. In 1972, Father Benedict was appointed Pastor, and has remained in that position for the past 27 years.

Father Benedict has never believed that his work as a priest was limited to Sunday mornings. Even though he is extremely dedicated to the people of his parish, Father Benedict has never restricted his humanitarian activities to only his parishioners. Instead, he aids as many people as he can, no matter what the circumstances are. In fact, in October of 1994, Father Benedict was awarded the Columbian Award by the St. Thomas Council, a Catholic fraternal organization based in Hobart, Indiana for his outstanding service and commitment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Benedict on his 50th Anniversary of ordination into the priesthood. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend him for his service and dedication to our country, and especially the citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS FINK

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our country's great veterans, Mr. Chris Fink. Chris received his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve on October 10, 1941. Shortly after World War II began, he was assigned to the Pacific as a dive-bomber with the U.S.S. *Enterprise*.

Chris was one of eleven Navy pilots assigned to defend the recently captured island of Guadalcanal. On the day following his arrival, Chris' squadron attacked the Japanese transport *Kinryu Maru*, sinking the vessel and denying the Japanese the opportunity to land its 1,000-man force on the island. Three days later, Chris bombed the lead ship of Japanese destroyers, once again thwarting the enemy's attempt to take Guadalcanal and earning the nickname "Never miss'em" by his fellow airmen.

Returning from Guadalcanal, Chris was awarded the Silver Star by Secretary of Navy Frank Knox for his bravery and actions. He soon rejoined his squadron and would later take part in numerous more naval missions, including campaigns over the Philippines, the China Sea, Japan, Formosa and Wake Island. Because of his success, Chris was called back to the U.S. to participate in the War Bond Tour, which would travel the country and rally people to purchase bonds to finance the war.

Following World War II, Chris became the 23rd naval flier to receive a helicopter pilot's license, which was still considered an experimental aircraft, and traveled to several bases across the country demonstrating its potential. During the Korean War, Chris directed carrier-

based air strikes against North Korean forces and took on several assignments, including Commander of Fighter Squadron 54, Executive Commander of the U.S.S. *Wasp*, Deputy Commander at Naval Air Station, Memphis, and Navy Liaison at Sikorski Aircraft Company.

In 1966, after 25 years of faithful service, Chris retired from the Navy having earned numerous awards and medals, including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the National Defense Medal.

Mr. Speaker, in an era when our nation's veterans are often not given sufficient recognition, outstanding leaders, such as Chris Fink, exemplify the courage and dedication of our nation's military and remind us all what it means to be an American hero.

TRIBUTE TO NEW MEXICO
PARENTS OF THE YEAR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the recipients of the 1999 New Mexico parents of the year award. This award is administered by the New Mexico Parent's Day coalition. As we recognized these parents, I thank them for the role they play in strengthening and restoring the foundation of our country—the family.

Bob and Tina Schmitt, Los Lunas; Steve Trujillo, and Barbara Gauna Trujillo, Albuquerque; Kent and Carolyn Cummings, Las Cruces; Ronald and Joy Jones, Albuquerque; David and Rose Ostrovitz, Albuquerque; Robert and Mary McCray, Las Cruces; and Pete and Catherine Powdrell, Albuquerque.

Please join me in thanking these parents for their dedication to raising good citizens and their contributions to New Mexico's future.

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1993) to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in favor of this amendment to require the public disclosure of environmental impact statements for all OPIC projects designated "Category A". It requires information disclosure for environmentally sensitive OPIC Investment Fund projects such as oil refineries, chemical plants, oil and gas pipelines, large-scale logging projects and projects near wetlands or other protected areas. Current OPIC Investment Funds are not subject to any transparency requirements. Furthermore, no specific information on these projects is contained in OPIC's annual reports.

As a consequence, Congress, the public and the residents living near OPIC have no knowledge of the potential environmental and related financial and political risks. What is the taxpayer's interest in these projects?

Taxpayers are liable for OPIC investments overseas if they fail. Private corporations and investors make investments in OPIC Investment Funds. OPIC-supported funds, in turn, make direct equity and equity-related investments in new, expanding and privatizing companies in "emerging market" economies. While taxpayer money is not actually invested in these funds, taxpayers are liable for the investments should they fail. These funds have invested in more than 240 business projects in over 40 countries. Recent estimates show that the total amount in Investment Fund programs will soon reach \$4 billion.

Since taxpayers are exposed to millions of dollars of potential liabilities, I believe OPIC has a responsibility to Congress and the public to operate in an open and transparent manner. The lack of environmental transparency conceals environmentally destructive investments of these funds not only from Congress and the American public, but also to locally-affected people in the countries where OPIC projects are run.

For example, a 1996 FOIA lawsuit focusing on OPIC activity in Russia revealed that an Investment Fund project was involved in clear cutting of primary ancient forests in Northwest Russia. Russian citizens, expecting democracy building assistance from the U.S. Government, had not been provided with any environmental documentation. In fact, according to documents obtained in the lawsuit, an OPIC consultant had falsely documented the Russian citizens' support for the harmful, irreversible logging of pristine forests.

OPIC Investment Funds have also been involved in a gold mine in the Côte d'Ivoire in the area of a primary tropical forest which is opposed by local citizens. Reports of other troubling projects are also being circulated. Conservation groups have filed FOIA requests to obtain the names, nature, location and environmental impact assessments for all OPIC investment fund projects. OPIC, however, continues to conceal the environmental consequences of these questionable investments from the public.

What little information that has been uncovered about these funds reveals a checkered environmental record. With environmentally and socially sensitive projects being a main focus of the funds, public disclosure of environmental impact assessments is even more crucial.

Organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth, Institute for Policy Studies, Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club, Center for International Environmental Law and Pacific Environment and Resources Center have long advocated for increased transparency in OPIC Investment Fund projects.

Representatives of these organizations met with the new OPIC President in February where he agreed with their assertion that these funds should be transparent when it comes to the environment. OPIC recently launched a \$350 million equity fund for investment in Sub-Saharan Africa which will include transparency and public disclosure provisions. But there are still 26 other funds which remain shrouded in secrecy.

With almost \$4 billion dollars invested in these programs, and OPIC's sketchy environmental record, it is ever more important that OPIC be held accountable to the public regarding its investments in environmentally sensitive projects.

The ideal legislation to correct the lack of transparency in Investment Fund projects would require the public disclosure of Environmental Impact Assessments conducted on all new investment projects. It would also allow for a public comment period where citizens, especially those living in the affected area of the project, could voice their opinions of the project. In the case of projects already underway, a renegotiation of contracts to allow for public disclosure would be required to avoid breach of contract concerns.

If we can't have full transparency in all Investment fund projects, then OPIC should not be involved in projects that are environmentally sensitive.

While projects like oil refineries, gas and oil pipelines, chemical plants that produce hazardous or toxic materials, and large-scale logging projects may be necessary for the industrial development of developing countries, holding the US taxpayers liable for investments in projects that could pose serious environmental or health risks to local populations with no public oversight or disclosure is unacceptable.

It is OPIC's policy, as outlined in the Environmental Handbook to conduct rigorous internal Environmental Impact Assessments on all environmentally sensitive projects. Environmental impact assessments are also required by law as found in Executive Order 12114 and Public Law 99-204. However, while the assessments for insurance and finance projects are publicly disclosed, assessments on Investment Fund projects are not. Accountable government demands that these assessments be disclosed.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and shed some light on OPIC's environmentally sensitive Investment Fund projects.

MOVING FORWARD TO PROTECT
ROADLESS AREAS IN AMERICA'S
NATIONAL FORESTS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the effort to protect as much as 40 million acres of roadless area throughout our National Forest System took an important step forward this week. The President has directed the National Forest Service to prepare an environmental analysis on how best to conserve and safeguard the roadless areas in numerous forests across our nation.

While approximately 60 million acres in our National Forest System remain untouched, these unspoiled areas have been left unprotected from future mining, logging, and roadbuilding. Without the development of a science-based policy for managing roadless areas, these unspoiled lands may become susceptible to a wide variety of ecological problems. Some of the problems include: an

increased frequency of flooding and landslides; increased habitat fragmentation; increased frequency of fires as a result of access; and invasion of exotic species that displace native species.

On June 18, 1999, 168 Members of the House joined with me and Representative HINCHAY in urging the President, to start taking decisive action to protect roadless areas in all national forests from logging, mining, and other destructive activities. Over half of the Forest Service's 191 million acres are presently available for logging, mining, drilling for oil and gas, and other types of development. These scarce roadless areas provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife, protect the greatest reserves of diverse plant life, and offer our nation's people an abundant supply of clean drinking water and opportunities for outdoor recreational activities. Clearly, these natural resources must be protected.

While the current moratorium on road building in roadless areas of the Forest Service's lands provides temporary protection from further development, future management policies and protection efforts must be set in motion to safeguard these pristine areas. President Clinton's announcement today is a good step toward a national policy that will safeguard our roadless areas so that these national treasures are not lost, and can be enjoyed by future generations. Furthermore, I encourage the public to take an active role in the development of a long-term protection plan. Congress also must be ready and willing to engage in a constructive and positive debate to shape a sound new approach to the nation's forests.

RECOGNIZING A LOCAL
CHAMPION—MR. JOSH WEIR

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bestow much deserved recognition to Josh Weir, a senior at Ben Davis High School located in my home town of Indianapolis, IN.

All too often we focus on negative stories regarding our youth while neglecting to praise the millions of young people across this country who are eager to face the challenges and meet the responsibilities and expectations that society places upon them. Josh Weir is one such extraordinary young man.

This past summer, Josh won two gold medals and one silver medal at the Junior Track Cycling Championships at the Indianapolis Major Taylor Velodrome. In doing so, Josh has earned the honor of being called "National Champion."

This honor did not come without hard work and the support of his parents. His preparation required him to devote countless hours in the weight room, and train hours away from home. Josh's coach, Gil Hatton, recently exclaimed, "One very positive thing about Josh Weir is that his parents are very supportive of what he does." Their support is to be commended.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Josh has given back to his community. Josh belongs to Top Teens of America, Inc., a nationally known service organization. As we approach the dawn of a new century, young peo-

ple such as Josh Weir will make certain a brighter future for our community, State, and country.

Mr. Speaker, though someday, Josh dreams to race for the U.S. national team and perhaps even in the 2004 Olympics, he knows that a college degree represents the ultimate trophy. By choosing this path to success, Josh is a true hero.

TRIBUTE TO VALENTIN S.
KRUMOV

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere condolences to the family of Valentin S. Krumov, who's life was cut tragically short in Kosova where he worked for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosova (UNIMIK). Valentin arrived in Kosova on Monday, October 11 and was killed at 9:00 p.m. local time by a group of Albanian teenagers who brutally beat and then shot. According to police reports, Valentin had responded to a question posed to him in Serbian. Although he is a Bulgarian national, Mr. Krumov once lived in Queens, which I am proud to represent. Mr. Krumov was 38 years old and a respected scholar who received his doctorate in political science from the University of Georgia. He dedicated his adult life to the disciplines of international relations and economics, going to Kosova to help restore democracy and rebuild that war-torn land. According to the United Nations, police are still investigating this terrible and cowardly crime. I am hopeful that the perpetrators will be brought to justice soon.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy only serves to illustrate that although the bombing has ended in Kosova, the violence has not. The United Nations has a difficult job before it and must have the resources to do it properly. Before this first session of the 106th Congress ends, I hope that we have appropriated the money necessary to help rebuild Kosova and make it safe.

RECOGNITION OF MS. CLARA
DAVELER'S OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an amazing woman, one who has bettered the lives of many people over the years, Ms. Clara Daveler. As the manager at a senior nutrition site, Ms. Daveler has been filling a real need in the community by providing nutritious, appetizing hot lunches to seniors at the Bashford Methodist Church for over 15 years. Not only does she serve, prepare, and tidy up after the meals, she does so with a smile and kind words, as the regulars, the delivery man, and her co-workers can attest. Ms. Daveler, a 76-year-old dynamo, still works 20 hours per week, and when asked about her job, says, "We always have a good time."

This October is the 25th anniversary of the Bashford Methodist Church's senior nutrition site, and to commemorate this special time, Clara's co-workers wanted to honor the one woman without whom it couldn't have happened. I commend Clara Daveler for her great contributions, and I wish her many more happy years with her friends and colleagues at the Bashford Methodist Church.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure to protect not only the animals involved in federal law enforcement, but also the people and institutions these animals serve.

Under this bill, individuals who commit or attempt to commit malicious acts on federal law enforcement animals will face jail sentences of one to ten years depending on the gravity of the act. This important legislation will send a message to any potential offenders that our police dogs and horses are valued for the law enforcement functions they serve, and any offenses against these animals will have serious consequences.

This is a modest step, but an important one and I urge its passage.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STANLEY
HALPERN AND RABBI MICHAEL
STEVENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Rabbi Stanley Halpern and Rabbi Michael Stevens. On Sunday, October 17, 1999, Rabbis Halpern and Stevens will be honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to Northwest Indiana and to the State of Israel. Their praiseworthy efforts will be recognized at the Northwest Indiana-Israel Dinner of State, as they receive the Shema Yisrael Award. The Shema Yisrael Award is given to worthy recipients who demonstrate their dedication and outstanding service of Israel and their community.

Rabbi Stanley Halpern, a resident of Portage, Indiana, came to Temple Israel in Gary, Indiana, in 1988 from Central California where he served as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Sacramento. Rabbi Halpern is very involved in several organizations, including: the Jewish Deaf Congress, the Gary Interfaith Clergy Council, and the Interfaith Alliance of Northwest Indiana. He also serves as chaplain of the Gary Police Department. Additionally, he serves on the board at the Northwest Indiana Open Housing Center, the Bio-Ethics Committee of Munster Community Hospital, the Liheyot panel of the UAHC Committee on Family Concerns, and the CJF Special Committee on Accessibility.

Though Rabbi Halpern is dedicated to his career and his community, he has never limited his time and love for his 16-year-old daughter, Sasha.

Rabbi Michael Stevens, a native of Brooklyn, New York, received both a bachelor's and master's degree in music, as well as a master's degree in Hebrew literature. In 1976, Rabbi Stevens was ordained as a Rabbi at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. Before coming to Northwest Indiana in 1987 to serve the Temple Beth-El in Munster, Rabbi Stevens served as Rabbi of Beth Israel Temple Center in Warren, Ohio, and of Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Montreal, Quebec. He also served as Interim Rabbi of Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown, Pennsylvania. While Rabbi Stevens has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work, he always made an extra effort to give to the community. He has served on the Lake County AIDS Pastoral Care Network, reviewed concerts of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, composed music for the Temple Beth-El choir, and has played the role of the Rabbi in a production of "Fiddler on the Roof." He has served for many years on the faculty of the Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute camp in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and currently teaches in the Department of English and Philosophy at Purdue University Calumet. Rabbi and Judy Stevens are the proud parents of four wonderful children, David, Joshua, Andrea, and Aaron.

The special guest at this gala event will be Mr. Uriel Lynn. Mr. Lynn is a distinguished lawyer and businessman and a former highly regarded member of Israel's Knesset.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Rabbis Stanley Halpern and Michael Stevens for receiving the Shema Yisrael Award. Their dedicated service to both the State of Israel and our Northwest Indiana community is commendable and admirable.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT FONTI

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Robert G. Fonti as he is honored by the Saul Weprin Democratic Club on Sunday, October 17th, 1999 at the club's 42nd annual dinner dance.

Robert Fonti is an active member of the Board of Governors of the Saul Weprin Democratic Club. He is the President and the CEO of the Vincent James Management Company where he specializes in Real Estate Brokerage and Property management.

An alumni of St. John's University, Robert Fonti earned a Bachelor and a Master of Arts in Government and Politics as well as a Certificate in Public Administration. He is actively involved in professional organizations such as the National Realty Organization, the Real Estate Board of Education, the New York Association of Realty Managers and the National Asbestos Council. As a real estate consultant to the Town of Huntington, Robert Fonti advises the Town Board on all trustee and land use matters. He also serves as the VP of

Budget and Finance for Respect for Law Alliance Inc.

Aside from his professional duties, Robert Fonti donates his time and energy to such worthy causes as the New York State Order of the Sons of Italy in America, the Coalition of Italian American Organizations, and the Boy Scouts of America.

Robert is a devoted husband to his wife, Barbara, and father to his daughters, Barbara Olivia and Lauren Anne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my congratulations to Robert Fonti as he is honored by the Saul Weprin Democratic Club for his years of active service to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES CONLON

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an admirable and dedicated resident of Union, New Jersey who has graciously served his community for many years.

James Conlon is a graduate of the Rutgers University School of Law and member of the New Jersey State and Union County Bar Associations. He served for 21 years as a Union Township Committee member where he went on to become Mayor for five terms between 1975 and 1982. Mr. Conlon was an attorney for Union Township from 1982 to 1993 and has been admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Conlon has contributed countless hours of his time to the younger community in Union, as well as to the fight against cancer. He has served as counsel to the American Lung Association of New Jersey and acted as a former trustee for the Boys and Girls Club of Union. In addition, Mr. Conlon has exhibited a strong involvement in the religious community as a member of, and advocate for, the Union Council Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Conlon is an example of courage, integrity, and commitment through his political, professional, and civic efforts to better the community of Union, New Jersey. Please join me in thanking him for his years of service and wishing him continued success.

HONORING WALLACE T. DREW AND DR. URSULA HENDERSON DREW

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues two extraordinary people, who on October 9th were honored by their community with the distinguished United Way Community Excellence Award.

Wallace T. Drew has had an impressive career as a managing director for Revlon, Inc., head of Coty Inc. and Vice President of the local Salomon Smith Barney. Mr. Drew has

also been a driving force in countless community service organizations in Santa Barbara. He has served on the boards of the United Nations Association of the USA, United Boys & Girls Clubs, the Santa Barbara Symphony, Lobero Theatre Foundation, and the Santa Barbara Arts Council. He was also founder and Chairman of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and Senior Warden at All Saints by the Sea Episcopal Church. In addition, Mr. Drew has served on every committee within the Santa Barbara County United Way organization, including Vice-Chair of "Burn the Mortgage in 90" Campaign, founding member of the Endowment Committee and Leadership Circle Committee, and Board Treasurer and President.

Board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology, now retired, Dr. Ursula Henderson Drew was in private practice in Santa Barbara since 1977. She married Wallace T. Drew in 1993. She has served on the Santa Barbara City College Foundation and on the Advisory Committee for the Garvin Theatre. She has also served on the boards of the Santa Barbara Film Festival and the Ensemble Theatre. As Chairwoman of the Department of Psychiatry at Cottage Hospital, she also served on the Committee for the Homeless and the Physician's Well-Being Committee. She currently serves on the Board of the Santa Barbara Mental Health Association. Her latest leadership role has been Co-Chair of a \$1.5 million campaign to reopen Health House and retain Sarah House.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join the United Way in recognizing Wallace and Ursula Drew for their generosity to the City of Santa Barbara. I am inspired by the Drews' service and commitment to their fellow citizens. The lifetime achievements of Wallace and Ursula Henderson Drew will continue in perpetuity.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT CARDENAS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, to quote one of our Nation's greatest Presidents, Ronald Reagan:

Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day going in and out of factory gates. Others, a handful in number, produce enough food to feed all of us and then the world beyond. You meet heroes across a counter—and they're on both sides of that counter. There are entrepreneurs—with faith in themselves and faith in an idea—who create new jobs, new wealth and opportunity. They're individuals and families whose taxes support the government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, culture, art and education. Their patriotism is quiet but deep. Their values sustain our national life.

San Diego is fortunate to have many heroes in our community. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one of our local heroes and honor his sacrifice and achievements.

Many of you may already know the story of Brigadier General Robert Cardenas (USAF retired), one of the greatest test pilots of all time. While General Cardenas is well known for being the pilot of the aircraft that dropped the

X-1 being flown by Chuck Yeager, he also was the test pilot for the "Flying Wing", the Northrop YB-49, in 1947 and 1948. The Flying Wing was a revolutionary aircraft at the time and to be chosen as a test pilot was a great honor. It was also a very dangerous assignment. General Cardenas, in an interview described one particular test flight where "he found himself at the controls of an airplane that was pointing almost straight up; refusing to respond to the controls, it was falling tail-first at 5,000 feet per minute. The aircraft then tumbled over backwards." General Cardenas managed to land the aircraft safely. In January 1949, General Cardenas flew the YB-49 on a high-speed exhibition run to Washington, DC, and where a famous picture of the YB-49 flying over the U.S. Capitol was taken.

The Flying Wing project was eventually canceled and the plane was not duplicated until the current B-2 aircraft. It is safe to say, however, that without test pilots like General Cardenas who were willing to risk their lives, we would not have the B-2 today. General Cardenas is a true American Hero and our country owes him a debt for his contributions to the development of our national security.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENT
JULIUS NYERERE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, a great statesman, a man of great compassion and a visionary who believed strongly in Africa's ability to forge a prosperous future of unity and peace. Former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania passed away today in London at age 77 after losing a 2-year battle with leukemia.

Known affectionately throughout Africa as Mwalimu, or "teacher" in Swahili, President Julius Nyerere was the father of Tanzanian independence and a symbol of Africa's hope as it emerged from the shadow of European colonial rule.

He led the drive for the independence of his East African nation from British rule and became the country's first president in 1962.

In 1979, in defiance of the Organization of African Unity, President Nyerere sent troops to Uganda in response to the intense suffering of the Ugandan people under the brutal dictatorial regime of Idi Amin Dada. That operation—one of the first humanitarian missions of its kind—would help set a legal precedent for peacekeeping missions all over the globe.

Nyerere stepped down as president in 1985 after 23 years in office to devote his time to farming and diplomacy. He worked tirelessly to negotiate an end to the violence that has plagued central and southern Africa in the past decade.

Most recently, Nyerere's efforts were directed toward mediating an end to the bloody civil war in neighboring Burundi, where more than 200,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since 1993.

Nyerere wrote eight books mainly on development and socialism in Africa and Tanzania in particular. He also translated William Shakespeare's plays "Julius Caesar" and "The Merchant of Venice" into Swahili.

A Roman Catholic, Nyerere was married and had eight children.

The current President of Tanzania, President Mkapa, has announced that a state funeral will be held for Nyerere in Dar es Salaam early next week.

RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF PFIZER, INC.

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Pfizer, Inc. and to congratulate the company on its pioneering innovations in the vital pharmaceutical industry. Pfizer's story is one of adventure, risk-taking, bold decision-making, and lifesaving. It's the chronicle of a small chemical firm from Brooklyn, NY, which, over the years, has become one of the world's premier pharmaceutical enterprises. Pfizer now employs close to 50,000 people in 85 countries, including 4,939 employees in Groton, CT. Pfizer's products are now available in 150 countries. These products treat a variety of diseases and conditions, such as hypertension, Alzheimer's, infections, diabetes, and arthritis.

Cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart emigrated to New York from Ludwigsberg, Germany in the mid-1840s. In the U.S., the young cousins united their skills and opened shop as a chemical firm in 1849. Charles Pfizer & Co. filled a gap in the American chemical market by manufacturing specialty chemicals that had not been produced in America. The company made many important breakthroughs and developed popular and effective drug treatments in its first 75 years. Medicines developed by Pfizer helped to save many lives during the Civil War.

However, it took bold decision-making to catapult Pfizer into its role as a trendsetter in the antibiotic era and a leader in the pharmaceutical industry. In 1928, when Alexander Fleming discovered the germ-killing properties of the "mold juice" secreted by penicillium, he knew that it could have enormous medical value. Unfortunately, Fleming was unable to mass-produce penicillin. In 1941, following new research relating to this "wonder drug," Pfizer executives risked their own stocks and invested millions of dollars to develop a process to mass-produce penicillin. Thankfully, they were successful. With the U.S. Government desperate for penicillin to aid soldiers in World War II, the company, in true patriotic spirit, agreed to share its method with competitors while still leading the way in penicillin production.

From this point on, Pfizer expanded into a global leadership role in the pharmaceutical industry. The company opened operations around the world and developed new and effective antibiotics to help in the fight against deadly bacteria.

Pfizer has invested a great amount of its resources into R&D—over \$2.8 billion in 1999 alone. This strategy has resulted in the launch of many successful drugs that help people live better lives. By bringing best-in-class medicines to market and working with patients and physicians to develop comprehensive disease

management programs, Pfizer helps people control their illness, rather than letting peoples' illness control them.

Recognized as one of the world's most admired companies, Pfizer was recently named "Company of the Year" by Forbes magazine. I applaud the employees of Pfizer in Groton and around the world on the company's 150th anniversary for the many contributions they have made to improving the health and well-being of millions in this country and across the globe.

RECOGNITION OF THOMAS G.
LABONTE

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 1999 National Distinguished Principal from the State of Rhode Island, Thomas Labonte. Thom is in Washington this week to join his peers and accept this prestigious honor. I am particularly pleased to honor Thom today, as I have had the opportunity to know him and his family since we grew up in the same city and our paths have crossed numerous times throughout our lives. He worked at the local pharmacy my family frequented, his brother went to high school with me, he was my son's principal in East Providence and his son started as an intern in my State house office and now serves on my staff in Washington.

Thom began as a classroom teacher in East Providence in 1970 and was appointed principal of Kent Heights Elementary School in 1986. During his time at Kent Heights, he oversaw the expansion of this neighborhood school to a school which educates over 320 students today. My son was one of Thom's students before Thom left Kent Heights to become the principal at the Watters and Meadowscrest Elementary Schools and begin his service in Pawtucket in 1990.

When he first arrived at Elizabeth Baldwin Elementary School in Pawtucket, he served as the sole administrator in a school with nearly 800 students, 90 percent of whom were eligible for free or reduced lunch. Considering that working with high risk students is one of his passions, it is no surprise that Thom thrived in this setting. During his time in Pawtucket, he also developed and began the first teacher mentoring program, which provides new teachers with a seasoned and experienced mentor as they begin their careers. This mentoring program has been lauded statewide as a model.

When he arrived in South Kingstown, he continued his refreshing and creative educational leadership. While principal of Wakefield Elementary School, he was appointed to serve concurrently as the director of the Hazard School where he oversaw the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the town's kindergarten center. He continues to provide a stable and thriving learning environment to the students, teachers, parents in the Wakefield School community.

As Thom has said, "I model the behaviors I want others to emulate, because I truly respect each child, parent, and teacher, and want the school to have a caring atmosphere

which supports others." I have visited Wakefield Elementary School and can attest that his simple philosophy has created a learning environment where all kids can learn.

His son once remarked to me that although many children have been blessed with Thom's talents during their time in elementary school, he has been most fortunate to be blessed with his father's talents for his entire life. On behalf of the many children who have been fortunate to have Mr. Labonte as their principal, I offer my congratulations to him and his wife Jane, to whom Thom gives much deserved credit.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui and the 21 million Chinese in Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day. At the same time, I wish to convey to President Lee and his people my deep concern about the recent quake that hit their nation. I know rebuilding after the quake is a long painful process, but the good news is that I am confident of President Lee's leadership and his people's industry and perseverance. Taiwan will soon be on its feet again.

Good luck, Taiwan.

COMMENDING THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE IN AGRICULTURE (YEA) PROGRAM

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Youth Enterprise in Agriculture (YEA) program, that has worked so hard to teach young people in Arkansas about the importance of agriculture. Farming has been in my family for generations and I believe that it is one of the most noble professions on earth. I am proud that the YEA program works to teach young people about farming and encourages them to get involved in agricultural careers.

The YEA program was established at the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation in 1991. It was designed as an agricultural career and leadership development program for high school youth to help preserve the small family farm by enhancing youth interest toward farming as a business enterprise and agriculture-related careers. Through work experience, classroom education, leadership development training and career goal-setting, participants are encouraged to continue their education and pursue agriculture-related careers.

YEA provides students, ages 16-19 from Arkansas, Illinois and Mississippi with career and leadership development activities. In the 2-year active training phase, students are offered paid internships with Arkansas family farmers who provide training, work experiences and exposure to agriculture as a lifestyle and business. The YEA program has played an important role in boosting the num-

ber of students that are exploring careers in agriculture-related fields.

Through the program, many young people have become strong advocates for agriculture and its diversity and have a broad understanding and mind-set for becoming successful agri-business people and entrepreneurs. These youth represent the next generation of rural leaders and agriculture professionals.

Though only in its ninth year of operation, YEA has been a remarkable success, and has played an important part in the agricultural arena and rural community development and I wish this program more continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KENNETH GUNSALUS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenneth Gunsalus upon his 75 years of service with the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Gunsalus is a distinguished resident of Putnam, Connecticut, and an extraordinary example for us all.

Mr. Gunsalus has been a Boy Scout since first joining Troop 1 in Putnam, Connecticut in 1925. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1933. During his 40 years as a Scoutmaster, Mr. Gunsalus mentored over 1800 scouts. Even after his "retirement" as a Scoutmaster, Mr. Gunsalus has continued to advise young scouts as a Scout committeeman. Thanks to Mr. Gunsalus, hundreds of young men have had the opportunity to benefit from his wisdom and guidance for over seven decades.

Mr. Gunsalus is more than just a dedicated volunteer. He is also a veteran with 4½ years in the Pacific theater in World War II. In his professional life, he worked for Connecticut Light and Power for 43 years.

Mr. Speaker, I join residents from Putnam in congratulating Mr. Kenneth Gunsalus on his decades of service to his community and country. His dedication is a tribute to his family, his society, and serves as a shining example to volunteers across America.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Taiwan's National Day, I wish to express support for President Lee Teng-hui, Vice President Lien Chan and Premier Vincent Siew as they take the difficult steps to rebuild their nation in the aftermath of last month's devastating earthquake. As someone who has visited the Republic of China on several occasions since becoming a member of the United States Congress, I have gained a tremendous appreciation for Taiwan and its 21 million citizens.

Taiwan has developed into a world manufacturing and commercial center. Furthermore, their geographic presence in the Pacific is vital to our national security interests. As a con-

sequence, the bonds between our nations are extensive and deep. Hence our nation listened with great concern and sadness as we heard of the devastating earthquake on September 21st. The cost of this natural disaster is unimaginable, with millions of dollars in damage and over two thousand fatalities.

As this tragedy unfolded, our country immediately responded to assist in Taiwan's recovery. The United States government has mobilized search and rescue teams and emergency personnel to assist Taiwan in recovering and rehabilitation efforts. With this assistance, along with additional rescue teams from around the world, some of the pain of this crisis has been alleviated.

Certainly the road to recovery will neither be quick nor easy, however, I am confident that the resilience and strength of the Taiwanese people will allow them to overcome the challenges of reconstruction.

During Taiwan's National Day, I wish to offer my condolences to the Taiwanese government and all Taiwanese citizens. The United States stands ready to assist them during this difficult time.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK, NOVEMBER 21-28, 1999

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to serve as a Congressional Co-Chairman for this year's celebration of National Bible Week. During this week of Thanksgiving and prayer, it is fitting that we take time to recognize the importance and significance of the Holy Bible and encourage all walks of life to embrace the Bible in their daily lives. I also want to thank Mr. William E. Simon for serving as National Chairperson for the 1999 National Bible Week.

I commend the endeavors of the National Bible Association for setting aside this week to celebrate our common faith and to encourage others to read the Bible. It is in the Bible that we realize the wisdom of the Lord, and the true meaning of charity, love, and forgiveness. We must do more, through government and private action, to strengthen our families, care for our aging parents, and show hospitality to our neighbors. I am confident that in the Bible we, as a people and a world community, can find the answers to solving many of the problems we face in today's society.

I encourage all people, young and old, man and woman, rich and poor, sick and healthy to open up your lives to the teachings of the Holy Bible.

RESTORE BBA-97 MEDICARE FUNDING CUTS TO HOME HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on the urgent matter of making restoration of Medicare funding to our home health

agencies, hospitals and nursing homes, especially those that serve rural areas.

We are here to again bring to the attention of the House, and the American people, the absolute urgent need to take action before the end of this session of Congress—to restore Medicare funding and make other administrative adjustments to cutbacks imposed under the BBA of 1997.

The BBA-97, as it is called, proposed to cut \$115 billion from Medicare by either terminating or massively reducing Medicare reimbursement to providers of health and medical care for senior citizens and the disabled.

The effect has been that with only one-third of the mandated Medicare cuts having been implemented so far, the total cut is not \$115 billion—it already totals more than \$206 billion.

Imagine what will occur if the other two-thirds of proposed Medicare cuts are implemented in the coming year.

In West Virginia, the hardest hit segment of our health care delivery system has been among home health agencies. We have seen the closure of 18 of our home health agencies, and drastic reductions in staff and services at those still operating.

Our hospitals—especially the rural hospitals—are suffering the same kind of financial crush—with many of them having already drastically reduced staff, and dozens that have had to curtail services for outpatient care.

I just received word yesterday that the Appalachian Regional Hospital at Man, West Virginia, may be forced to close by the end of October—due in part to the loss of Medicare reimbursement. Another local hospital nearby which is in financial difficulty also, may eventually close. These are the only two hospitals serving a large rural county in my district. It is obvious that the closure of one hospital is bad enough—closure of two would create critical access problems for my constituents in need of emergency room care, inpatient care, and outpatient clinic services.

The same kind of burden has been placed upon nursing homes where the sickest, poorest and most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries are cared for—and due to infirmities caused by age and disease—from heart problems to diabetes to stroke—they are the most costly of patients.

We have reached this impasse tonight because, in my view, Congress balanced our Nation's budget on the backs of its elderly, disabled, homebound citizens whose only help comes from Medicare.

It is my understanding—and if true I applaud him—that our colleague and friend, Representative BILL THOMAS, Chair of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, will have introduced today—a plan to restore some of the BBA cuts to Medicare.

The first words that occurred to me when I heard about the Thomas plan was: It's about time.

But I genuinely applaud his effort because it is important to have our Health Subcommittee Chairman on record as having acknowledged the adverse impact of the Medicare cuts imposed on providers of this country's health care for our most needy, most vulnerable senior citizens.

It wasn't that long ago that we were constantly admonished not to pay any attention to our home health agencies about the Medicare cuts—even as they closed over 2,000 of them nationwide—18 of them in my State.

We were told that the cuts were not too deep, and that the impact was not so adverse as to require congressional action to restore them.

And so again I greet Chairman THOMAS' plan for restoring some of the BBA-97 Medicare cuts with genuine hope and lingering uncertainty, because we have not seen the details.

I am also gratified to hear—after preaching on the subject for two long years—that the Administration is looking into ways that Medicare reimbursement cuts can be restored through administrative action.

My colleagues here on the floor tonight will recall with me that we suggested this administrative action in a half-dozen letters to the Administration beginning over two years ago. But we were told that the BBA-97 was so tightly written that only legislative relief could help restore the Medicare cuts. We were told that the Administration had no "wiggle room" to act on its own.

Once the details of the Thomas plan are available to us for our study—we will know for sure whether he has sent the Fire Brigade to our rescue, or if we are being handed a pitcher of spit to try and extinguish the fires of neglect brought to our health care delivery system through the excessive Medicare cuts contained in the BBA of 1997.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I say only what many of us have been saying all along—that we must work together to get this burgeoning loss of health services under control.

Chairman THOMAS has taken a first step in leading Congress to act before the end of this year.

This is an important day—and I have every hope and expectation that Congress will move quickly and effectively to address the needs of our home health agencies, our hospitals, our nursing homes—providers who deserve our thanks and our support for this restoration of Medicare cuts imposed by BBA-97.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HECTOR O.
NEVAREZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. Hector Nevarez who recently retired from the Federal Government after 30 years of distinguished service. I would like to commend him for his patriotism in serving our nation.

Our men and women in uniform and their families owe him a special debt of gratitude for his hard work in improving their quality of life over the course of his career. As the director of the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools, and as superintendent for Department of Defense overseas schools in Panama and Cuba, he raised the quality of these school systems to sterling heights. In doing so, he earned the respect and confidence of all those he served.

I know that his recent efforts as the director of support and deputy executive director of congressionally mandated Commission for Servicemen and Veterans Transition Assistance contributed significantly to the enactment of legislation this year that greatly improves the benefits for servicemen and veterans.

He did very important work as the Federal Advisory Committee Act official for the President's panel on the disposition of Vieques. This sensitive position required the utmost in personal and professional integrity which he embodied throughout.

In these executive level positions, Mr. Nevarez displayed impeccable character and leadership worthy of the Senior Executive Service rank he holds. He epitomizes the value of including everyone in the government of our country and the values of fair play that are a tradition in our culture.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him the best as he moves into another phase of his life, and I am sure that he will be as successful as he has been in Government.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on the occasion of Taiwan's National Day. In the past decade, Taiwan has achieved remarkable economic and political growth. Taiwan enjoys one of the highest standards of living in Asia, and its people enjoy all the political freedoms of a full democracy.

I am pleased to learn that the Taiwan Government has been doing its best to assist all those that have been affected by the September 21 earthquake. Because of Taiwan's progressive leadership I feel certain the recovery from the earthquake will be swift.

My thoughts and prayers are with the good people in Taiwan during this difficult period in their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY
RUSSO

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who exemplifies the essence of public service.

Anthony Russo has made significant contributions as a leader in Union, New Jersey for many years. After receiving his law degree from Rutgers University and becoming a member of the Union County Bar Association, Mr. Russo was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He served as a Union Township Committee member for 27 years, Mayor for nine terms, and New Jersey Senator from 1978 to 1981. Mr. Russo is the current Union County Adjuster—a position he has held since 1972.

Mr. Russo is a pillar of society who has illustrated genuine dedication to cancer-fighting organizations and with Union Township's youth. He was an original organizer of the Boys Club of Union, now known as the Boys and Girls Club of Union, and served in several leadership positions within the group for many years. In addition, Mr. Russo has volunteered his fund raising efforts on behalf of cancer research for the Union County Chapter of The

American Cancer Society as well as the March of Dimes, Boy Scouts, Mental Health and the American Red Cross.

Mr. Russo's dedication has earned a great deal of acknowledgment by numerous political, civic, and community organizations. Indeed, he is a hard worker whose selfless efforts continue to be an inspiration to his community. Please join me in thanking him for bringing real leadership to Union, New Jersey and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING RAYTHEON SYSTEMS
COMPANY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary company in my district—Raytheon Systems Company.

Since 1956, when Raytheon Systems Company located in Santa Barbara, the impact of the Company's vision and commitment to our community has been known. The employees of Raytheon for the last four decades have been consistently working to make Santa Barbara a better place by their involvement in their children's PTAs, scout troops, and churches. Raytheon has also been very involved with local youth through their sponsorship of career fairs, mentoring and shadow programs. Raytheon and its employees are most recognized for their support of local public education by the donation of countless computers and copiers through the Adopt-a-School program and the Computers for Families Project. Their contributions to schools and to our children have been recognized by the Santa Barbara Industry Education Council and many other organizations committed to education.

Equally important has been the personal involvement of the top management of Raytheon in United Way annual campaigns. Over the last 23 years, hundreds of Raytheon executives and employees have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to United Way fundraising, allocations review and Day of Caring activities. The Company and employees have also contributed millions of dollars to the Health and Human Services network in South Santa Barbara County that provides a helping hand up to more than 60,000 local residents annually.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join the United Way in recognizing Raytheon Systems Company. The Company and its employees have made immeasurable contributions to the City of Santa Barbara. I believe that the spirit of generosity and leadership shown by Raytheon Systems Company is an example for the Nation.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY
RECOGNIZES JIM GRATTON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jim Gratton, who has served the

labor movement in a variety of capacities for 44 years. Mr. Gratton has led local union members as business manager of Local Union 400 and as president of Monmouth/Ocean Building Trades.

In 1974, Mr. Gratton negotiated a maintenance agreement for the building trades at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. Prior to this agreement there was no union involvement in any maintenance or shut down work. Mr. Gratton also went to work negotiating the development of a second nuclear plant at the Oyster Creek site, and the project's labor agreement went on to set the standard for such agreements across the country.

Under Mr. Gratton's leadership Local 400 grew in the 1970s and 1980s. He worked to establish a residential program that enabled the local unions to have greater control of its jurisdiction. His administration promoted both an annuity fund to secure better retirement packages and a Trades Assistance Program to aid union members suffering from drug and alcohol abuse.

Recognizing the need for qualified linemen, Mr. Gratton convinced Northeast Apprentice Training program to use Local 400's property as the site for their school. Line apprentices still learn their basic skills at this facility. He also promoted the Monmouth and Ocean Development Council and received their "Man of the Year Award" in 1992. He is the 1998 recipient of the Alliance for Action's Silver Gull Award.

In 1998 Jim retired from his IBEW positions and from the presidency of the Monmouth and Ocean Building Trades. During his three decades of leadership his union organizations grew in both size and stature. He serves as a model for labor leaders in our state. Currently Jim remains active in rebuilding and revitalizing Asbury Park, the Charter city of his Local 400.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Gratton's community service. I extend to him my gratitude, and the best of luck in any future endeavors.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BUDD LAKE UNION CHAPEL,
COUNTY OF MORRIS, NJ

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Budd Lake Union Chapel, County of Morris, NJ.

Allow me to recount the history of the Chapel. Mrs. John Chipps started a Sunday school in the home of John Budd in 1871. That year seven teachers taught forty students. On August 14, 1872, Budd deeded land to the trustees to erect a chapel "for the use of all Protestant denominations." Three years later, in 1875, the church was dedicated.

From late 1875 to 1880, especially during the winter months, attendance was at times low, but the desire to serve the community and the spirit of the congregation carried them through the rougher times. By the mid-1900s, the congregation was growing, holding fairs and Christmas shows and purchasing a new organ for the Chapel.

In 1954 and 1955, the Chapel was incorporated and the Board of Trustees announced that the Reverend Glenn C. Tompkins, would serve as the Chapel's first full-time minister. During the Reverend's tenure, the Chapel adopted a Constitution and bylaws, made structural improvements and was active in the surrounding community. The dedication of Faith Hall and addition to the original chapel took place on March 26, 1962.

Throughout the 1960s, the Budd Lake Union Chapel served the community, both locally and globally. The Women's Guild raised funds to improve the physical structure of the buildings, and the Chapel supported missionaries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 125 years, the Budd Lake Union Chapel has prospered enormously in order to unite the community and it will continue to do so for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to congratulate the congregation of the Budd Lake Union Chapel on this special anniversary year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, during the debate surrounding H.R. 2436, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, I was present on the House floor. When the yeas and nays were recorded for rollcall votes 463 and 464, the electronic voting device correctly recorded my vote as "no" and "aye" respectively.

On rollcall vote 465, the electronic voting device failed to properly record my vote due to what was later determined to be a malfunctioning vote card. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I was present and did vote "no" on rollcall 465; however, due to a defective voting card, my vote was not recorded.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I could not be present for rollcall votes 466 through 469. Had I been present for rollcall vote 466, I would have voted "aye"; for rollcall 467, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall 468, I would have voted "no"; and on rollcall vote 469, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING PEERLESS
ROCKVILLE ON ITS TWENTY-
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Peerless Rockville as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. This committed organization has advanced historic preservation in the community of Rockville, Maryland since 1974. The crowning event of this majestic year is the anniversary gala celebration scheduled for November 5th. I praise Peerless for their continuing advocacy on behalf of Rockville's historic resources.

The fundamental mission and goal of Peerless Rockville is the preservation of historic buildings, objects, and information important to

the heritage of this community. Historic structures across our nation too often crumble and fall into disrepair. Using education, advocacy, and community involvement, Peerless Rockville has worked to protect and strengthen many of these treasures in Montgomery County.

Peerless Rockville has been recognized for its emphasis on the preservation of neighborhoods and community. This year, the Maryland Historical Trust selected Peerless Rockville for a 1999 Preservation Service Award. This honor recognizes accomplishments that advance the public appreciation, understanding, and involvement in historic preservation at the local or regional level.

Over the past twenty-five years, Peerless Rockville has successfully protected much of Rockville's historic character. For example, the rescue of the adored Wire Hardware store would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Peerless Rockville. The organization has raised funds for the restoration of the Grand Courtroom in the Red Brick courthouse. They have researched and identified more than 400 historic sites in every neighborhood of Rockville. In short, Peerless Rockville has preserved the structures and traditions in their local community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer congratulations and my warmest wishes to Peerless Rockville as they celebrate this important milestone. May their leadership and devotion continue to enrich the community for many years to come!

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER
HUMMEL

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize an outstanding individual who is an exemplary role model for New Jersey and the nation, Father Donald K. Hummel.

As a result of 25 years of service to his community and the nation, Father Hummel is being presented with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award on Thursday, October 21, 1999. He is the first Catholic parish priest to ever receive this award—a truly amazing accomplishment.

Father Hummel currently serves as the Associate Pastor/Parochial Vicar at Saint Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, New Jersey in my Congressional District. He has dedicated his life to helping others by serving as the Police Chaplain in Westfield and as a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains and the Union County Coalition for Substance Abuse. He is also a teacher with Saint Helen's Christian Foundation for Ministry Program and serves as Eagle Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Father Hummel is truly an outstanding individual who deserves to be recognized. Therefore, I ask you to please join me in congratulating him on receiving the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and wishing him continued success.

PAUL-DOOLITTLE AMENDMENT TO
H.R. 3037

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an amendment I, along with my colleague, Mr. DOOLITTLE of California, are offering to H.R. 3037, the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill, to reduce funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) by \$30,000,000, increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by \$25,000,000 and apply \$5,000,000 toward debt reduction. Our amendment provides an increase in financial support to help local schools cope with the federal IDEA mandates by reducing funding for an out-of-control bureaucracy that is running roughshod over the rights of workers, and even defying the Supreme Court!

The NLRB has repeatedly proven itself incapable of acting as an unbiased arbiter for individual employees. Most recently the NLRB established a new nationwide rule that union officials may force employees to pay for union organizing drives as a condition of employment—directly contradicting several Supreme Court rulings!

It is an outrage that the tax dollars of working men and women are wasted on an agency that flaunts Supreme Court rulings in support of its forced-dues agenda—especially when local schools are struggling with the IDEA mandate that they provide a “free and appropriate” public education to children with disabilities.

Congress must make funding for schools and disabled children a greater priority than funding for a rogue federal agency. Therefore, I hope all my colleagues will support the Paul-Doolittle amendment to H.R. 3037.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
LARGO, FLORIDA AS A FINALIST
FOR THE INNOVATIONS IN
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AWARDS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the City of Largo, Florida in the Tenth Congressional District which I have the privilege to represent. The city has recently been named a finalist for the Innovations in American Government Awards and it is most fitting that we in Congress recognize this outstanding achievement.

In 1997, the City of Largo noticed a problem with its processing of evidence in domestic violence cases, which in turn resulted in a low filing rate for instances of spousal and child abuse. To respond to this critical problem, Largo launched a secure internet site to house evidence relating to domestic violence cases. This site is available to law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and judges, creating a much more efficient and effective way of handling domestic violence cases. The results have affirmed Largo's innovative initiative.

Since implementation of this program, the prosecution rate for domestic violence cases has increased from 16 to 50 percent.

This outstanding program deserves to be recognized by the Innovations in American Government Awards, and likewise deserves to be recognized by this Congress. We are all concerned about reports of domestic violence, and all of us in this House would certainly do whatever we can to put an end to this crime. That is why it is most fitting that my colleagues and I rise today to commend this aggressive program developed by the City of Largo.

Please join me in saluting our city's leaders and this outstanding program as they are honored with this prestigious award.

MILITARY COUP IN PAKISTAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the military coup in Pakistan is an unfortunate setback for democracy in South Asia. It stands in stark contrast to last month's elections in India, which reaffirmed that nation's strong commitment to democratic values.

Until democracy is restored in Islamabad, it would be a mistake for the Clinton administration to waive existing sanctions that prohibit arms transfers and military training. In addition, the administration should immediately take steps to invoke section 508 of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, which prohibits certain foreign assistance to any country whose duly elected head of government has been deposed in a military coup.

Democracy in Pakistan was far from perfect under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Indeed, his government severely limited free political expression and often failed to respect basic human rights. Nevertheless, the fact remains that Sharif and his party were supported by an overwhelming majority of voters in 1997 elections judged to be free and fair. The failings of his administration do not justify the military's subversion of the constitutional order.

At times the Clinton administration has gone out of its way to avoid triggering section 508. For example, Hun Sen's bloody 1997 takeover of the Cambodian Government, in which over 40 military and political leaders were killed, was never designated as a coup. Although Gen. Pervez Musharraf's recent coup was “bloodless,” and despite the fact that applying section 508 to Pakistan would only involve only a very limited amount of aid, we must send a strong signal to other would-be military strongmen that the United States will not tolerate such anti-democratic actions.

I urge the Clinton administration to promptly apply section 508 to Pakistan.

A TRIBUTE TO JODI SCHWARTZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great admiration for Jodi J.

Schwartz, an outstanding attorney and community leader who will be honored with the George A. Katz Torch of Learning Award from American Friends of the Hebrew University on October 19th.

Ms. Schwartz is a partner at the prestigious firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. As a widely-respected expert in merger and acquisition transactions, she has been at the center of some of the most important business arrangements of the decade, including AT&T's acquisition of MediaOne and TCI, USA Network's acquisition of Universal Studios, and AT&T international telecommunications' joint venture with British Telecommunications.

Ms. Schwartz brings to her professional challenges a powerful intellect, a deep commitment to the law, and a profound understanding of the global economy. These skills alone merit the applause and admiration of those who know her.

But Ms. Schwartz's accomplishments do not end at the bar. Indeed, her volunteer and community service efforts are just as impressive.

She has served on the Executive Committees of AIPAC, the Israel Policy Forum, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. In addition, Ms. Schwartz has been nominated to serve as an officer of UJA-Federation of New York.

Ms. Schwartz's devotion to the Jewish community and to the values of community service embody the admonition "Tikkun Olam"—repair the world. She is an inspiration to colleagues and friends, and a great credit to our Nation.

It is my pleasure to join in saluting Jodi Schwartz and in thanking her for so many outstanding contributions to her field and to our country.

HONORING THE PASADENA LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo as a celebration of our ranching and agricultural traditions that has inspired the Pasadena community for 50 years. The founders of the Pasadena Rodeo created the celebrated event in 1949 to bring the citizens of Pasadena together, offer opportunities for the community youth, and to preserve the lifestyle and moral convictions of an agricultural era that was quickly passing. I don't believe that the founders themselves fully realized to what extent their ambitions would be realized. Fifty years later, the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo is stronger than ever, bringing joy and togetherness to the community, especially to children, who learn that being a cowboy or cowgirl is to possess independence, compassion, and integrity. The code of the cowboy, which the Pasadena Rodeo has brought to life for generations, is that of a person who strives to preserve his honor and his self-respect while offering the same to others.

The forefathers of the Pasadena Rodeo such as J.W. Anderson, Edgar L. Ball, Jack J. Blankfield, C.T. Gary, L.S. Locklin, J.M.

Magruder, Jr., Rushing Manning, William E. Meyer, O.D., J.W. Nagel, J.C. Thomas, Sr., W.R. Turner, M.J. Wright, Frank S. Young, Jr., L.O. Zelgar, and Norman L. Zelman had a vision. They wanted to illustrate how the business community, the cowboy, and a rural lifestyle could work together successfully.

Today's Rodeo organizers and volunteers, including David Gresset, Bill Bezdek, J.J. Isbell, Mike Blasingame, Jay Goyer, David Ghormley, Rex Davis, Billy Don Ivey, LeRoy Stanley, Nanci Szydlak, Earl Baker, Frank Baker, Errol Slaton, Sherri Harnar, Karen Brown, and Rhonda Stevens take seriously this Texas legacy. Like their many dedicated predecessors over a half century, they too have fashioned an event celebrating good sportsmanship, regional music and agricultural know-how to help our youth understand that being a "cowboy" is not merely being a "bow-legged bronco-riding country boy," looking for a "rootin-tootin good time." Being a cowboy requires maintaining good business ethics, setting goals, and making decisions. For 50 years the Pasadena Rodeo has delighted our children and showed them that being a cowgirl or being a cowboy means following through on one's commitments, setting goals, and achieving those goals both personally and professionally.

Although the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo provides a wide range of entertainment during the year, the major function of the organization is to send as many of our community's graduating seniors to college as possible through the awarding of scholarships. That commitment to youth and to the power of education is a testament to the men and women who have carried on our Rodeo tradition 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people who have brought us the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo for half a century, and I thank them for their contributions toward ensuring our community, and especially our children, experience the joys and values of our longtime rodeo tradition.

SUPPORTING "BROADBAND" NETWORKS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 promised new investment in high-speed digital networks capable of sending and receiving huge amounts of data and information. These networks, known as "broadband," are far superior to dial-up technology that relies on modems and conventional telephone lines. Make no mistake, broadband networks are a critical part of the continued growth of the Internet. However, the promise of the Telecommunications Act has not been met. Thus far, the main beneficiaries of these state-of-the-art networks are almost exclusively downtown business centers. Broadband services simply aren't widely available to people and small businesses, like my constituents in the second district of Illinois.

I have reviewed letters and other communications from the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Western Illinois University,

the State Board of Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services as well as several community colleges and small businesses on this issue.

I am convinced that we need to take definitive and immediate steps to deal with the digital divide. If we don't we will be a nation of "haves" and "have nots." That's exactly what's occurring today and why I hope we will advance legislation to address this problem. As a matter of public policy, we should remove outdated regulations and encourage investment and competition by local telephone companies in the Internet's network backbone.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to our constituents to keep the promise of a bright technological future for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC ANDREW THACH

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Deputy Sheriff Eric Andrew Thach who was killed in the line of duty last week in Riverside, CA. Deputy Thach was born on March 19, 1965, in Van Nuys, CA. He was hired by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department on September 30, 1996. He served as a Deputy Sheriff assigned to Corrections, and then transferred to a field patrol assignment serving from the Jurupa Sheriff's Station.

On Friday, October 8, 1999, Deputy Thach, while investigating an in-home burglary, was shot and killed. Although his time in our community was short, Deputy Thach was known as an exemplary officer who lived his life with strength and courage. Our community is deeply saddened that he was taken from us so soon. He will live on in our memory. My thoughts and prayers go out to his widow, Evelyn; his daughter, Shana; and his colleagues, who mourn his loss.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement officers put their lives at risk every day to ensure the safety of our citizens. Deputy Thach paid the ultimate price for our safety with his very life. I am deeply honored to recognize Deputy Thach for his tremendous service and sacrifice for the citizens of Riverside County. His brave service to our community will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MYREL FRANK

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Myrel Frank. Mrs. Frank was born in Oklahoma City today, October 14 in 1899, the same year William McKinley was United States President and Oklahoma was still a territory. She graduated from high school in 1918, while the "Great War" raged on in Europe. And she married in 1920, the year Oklahoma Republicans elected their only majority in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives.

Mrs. Frank and her family moved to Yukon, OK, in 1935 where they weathered the Great Depression and watched as many fellow Oklahomans left the state, making the journey to the picking fields of California. Mrs. Frank, her husband and four children, however, stayed on in Yukon where she resides today.

Mrs. Frank has witnessed a century of our nation's history. Classroom and library textbooks can only provide so much historical detail for present and future generations. It is the oral history—the personal stories experienced and told by those who come before us—that truly makes our nation's history come to life. I thank Mrs. Frank for continuing to share her stories with us, and I extend my sincerest birthday wishes to her today on her 100th birthday. I hope that the years to come only add to an already impressive treasure chest of experiences and stories. Happy Birthday.

AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-chairman of the House Congressional Native American Caucus, it is an honor for me to introduce a bill creating an American Indian Education Foundation. I especially want to thank the original cosponsors of this bill; they include: Representatives PATRICK KENNEDY, GEORGE MILLER, TOM UDALL, J.D. HAYWORTH, EARL POMEROY and JIM KOLBE.

As a senior member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I have enjoyed the opportunity of developing proposals designed to support Indian education. Up for reauthorization this Congress is the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act that includes a section devoted to Indian education. This act supports the educational, cultural and academic needs of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children.

It is estimated that the BIA educates approximately 12 percent of the Native American K–12 population. This means that 88 percent of our American Indian and Alaska Native youth rely on supplemental educational programs like Johnson O'Malley. This program provides services to more than 200,000 Indian students. However, these programs are drastically underfunded.

A critical need for an increase in funding for school construction exists in Indian country. When I came to Congress 23 years ago, I was appointed chairman of the Indian Education Task Force. I will never forget visiting schools that were in such poor condition that the children of these schools could barely keep warm let alone have a chance at getting a decent education. I know that the judges in my hometown in Michigan shutdown prisons that were in better condition than many schools I visited.

Our Native American students deserve a decent education. It is our responsibility to ensure that our children are studying in environments conducive to learning. I support the creation of an American Indian Education Foundation because I believe Congress must find a new way to supplement current funding for BIA Indian education programs. The Foundation would encourage gifts of real and per-

sonal property and income for support of the education goals of the BIA's Office of Indian Education Programs and to further the educational opportunities of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

The governing body of the Foundation would consist of nine board of directors who are appointed by the Secretary of Interior for an initial period. The secretary of Interior and the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs would serve as ex officio nonvoting members.

Members of the board have to be "knowledgeable or experienced in American Indian education and . . . represent diverse points of view relating to the education of American Indians." Election, terms of office, and duties of members would be provided in the constitution and bylaws of the Foundation. Administering the funds would be the responsibility of the Foundation.

This bill would allow the Secretary of Interior to transfer certain funds to the Foundation. It is my understanding that the initial funding for the Foundation would come from existing donations or bequests made to the BIA. Funds prohibited by the terms of the donations would not be used for the Foundation.

The Foundation is not a new idea to Congress. Congress has, from time to time, created federally chartered corporations. In 1967, Congress established the National Park Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to raise funds for the benefit of the National Park Service. Funds received from individuals, corporations, and foundations are distributed to individual parks through competitive grants. My bill is modeled after the 1967 Act.

I believe that an American Indian Education Foundation could be just as successful as the National Park Foundation. I want to emphasize that I believe that Congress has a Federal trust responsibility to ensure that every Native American receives a decent education. This Foundation would not replace that responsibility, but would supplement it through grants designed to support educational, cultural and academic programs.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my remarks on creating an American Indian Education Foundation.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN
EDUCATION FOUNDATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be able to join my friend and cofounder of the Native American Caucus, Congressman DALE KILDEE, for the introduction of this legislation.

Over the past several years it seems to me that Indian Country has continually been on the defensive. Often tribes have had to struggle to simply keep the status quo against legislative proposals that would serve to undermine Tribal sovereignty and weaken the trust relationship.

Today can be different. Today we have a chance to do something positive for Indian Country. Right now we can begin a process where the hallmarks of treaty and trust are celebrated. We can offer Indian Country a dis-

tinct opportunity to improve the quality of life for future generations of Native children.

As I am sure the committee is well aware, the state of education in Indian Country is far below that of non-Native communities.

The per pupil expenditure for public elementary and secondary schools during the 1994–95 school year was over \$7,000. The Indian Student Equalization Program funding for BIA students was about \$2,900.

Unlike public schools which have State and local resources for education programs, Indian schools in the BIA are totally reliant upon the Federal Government to meet their educational needs.

According to the 1990 Census, the American Indian poverty rate is more than twice the national average as 31 percent of American Indians live below the poverty level.

The 1994 National Assessment of Education Progress showed that over 50 percent of American Indian 4th graders scored below the basic level in reading proficiency. Another NAEP assessment showed that 55 percent of 4th grade American Indian students scored below the basic level in mathematics.

American Indian students have the highest dropout rate of any racial or ethnic group (36 percent), and the lowest high school completion and college attendance rates of any minority group. As of 1900, only 66 percent of American Natives aged 25 years or older were high school graduates, compared to 78 percent of the general population.

Approximately one-half of BIA/tribal schools (54 percent) and public schools with high Indian student enrollment (55 percent) offer college preparatory programs, compared to 76 percent of public schools with few (less than 25 percent) Indian students.

Sixty-one percent of students in public schools with Indian enrollment of 25 percent or more are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, compared to the national average of 35 percent.

And finally, many of the 185 BIA-funded schools are in desperate need of replacement or repair.

Members of the Committee, it is clear from these statistics that there is a pressing need in elementary and secondary Indian education. My colleagues, this is a situation which must be met with fierce determination. We need to support an aggressive agenda for Indian education because the current landscape is not meeting the challenge.

Right now, the BIA and Office of Indian Education is not authorized to distribute privately donated monetary gifts or resources to supplement the missions of these agencies. Yet every year numerous inquiries from the public are made as to where they can donate funds that will be spent wisely on behalf of Indian education. Simply put, we are missing out on a unique opportunity to help funnel non-governmental resources into Indian education. Ultimately, I believe this legislation is the appropriate answer to this situation. We can give the public a high profile mechanism to reach out to Indian Nations in a way that is apolitical and noncontroversial.

Simply put, the establishment of an American Indian Education Foundation is good government. It speaks to a modern way of doing things in which successful private-public partnerships are created. It is also an efficient way to get at the heart of a very pressing problem without placing an undue additional burden on taxpayers.

Within 2 to 3 years after enactment of this bill the Foundation should be completely self-sufficient and will not use more than 10 percent of its generated funds to pay for operating expenses. My colleagues, let's be clear at the outset—the purpose of this legislation is not to create a new level of bureaucracy or make some staffer rich. In my opinion such a situation would be one more example of where this government has failed in its trust duty to Indian Country. In brief, it is my intention to hold the bureaucracy to the letter of the law that we are now beginning to draft.

As for the role of Congress I do want to make one thing perfectly clear. It should not be the intent of this legislation to use the funds raised to take the place of existing Indian education programs. Rather, these funds should be considered entirely separate and supplemental to the efforts of the Federal and tribal governments.

My colleagues, we all understand the budget shell game and I do not want to see the success of this program leveraged against governmental funding for teacher training, school modernization, and education technology initiatives.

In short, I do not want to hear one voice out there saying that we do not need to fund the Office of Indian Education because the Foundation has X amount of dollars in its account. To do so would again be another slight against our trust and treaty obligations to the First people of this Nation.

In the end, I want to reiterate the obvious. Indian Country is lacking in the resources needed to train its children for the demands of the global economy.

The 106th Congress has a chance to help rectify this problem. While we should continue to allocate more Federal resources towards the growing population of children within Indian Country we can also make it easier for private interests to become involved. Helping Indian children achieve is not only a public trust but a private one as well.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will move this legislation in an expeditious manner.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN'S
ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO CONFISCATE THE PROPERTY OF THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KHARTOUM

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, religious freedom and the lives of many faithful Christians are in grave danger in Sudan. The latest threat arise from the Sudanese government's planned seizure on October 16 of the headquarters of the Episcopal Church in Omdurman, part of greater Khartoum. These buildings, home to the Episcopal Church of Sudan since 1925, are occupied by clergy and lay people who will not leave until the matter is resolved. Christians in Sudan and their friends elsewhere have been called to several days of fasting and prayer, beginning October 15.

These buildings are being seized on a pretext, just as the government, which also refuses to grant permission to build any new churches in Khartoum, has illegally seized many other pieces of church property. Local Christians had taken to the streets to protest the planned seizure last month, and the government announced that it would give title to the property to the church. The government has since reversed itself and announced plans to go forward with the seizure. I fear the seizure will trigger violence or bloodshed. Unarmed clergy and lay persons holding vigil within the compound could be in harm's way.

The action by the government in Khartoum makes a mockery of its claims to respect religious freedom and human rights, and demonstrates, yet again, its intentions to continue to persecute Christians and Muslims who do not agree with the regime's particular brand of Islam.

The United States government has been active in opposing this kind of human rights abuse in Sudan, and I ask our State Department to continue to shine a spotlight on this kind of human rights violation. In addition, I call upon our allies and friends in the world community to intervene with the government of Sudan to stop these human rights abuses.

In particular, I challenge the governments of Canada and France, whose companies are helping to develop Sudan's oil reserves, to speak up boldly in defense of religious freedom and against these unjustified actions by the government of Sudan. Concrete actions by these governments to denounce these human rights violations may make the difference between freedom and oppression for these people, and possibly between life and death. The United States and the entire international community must not stand by in the face of persecution.

HATE CRIMES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to rise this evening to join my colleagues in calling on the Republican Leadership to bring hate crimes legislation to the floor of this House.

For too long, this House has failed to act in the face of the growing list of victims who have fallen to the culture of hatred that seems to be on the rise in this country. We have seen synagogues burned to the ground. We have seen James Byrd dragged to his death down a dusty road in Texas. And one year ago yesterday, we lost Matthew Shepard after he was beaten and left for dead on a cold night in Laramie, WY. And there have been too many stories, some that the Nation has not yet heard, of young men and women visited by untimely and violent deaths.

In Texas City, TX, Laaron Morris and Kevin Tryals were shot to death, one of their bodies left in a burning car, simply because they were gay.

In Ft. Lauderdale, CA, Jody-Gaye Bailey was shot in the head by a self-proclaimed

skinhead. Minutes before the shooting, her assailant ranted about his desire to kill her just because she was black.

In Sylacauga, AL, Billy Jack Gaither was beaten to death with an ax handle, his body set afire on a pile of burning tires, because he was gay.

In Kenosha, WI, two African-American teens were intentionally run down while walking on the sidewalk. Eight years earlier, their assailant had deliberately rammed a van carrying five African-American men.

In northern California, three synagogues were burned to the ground by two brothers who are also suspected of gunning down two gay men in Redding, CA.

Even as violent crime continues to decline in America, the awful list of hate crime victims continues to grow. According to the FBI, there were nearly 8,000 hate crimes committed in 1995 alone. From attacks on synagogues in northern California early this summer to the tear gassing of a gay pride parade in San Diego this past August, we have seen assault after assault on individuals because of their religion, their race, or their sexual orientation.

We are all appalled by these violent, hateful crimes. But how many more of our citizens have to fall to the epidemic of hate crime in this country before this House is compelled to act? We passed resolutions condemning hatred and racism. We came to the floor of this House and sent out thoughts and prayers to the families of the victims. We spoke of the loss of values in America. But a Nation's values must also be reflected in its laws. We should not just speak of our outrage. We should pass this legislation and help put a stop to acts of hatred.

Currently, the law only allows the prosecution of a hate crime if it is committed while the victim is exercising a federally protected right, such as voting or attending school. This law was written to address the challenge of segregationists attempting to prevent minorities from voting or going to school, it does not meet the challenge of today's hate groups that seek to terrorize entire communities with their violent acts. By passing the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, we empower federal prosecutors to assist local law enforcement in finding and punishing those who commit hate crimes based on a person's race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Hate crimes are not just assaults on individual victims, they are an assault on entire communities. The murder of one gay man is about attacking the entire gay community. Burning down a synagogue is about striking fear into the hearts of Jews everywhere. Let's call hate crimes what they really are—terrorism. When the supporters of hatred and division turn their thoughts into hateful acts, they need to know that we will come after them with full force of law and that they will pay for their crimes.

I want to thank my colleagues who came to the floor this evening to keep this issue on the national agenda. We will continue to fight for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and we will not stop until it is the law of the land. Let us do this in memory of the victims of hate crimes. And let's do it to ensure that we are not here this time next year, remembering the life of Matthew Shepard and mourning the loss of another 8,000 victims of hate crimes.

SENATE SHOULD PASS RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, this House passed H.R. 1691, the Religious Liberty Protection Act. The bill is currently in committee in the Senate and I would like to take this opportunity to urge our colleagues in the other house to pass this bill as soon as possible.

America is a secular democracy, a country where the religious rights of every citizen are protected by the Constitution. In many other countries, including some that call themselves secular and democratic, people do not enjoy these freedoms. We must do whatever we can to protect religious freedom for every American.

The Sikh religion requires Sikhs to have five symbols known as the "five Ks." The five Ks are unshorn hair (Kes), a comb (Kanga), a bracelet (Kara), a kind of shorts (Kachha), and a ceremonial sword (Kirpan). These are required by the religion.

In a recent incident in Mentor, Ohio, outside Cleveland, a 69-year-old Sikh named Gurbachan Singh Bhatia was involved in a minor traffic accident. When the police arrived at the scene, a policeman saw Mr. Bhatia's kirpan (ceremonial sword). He was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. The case is scheduled to be heard in December. In a case in Cincinnati involving similar circumstances, the judge, the Honorable Mark Painter wrote, "To be a Sikh is to wear a kirpan—it is that simple. It is a religious symbol and in no way a weapon."

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has been working to get the Religious Liberty Protection Act to protect the rights of Mr. Bhatia and all religious people of all faiths in America. No person should be harassed for his religious faith. He has written to Senator HATCH, who chairs the Judiciary Committee over there, and all members of the committee in support of this bill.

I call on the local authorities in Mentor to drop all charges against Mr. Bhatia and I also call on my colleagues over in the Senate to pass H.R. 1691, the Religious Liberty Protection Act.

I submit Dr. Aulakh's letter to Senator HATCH into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, October 7, 1999.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,
Washington, DC.

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO EXPEDITE PASSAGE OF
H.R. 1691 TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: On behalf of over 500,000 Sikhs, I am writing to you in support of H.R. 1691, the Religious Liberty Protection Act.

The Council of Khalistan represents the interests of the Sikh Nation in this country and worldwide. It was constituted by the Panthic Committee to represent the Sikh struggle for freedom. We have worked for the last 12 years in pursuit of this objective.

It is vitally important that the Religious Liberty Protection Act be reported out of committee and passed as soon as possible.

Charan Singh Kalsi of New Jersey was fired by the New York Transit Authority. The Transit Authority tried to force him to wear a hard hat instead of his turban, which he is required to wear as a symbol of his Sikh religion.

When a Sikh is baptized, he or she is required to have five symbols called the five Ks. They are unshorn hair (Kes), a comb (Kanga), a bracelet (Kara), a kind of shorts (Kachha), and a ceremonial sword (Kirpan). These are required by the religion.

Recently in Mentor, Ohio, Gurbachan Singh Bhatia, a 69-year-old Sikh, was involved in a minor traffic accident. The police were called to the scene of the accident. When the policeman saw Mr. Bhatia's kirpan (ceremonial sword), he was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. He is currently scheduled to go to trial in December. In a similar case in Cincinnati, Judge Mark Painter wrote, "To be a Sikh is to wear a kirpan—it is that simple. It is a religious symbol and in no way a weapon."

Mr. Bhatia and Mr. Kalsi are exercising their freedom of religion. The U.S. Constitution guarantees religious freedom to everyone. The Religious Liberty Protection Act will protect individuals like Gurbachan Singh Bhatia and Charan Singh Kalsi from being prosecuted and denied jobs for exercising their religious freedom. That is why this bill is so important.

On behalf of the Sikhs in America, I urge you to report the Religious Liberty Protection Act out so that it can be passed and become law as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING JUDGE MYRON
DONOVAN CROCKER**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Myron Donovan Crocker for his outstanding contributions to the community.

As long as there has been an Eastern District of California, there has been a Judge Myron Donovan Crocker. Judge Crocker was born in Pasadena on September 4, 1915 and was raised in Fresno. He attended Fresno schools and graduated from Fresno High School in 1933 and Fresno State College in 1937. He received his law degree from the University of California, Boalt Hall, in May of 1940. His first job was with the FBI in New York, first in Albany and then in New York City during World War II handling counter-espionage matters. Judge Crocker and his wife Elaine were married in New York while he was stationed there.

After the war ended, the FBI granted Crocker's request for a transfer closer to home and he was assigned to Los Angeles. In 1946, he entered private practice in Chowchilla and worked as Deputy District Attorney for Madera County. In 1951, he became Judge of the Chowchilla Justice Court, while continuing his private practice. He was appointed Superior Court Judge of Madera County in 1958, and remained there for only 1 year before his appointment to the Federal Bench.

Upon Judge Crocker's appointment to the Federal Bench on September 21, 1959, he

spent most of his time in Los Angeles and San Diego. At that time, the Federal court in Fresno was part of the Southern District of California. With redistricting in September, 1966, Judge Crocker became the Chief Judge of the Eastern District of California, and was the sole Federal judge in the Fresno district. His duties as Chief Judge included overseeing the completion of the Federal Courthouse in Fresno. Judge Crocker stepped down as Chief Judge in June 1967.

Although the caseload in Fresno grew quickly after redistricting, Judge Crocker still traveled frequently to sit on cases throughout the United States, including being in Washington, D.C. in 1968 when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Judge Crocker remained the sole Federal judge in Fresno until 1979, when an additional judgeship was approved and Judge Edward D. Price was appointed. In 1981, Judge Crocker took Senior status and Judge Robert E. Coyle was appointed in his place. As a senior judge, Judge Crocker has continued to take cases and has made himself available for high profile cases outside his district.

Judge Crocker is held in highest esteem by his peers, staff and the legal community for his legal ability, demeanor, kindness, and fairness. As a colleague stated, "He is held in universal affectionate esteem."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Judge Myron Donovan Crocker for his service to Fresno and the Eastern District of California on his 40th anniversary of service. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Crocker many more years of continued success and happiness.

RECOGNIZING MARPLE NEWTOWN
CARING COALITION**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand before you today to recognize the tireless and exemplary efforts of the Marple Newtown Caring Coalition. This organization brings together schools and the community as partners in order to work side-by-side for substance abuse prevention education.

During the week of October 23–27, the Marple Newtown Caring Coalition alongside numerous schools and community programs across the country will be participating in Red Ribbon Week. The goal behind Red Ribbon Week is to educate students of all ages from kindergarten through high school on the grave dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. The Red Ribbon Campaign first originated in 1985 after the tragic death of Special Agent Enrique Camarena of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in the battle against drugs. Red Ribbons are worn by school students as a symbol of intolerance against drug use and a commitment to a drug-free lifestyle.

On October 25th, Marple Newtown Caring Coalition will proudly host the Red Ribbon Week Celebration in my Congressional District. The presentation will bring representatives from over 10 elementary and high schools together to promote substance abuse prevention. This gathering of students of all

ages and different schools works to facilitate a bond between students and adults to achieve better communications for safe schools and communities.

I applaud Marple Newtown Caring Coalition's endeavors to educate the entire community on the necessity of drug prevention education not only for the future of our community, but also for the future of our children. The Coalition stands behind a proactive approach by bringing parents, teachers, students, law enforcement officers and community leaders together to strive toward a healthy, drug-free atmosphere in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is imperative we support and encourage students and adults working together to end the destruction of drug abuse and move towards a reality dominated by drug-free and alcohol-free students. I would like to ask my colleagues to support their local Red Ribbon weeks at schools within their districts. With organizations like the Marple Newtown Caring Coalition and our local schools around the nation, we can strike a serious blow in the fight against drugs.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF
MATTHEW SHEPARD

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the tragic death of Matthew Shepard should have marked a turning point * * * but tragically it didn't.

The hatred and the violence against gays and lesbians still exists today. These days it seems that anyone, whether they're gay or merely perceived to be, runs the risk of becoming the victim of a hate crime. That is why we must expand federal hate crime laws to include offenses based on sexual orientation.

Nationwide, scores of beatings and bashings of gays and lesbians have occurred, regularly reported by the gay press, but often ignored by the mass media.

Some of you probably haven't heard of a California gay couple who was murdered in their home this summer or the shooting of a gay man in Michigan earlier this year.

In a recent speech, Matthew's mom, Judy Shepard said: "For all who ask what they can do for Matthew and other victims, my answer is to educate and bring understanding where you see hate and ignorance, bring light where you see darkness, bring freedom where there is fear and begin to heal."

That is the message we should take to heart on this anniversary of Matthew Shepard's murder.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARC-SOUTH BAY

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special organization in my district, The ARC-South Bay. For forty years, the staff and volunteers of The ARC-South Bay have provided an invaluable service to the developmentally disabled.

The Southwest Association for Retarded Children (SWARC), now known as The ARC-South Bay, was founded on November 3, 1959. One of the organization's original purposes was to provide a wide variety of recreational and social programs for mentally retarded youngsters and adults in the South Bay area.

The mission of The ARC-South Bay has continued to broaden throughout the years. The organization now provides support to the families of individuals with mental retardation. They also set out to facilitate equal access to society for individuals with mental retardation.

The ARC-South Bay is a pioneer organization within the developmentally disabled community. They strive to enhance opportunities for growth and independence.

I commend the staff and volunteers of The ARC-South Bay for their efforts in improving the quality of life for individuals with mental retardation. Congratulations on this milestone, and I wish you continued success. The South Bay is grateful for your services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as is reflected in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I was granted an official leave of absence for Tuesday, October 12, 1999.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 493—H.R. 493 to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended the Hillory J. Farias Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act—I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 492—S. 800 to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act—I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 491—H. Res. 303 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and agree, as Amended, Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives urging that 95% of Federal education dollars be spent in the classroom—I would have voted "yes."

COMMENDING THE PENNSYLVANIA
FAMILY INSTITUTE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend the Pennsylvania Family Institute as it celebrates its Tenth Anniversary tonight. In those 10 years, the Institute has grown to be a strong and respected voice for the family in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The spirit of principled involvement that the Pennsylvania Family Institute encourages and engenders in Pennsylvania is to be applauded. Congratulations to the directors, staff and supporters of the Pennsylvania Family Institute for their work in service to Pennsylvania's families.

During my service in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, I had many occasions to work closely with the Institute's president, Michael

Geer, on issues of prime concern to Pennsylvania's families. From its very first days, the Pennsylvania Family Institute has taken effective stands in support of the sanctity of life, in defense of marriage, for academic excellence in our schools, and for the promotion of a more civil society. And its recent leadership against the expansion of gambling in Pennsylvania has helped protect many children and families from the addiction and devastation wrought by casino gambling.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. James Dobson, the guest of honor at tonight's Pennsylvania Family Institute 10th Anniversary Banquet, is an ideal man to speak, as Dr. Dobson has been a beacon of wisdom and insight for families around the world through his many books and his ministry at Focus on the Family. Here in Congress, I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Dobson on a number of family issues. His energy, principle and dedication are nearly unmatched.

Today, I also want to join the Pennsylvania Family Institute in remembrance of a true hero, William Bentley Ball, Esquire. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Ball for his exemplary dedication to the principles of liberty, fidelity to the Constitution and the defense of human life. Mr. Ball stood tall in defense of religious liberty and the right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children in a time when both were under great attack.

Again, my deep congratulations and best wishes to the Pennsylvania Family Institute for a terrific 10 years. I look forward to working with them in the years to come.

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK—OCTOBER
10-16, 1999

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, very soon an extraordinary individual, earth scientist, and mentor of many who followed in his field, Dr. J. David Love, born and raised in my home state of Wyoming, will receive the "Legendary Geologist Award" from the American Geological Institute, a federation of 34 earth-science societies with a collective membership exceeding more than 100,000 persons.

Some of Dr. Love's accomplishments include creating the modern geologic map of my home state of Wyoming, and the geologic map of Grand Teton National Park. My home state of Wyoming is rich in geologic wonders, and the people of Wyoming have a great appreciation the importance these maps and their value with regard to identifying geologic treasures, providing for the prudent use of our natural resources, hazard mitigation, and the expansion of our economy.

With this in mind, I introduced legislation earlier this year that will reauthorize the National Geological Mapping Act (NGMA), which established a highly successful cooperative program between the U.S. Geological Survey and Geological Surveys of the 50 states and U.S. Territories. The maps produced under NGMA auspices provide society with information useful for the abatement of natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions; the broad delineation of mineral potential, including groundwater resources, and candidate areas for waste burial

sites for land-use planning purposes, as well as a better understanding of "how the Earth works."

As such, I rise today to recognize the American Geological Institute's adoption of October 10th through October 16th, 1999, as "Earth Science Week." Earth Science Week was initiated last year by the American Geological Institute as a way to educate society about the Earth, the earth sciences, and the importance of earth scientists' work in solving the challenges we face with providing for the prudent management of our resources.

This week, an Earth Science Week activity is taking place in schools in every state, and to date, 25 states have made official Earth Science Week proclamations, including my home state of Wyoming.

Therefore, let it be known that:

Geology and the other earth sciences are fundamental to the safety, health, and welfare of the United States economy and its citizens.

The earth sciences are integral to finding, developing, and on serving mineral, energy and water resources needed for the Nation's continuing prosperity.

The earth sciences provide the basis for preparing for and mitigating natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides.

The earth sciences are crucial to environmental and ecological issues ranging from water and air quality to waste disposal.

The earth sciences contribute directly to our understanding and appreciation of Nature.

Geological factors of resources, hazards, and environment are vital to land management and land use decisions.

Mr. Speaker, our ever-changing world challenges us to wisely manage the earth and its resources. During this week, let us pay tribute to the important role that earth science plays in the economic success, safety, and welfare of this Nation.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, the September 21 earthquake that devastated Taiwan was a horror story. More than 2,000 people lost their lives, over 100,000 people were left homeless, and Taiwan's financial loss was in the billions of dollars. But the world reached out to Taiwan, delivering help quickly to this valuable member of the global community. The spontaneous outpouring of assistance to Taiwan and the earthquake's victims continuous today. Taiwan's government has been doing all that it can to help the victims of the earthquake, providing them financial and other forms of assistance to help them rebuild their lives, homes and businesses.

Despite the devastation of the earthquake, Taiwan has once again demonstrated to the world that it appreciates foreign assistance and has pledged to repay the international community whenever they can. Taiwan's comprehensive effort to help its people is a sound example of how a democracy keeps its citizens' welfare at heart.

Notwithstanding the earthquake. Taiwan has every good reason to be proud on its National Day. Taiwan appreciates its generous friends from other countries and its government and people are unified in their goal of rebuilding a modern Taiwan after the earthquake.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN OFFICERS IN TEXAS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday will be remembered as one of the darkest in the history of the town of Pleasanton in Atascosa County, TX. Three brave officers of the law fell in the line of duty. Two others received wounds. I rise to pay tribute to these men and their families for enduring the ultimate sacrifice. It is appropriate for all of us in this House to pause and reflect on this terrible tragedy.

While news reports are still coming in, the story appears to unfold as follows. Late Tuesday night, officers from the Atascosa County Sheriff's Department, the Pleasanton Police Department, and the Texas Department of Public Safety responded to what turned out to be a bogus call alleging a domestic dispute near Pleasanton, a small and close-knit community south of San Antonio. Two Atascosa Sheriff's deputies, first Thomas Monse, then mark Stephenson, arrived at the scene, only to meet a storm of high-powered gun fire from an assailant who made the phony call. The shooter, who had been out of jail only a few hours on a domestic abuse arrest, allegedly then took the deputies' own guns and executed them. These officers never had a chance.

Next to arrive on the scene was Texas state trooper Terry Miller, sent in to find out why the first two did not respond to calls from the dispatcher. He got there almost twenty minutes after Officer Stephenson and had just enough time to radio in the shooting of the first two deputies. But he too was shot and killed in the ambush.

When dozens of officers responded to Trooper Miller's call, the assailant, still hiding in some nearby underbrush, shot two more officers before he was surrounded. He then apparently took his own life as the two wounded officers were flown by helicopter for treatment in San Antonio.

This tragic event, during which over 100 rounds of ammunition were fired, leaves us in great sadness, with more questions than we can answer. We cannot bring back Officers Miller, Monse, and Stephenson, who bravely gave their lives to ensure that others would be safe. But we can honor their memory and convey our deep condolences to the love ones they left behind.

Officer Miller, the first Texas trooper killed since 1994 and the 74th trooper killed in the line of duty, leaves behind a wife and two children, ages 13 and 22 months. Officer Monse, a former Bexar County deputy, leaves behind a wife and four children. Officer Stephenson, who also served our nation in the military for

seven years, leaves behind a wife and three children.

To the two wounded men, Atascosa County deputy Carl Fisher and Pleasanton police officer Luis Tudyk, we wish the best in a speedy recovery.

This unfortunate incident sends a reminder to us all of the dedication of law enforcement officers who each day leave the security of their homes and families to serve those in need all across America. Their sacrifice keeps us free.

KHALISTAN LEADER DR. AULAKH TO BE NOMINATED FOR NOBEL PRIZE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, at the recent convention of the Council of Khalistan, held October 9 and 10 in New York, the delegates passed a resolution to nominate Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for the Nobel Peace Prize. I believe that he would be an excellent candidate.

Dr. Aulakh's organization leads the struggle to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, from Indian occupation. It is committed to peaceful action to achieve that goal. While the Indian government continues to murder, kidnap, and torture Sikhs, Dr. Aulakh has been a clear and strong voice for freedom.

Dr. Aulakh would be an excellent recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. I urge the Nobel Prize committee to act favorably on his impending nomination.

Mr. Speaker, I will place the Council of Khalistan's resolution nominating Dr. Aulakh for the Nobel Prize into the RECORD.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

PASSED AT THE CONVENTION OF THE COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN OCTOBER 9-10, 1999, RICHMOND HILL, N.Y.

Whereas Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has worked tirelessly to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan;

Whereas Dr. Aulakh is committed to promoting a Shantmai Morcha, or peaceful agitation, to liberate Khalistan, as well as free and fair plebiscite;

Whereas Dr. Aulakh and the Council of Khalistan have consistently rejected militancy as a means of liberating Khalistan;

Whereas Dr. Aulakh's efforts have helped to expose Indian genocide against the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and others; and

Whereas he has worked with the U.S. Congress, the American media, the United Nations, and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization to promote the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement for Sikh freedom;

Therefore be it Resolved by the delegates of this convention to the Council of Khalistan:

That we recommend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh for the Nobel Peace Prize; and

That his name should be submitted to the Nobel Prize Committee at the first opportunity.