

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE INTERNET GAMBLING PROHIBITION ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act of 1999, along with my colleagues, Representative FRANK LOBIONDO, Representative FRANK WOLF, Representative RICK BOUCHER, Representative JIM GIBBONS, and Representative VIRGIL GOODE. I look forward to working with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to see this legislation signed into law. I would also like to thank my friend in the other Chamber, Senator JON KYL for his leadership on this issue. The legislation that Mr. LOBIONDO and I are introducing today is similar to legislation which Representative LOBIONDO, and I introduced in the last Congress. I am also looking forward to working with Senator KYL, who has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

The Internet is a revolutionary tool that dramatically affects the way we communicate, conduct business, and access information. As it knows no boundaries, the Internet is accessed by folks in rural and urban areas alike, in large countries as well as small. The Internet is currently expanding by leaps and bounds; however, it has not yet come close to reaching its true potential as a medium for commerce and communication.

One of the main reasons that the Internet has not reached this potential is that many folks view it as a wild frontier, with no safeguards to protect children and no legal infrastructure to prevent online criminal activity. The ability of the world wide web to penetrate every home and community across the globe has both positive and negative implications—while it can be an invaluable source of information and means of communication, it can also override community values and standards, subjecting them to whatever may or may not be found online. In short, the Internet is a challenge to the sovereignty of civilized communities, States, and nations to decide what is appropriate and decent behavior.

Gambling is an excellent example of this situation. It is illegal unless regulated by the States. With the development of the Internet, however, prohibitions and regulations governing gambling have been turned on their head. No longer do people have to leave the comfort of their homes and make the affirmative decision to travel to a casino—they can access the casino from their living rooms.

The legislation I am introducing today will protect the right of citizens in each State to decide through their State legislatures if they want to allow gambling within their borders and not have that right taken away by offshore, fly-by-night operators. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act gives law enforcement the tools it needs to crack down on illegal Internet gambling operations by accom-

plishing two main goals: first, providing that anyone convicted of running an Internet gambling business is liable for a substantial fine and up to 4 years in prison; and second, giving law enforcement the ability to request cessation of service to web sites engaging in illegal gambling, with enforcement by court order if necessary. Additionally, the bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the effectiveness of its provisions.

It is also important to note that this legislation does not preempt any State laws, does not cover online new reporting about gambling, and does not apply to wagering over non-Internet closed networks in States that allow such activity. The bill simply brings the current prohibition against interstate gambling up to speed with the development of new technology, as the Internet had not been created when the original law was passed and thus is not covered by it.

Mr. Speaker, online gambling is currently a \$200 million per year business, and could easily grow to a \$1 billion business in the next few years. It is time to shine a bright light on Internet gambling in this country, and to put a stop to this situation before it gets any worse. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, which will keep children from borrowing the family credit card, logging on to the family computer, and losing thousands of dollars all before their parents get home from work, will do just that. I urge each of my colleagues to support the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of

the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of the Forest Service. During this long and at times difficult process, the Forest Service has given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without the Forest Service's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of the Forest Service who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

RICHARD A. WEILAND HONORED

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard A. Weiland, a well known Cincinnati civic leader, as he is honored by the Cincinnati Associates of the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion.

Dick has been a member of the Cincinnati Associates since the group's inception, and he has been a key part of its leadership. He currently serves as the Associates' Honorary Chair.

An energetic and committed community volunteer, Dick is involved in numerous civil and philanthropic activities. He serves on the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee; the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission; the Jewish National Fund Advisory Board; the Council of Jewish Federation's National Leadership; Jewish Federation of Cincinnati; Family Service of Cincinnati Advisory Board; and the Ohio Refugee Immigration Aid Committee. In addition to these challenges and many others, Dick has been active in the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, an organization I founded to combat substance abuse in the Greater Cincinnati community.

A Cincinnati native, Dick attended Walnut Hills High School, Williams College, and the University of Cincinnati College of Law. He

• 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.

and his wife, Marcia, have three children and five grandchildren.

All of us in Cincinnati congratulate Dick on receiving this prestigious recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC
SAFETY TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. This legislation will achieve two important public policy goals.

First, it will effectively overturn a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service which has declared as taxable income the waiving of fees by local governments who provide service for public safety volunteers.

Many local governments use volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police either in place of, or as a supplement to, their public safety professionals. Often as an incentive to would-be volunteers, the local entities might waive all or a portion of the fees typically charged for city services such as the provision of drinking water, sewerage charges, or debris pick up. Local entities make these decisions for the purpose of encouraging folks to volunteer, and seldom do these benefits come anywhere near the level of a true compensation for the many hours of training and service required of the volunteers. This, of course, not even to mention the fact that these volunteers could very possibly be called into a situation where they may have to put their lives on the line.

Rather than encouraging this type of volunteerism, which is so crucial, particularly to America's rural communities, the IRS has decided that the provision of the benefits described above amount to taxable income. Not only does this adversely affect the financial position of the volunteer by foisting new taxes about him or her, it has in fact led local entities to stop providing these benefits, thus taking away a key tool they have used to recruit volunteers. That is why the IRS ruling in this instance has a substantial deleterious impact on the spirit of American volunteerism. How far could this go? For example, would consistent application mean that a local Salvation Army volunteer be taxed for the value of a complimentary ticket to that organization's annual county dinner? This is obviously bad policy.

This legislation would rectify this situation by specifically exempting these types of benefits from federal taxation.

Next, this legislation would also provide paid professional police and fire officers with a \$1,000 per year tax credit. These professional public safety officers put their lives on the line each and every day, and I think we all agree that there is no way to properly compensate them for the fabulous services they provide. In America we have a tradition of local law enforcement and public safety provision. So, while it is not the role of our federal government to increase the salaries of these, it certainly is within our authority to increase their take-home pay by reducing the amount of money that we take from their pockets via federal taxation, and that is something this bill specifically does as well.

Mr. Speaker I am proud to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act, and I request that my fellow Members join in support of this key legislation.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE: A
TEEN CONFERENCE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about two young people from Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District who came to Washington this week to participate in the Voices Against Violence congressional teen conference. The Voices Against Violence conference, which was organized by the House Democratic Caucus, was intended to bring together young people from around the country to engage them in a constructive discussion about youth violence.

Most Americans have been shocked and distressed by the series of high-profile school shootings committed by young people over the last year. Our Nation's children are, sadly, the people most affected by youth violence. They are also often the individuals with the greatest insight into the causes of youth violence and ways to prevent violent acts in the future. The Voices Against Violence conference was intended to bring young people from across the country together to discuss youth violence—and to utilize their insights to develop innovative solutions to the problem of youth violence.

Over 300 young people between the ages of 13 and 19 attended the Voices Against Violence conference on October 19th and 20th in Washington, DC. President Clinton addressed the students, and then participants attended workshops with experts on teen violence, discussion groups about possible solutions, and skills training sessions to learn about violence prevention initiatives that have been found to be effective.

Two of my constituents, Zara Carroll and Jeff Smith, attended the Voices Against Violence conference with their parents. On behalf of my constituents and myself, I want to commend Zara and Jeff for their interest and involvement in this important issue. I hope that they found the conference to be engaging and informative, and that they will continue to work to help reduce violence and the threat of violence in their communities in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO CARL R. HILLIARD,
"ONE CAPITOL FELLOW"

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor a dedicated man and his career. In his thirty plus years of covering the Colorado Capitol for the Associated Press, Carl Hilliard proved himself to be a man of truth and integrity. During that time, I'm glad to say that I was fortunate to get to know him well.

His colleagues knew him as a man who cared not about being in the limelight, but a

man who took the time to get to know the story and the people behind it. Hilliard is a man of the West, a Renaissance man. His columns frequently received a lot of exposure throughout the country and rightfully so. They were witty, informative, and revealing. You could always count on Carl to be critical of the politicians at the Capitol, but at the same time compassionate and duteous.

As the dean of the Capitol Press corps, he was effective in reporting Capitol news. That role earned him a very laudable honor, being named as one Denver's 100 most influential journalists and the respect of his fellow journalists.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I honor this man who will truly be missed by his colleagues and those that enjoyed reading his column. For so many years, he has been a role model for young journalists and a pillar form which all journalists drew inspiration. I wish him well in his much deserved retirement. I look forward to continuing my friendship with him in the future.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF
DR. JOHN R. BISAGNO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and help celebrate the ministry of Dr. John R. Bisagno. After 30 years, Dr. Bisagno will be retiring from Houston's First Baptist Church.

John Bisagno was born on April 5, 1943 in Augusta, KS. He is married to Uldine Beck Bisagno. The Bisagnos have three children, Ginger Bisagno Dodd, Anthony Bisagno, and Timothy Bisagno, and five grandchildren.

Dr. Bisagno graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and received a doctor of letters degree from Southwest Missouri Baptist University and a doctor of divinity degree from Houston Baptist University, where the "Chair of Evangelism" is named in his honor.

In February 1970, Dr. Bisagno became the pastor of the 22,000-member First Baptist Church of Houston. He has authored 24 books, including the best seller "The Power of Positive Praying." He is the past president of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference and has gained national attention as a dynamic and effective crusade evangelist and Bible teacher. He was the first preacher on the Southern Baptist ACTS television network.

During the 30 years of Dr. Bisagno's ministry at First Baptist Church, the church relocated from downtown Houston, purchased property near the intersection of Interstate 10 and Loop 610 in Houston, built a worship center and education buildings now valued in excess of \$60 million and continues to be an integral part of the dynamics of Houston, TX.

Dr. Bisagno has announced that he will retire from the pulpit on Sunday, November 21, 1999. However, I am certain that John Bisagno will continue to be a Christian committed to spreading the gospel. When he retires from Houston's First Baptist Church, he retires to continue to be a significant part of the faith community in Houston, in Texas, in the United States, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. John R. Bisagno.

ALL SEGMENTS OF COMMUNITY
MUST WORK TOGETHER TO END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, our homes should be a safe haven where wives, husbands, and children are free from the fear of violence. In most homes in America, this is the case, but for far too many women and children this is not the case. The need to address this issue is something on which we can all agree.

I am pleased that increasing attention has been called to this issue and that there are numerous community organizations that have taken an active role in addressing this issue in their communities. Indeed it is in local communities where law enforcement and community organizations have gotten involved that we have seen the greatest success.

In fact, this weekend in my congressional district the Domestic Violence Coalition of Indian River County, Florida will be hosting a seminar on domestic violence in order to raise awareness and provide training for those who are committed to bringing this travesty to an end. At this seminar a host of community organizations along with law enforcement and local governmental agencies will make presentations directed toward raising public awareness and sharing professional expertise on domestic violence.

This Congress is due to consider the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. This act provides funding for some very valuable programs like domestic violence hotlines, shelters, law enforcement, and related training among other programs. I fully support the reauthorization of these programs and am pleased that many of the organizations participating in this event, like the Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club, support efforts to reauthorize and improve the effectiveness of this law.

Mr. Speaker I would also like to take this opportunity to bring to the members attention, related legislation that I have recently introduced in the House. My bill (H.R. 3088) would address one of the most heinous acts of violence to women in our society, sexual assault. Today, in many states the victims of sexual assault have no right to inquire into the HIV status of their assailant until after conviction of the assailant, and sometimes not even then. My bill would give the victims of this crime the right to know the HIV status of their attacker immediately after bringing charges.

Medical studies indicate that if anti-HIV drugs are begun within 48 hours of exposure to the HIV virus, the infection of the victim can actually be prevented. That is why it is so important that the victims of sexual assault be able to request the HIV status of their assailant as quickly as possible. It is literally a matter of life and death.

As a physician, husband, and father, I am deeply troubled that this is not already law in every state. For too long the rights of victims of sexual crimes have been sacrificed for the rights of criminals. No longer will the victims have to wait weeks, months or years for the crime to be fully adjudicated before they can find out if they have been exposed to HIV.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill as we seek to arrest the scourge of violence in our society.

TRIBUTE TO THE O'TUCKS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for four decades, the members of an organization known as the O'Tucks have dedicated themselves to serving our community and preserving the unique culture and traditions of Kentucky's Appalachian highlands.

If you're even remotely familiar with the rich and vibrant culture of Appalachian Kentucky, it shouldn't surprise you to learn that groups like the O'Tucks exist. But it might surprise you to find such a group thriving outside of Kentucky—in Butler County, Ohio.

The O'Tucks (as in "Ohioans from Kentucky") were founded 40 years ago by Mr. Stanley Dezarn, who was born in 1922 near the Goose Creek River in the Bluegrass State's Clay County. A lifelong educator and community leader, Stanley Dezarn founded the O'Tucks with a set of specific goals, which Ercel Eaton of the Hamilton Journal-News detailed last year: "to provide a common ground for exchange of ideas and experiences for people with common cultural and environmental backgrounds; to strive to preserve the rich qualities of folklore and music of the Appalachian highlands; [and] to work for the continuous improvement of the community by cooperating with and assisting civic leaders, organizations, and public officials in Butler County."

For years the O'Tucks have fulfilled these goals repeatedly and successfully in our community. They've enriched the lives of countless Butler County residents through their music and cultural events. But they've also contributed to our community through their service and spirit of volunteerism, which has helped more than a few of their fellow citizens realize the dream of getting a college education or pursuing a career in art, teaching, nursing and other fields.

Mr. Speaker, even after four decades of good times and good service, the O'Tucks have never strayed from the original goals of Stanley Dezarn. Fittingly, the O'Tucks will honor their founder late this month at their 40th anniversary banquet, and give thanks to Stanley Dezarn for his lifetime of dedication and service to the O'Tucks and the Butler County community.

Stanley Dezarn and the O'Tucks are an inspiration for all Americans. They're proof that what makes America a great society is not her strong government, or her time-tested institutions, or her mighty industries; what makes America great is the spirit and enthusiasm of her people. I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Stanley Dezarn and the O'Tucks organization for 40 years of distinguished service to the Butler County community and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON
OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL
PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT
POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Hotchkiss, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Hotchkiss' civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Hotchkiss' leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Hotchkiss who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

RECOGNIZING THE ST. JOSEPH,
MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven law enforcement officers from the St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department who

are being recognized with the National Association of Police Organization's prestigious TOP COPS Awards. These brave individuals are receiving these distinguished awards for their valiant efforts in protecting their community from an armed killer on November 10, 1998.

On that date, Sergeants Terry White, Steve Gumm and Billy Paul Miller, Patrolwoman Rebecca Caton, and Patrolmen Roy Wedlow, Henry Pena, Shawn Hamre and Bradley Arn, responded to a high-priority call to subdue an armed sniper who was randomly firing at vehicles attempting to cross a busy local intersection. The assailant fired approximately 200 rounds of bullets from his assault weapon, fatally wounding Officer Arn, before being shot and killed by sergeant Miller. Thanks to the quick response and undaunted courage of these brave officers, no innocent bystander lost their life as a result of this tragedy.

In addition, I wish to pay a special tribute to the family of Officer Arn. Survived by his loving wife Andrea and two-year-old twin daughters Molleigh and Mallorie, Officer Arn will be forever remembered in the hearts of the residents of St. Joseph for making the greatest sacrifices while protecting the community. He was truly one of America's finest, and I am honored to offer this tribute to him—as well as his family—today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the heroic acts of these brave law enforcement officers have not gone unnoticed, and I rise today to express my appreciation to them for their dedication in protecting the St. Joseph community. Each of these officers exemplify the finest of traits one must possess to be a member of the law enforcement community, and I congratulate them on receiving these awards.

HONORING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY
OF SMITH COUNTY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th birthday of Smith County, Tennessee, one of the most scenic and friendly communities you'll ever come across.

Smith County, the fifth county created in Middle Tennessee, was established by Private Act in October of 1799 and was named in honor of Daniel Smith, a Revolutionary War officer, surveyor and U.S. Senator.

Nestled among the gently rolling hills and the pristine fish-filled streams that meander through Middle Tennessee, the county is home to some truly wonderful folks, including Vice President AL GORE. The vice president's late father, Al Gore Sr., also called Smith County home and proudly represented the county and region in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as did another famous resident, Cordell Hull, who also served the nation as Secretary of State.

I congratulate the county's residents for their invaluable contributions to the state of Tennessee and the nation as a whole. Happy Birthday Smith County and thanks to its residents for letting me serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNT BALCHEN

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, October 23, 1999 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late great Norwegian-American pilot, military leader, and Arctic and Antarctic explorer, Colonel Bernt Balchen.

Bernt Balchen was born in Tveit, Norway, on October 23, 1899, the son of a physician with an ancestry of military leaders and sea captains. His love of nature and wildlife, his artistic talents, and his sensitive, discerning eye were revealed in his sketch books begun at an early age.

His love of outdoor life and sports was coupled with a keen spirit of adventure and discovery which was kindled when he met the great explorer Roald Amundsen, shortly after his successful expedition to the South Pole in 1913. This meeting fired young Balchen's imagination and determination to explore the mysteries of the Polar regions.

After completing his education in Forestry Engineering at Harnosand, Sweden, interspersed with practical work in Norway's lumber camps, Bernt Balchen underwent training in the Norwegian Army. At 18, he volunteered for service with the White Army in Finland, serving first in ski patrols and then in the cavalry. A Russian bayonet almost cost him his life. He confounded doctors who predicted he would be permanently incapacitated by later becoming a member of Norway's Olympic boxing team, then setting records in cross-country skiing and bicycling. He built a strong physique, great endurance, keen perceptions and the quick reflexes which were to serve him, and others, so well in the rugged life ahead.

Bernt Balchen's eyes turned skyward. He entered the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Force, graduating at the head of his class and receiving his wings in 1921. He became an instructor in navigation and participated in the planning of some of the first Arctic serial expeditions from Norway. While working on preparations for Amundsen's first flight across the North Pole in the dirigible *Norge* based at Spitsbergen, Balchen was directed by Amundsen to assist Commander Richard E. Byrd in equipping his plane with skis of Balchen's design. This plane was to be flown by Floyd Bennett, with Byrd as a navigator, in an attempt to reach the North Pole.

Impressed with Balchen's many skills, Commander Richard Byrd asked that Balchen be given leave from the Norwegian Naval Air Force and join his party on its return to the U.S. Balchen then became chief test pilot for the famous aircraft designer, Tony Fokker, joining the Fokker Aircraft Corporation at Teterboro, New Jersey. In 1927, Balchen was assigned to Western Canada Airways at Hudson, Ontario, to teach Canadian pilots how to handle ski-equipped planes—the beginning of "bush flying"—then to transport men, equipment and supplies from Cache Lake, Manitoba, the northern terminus of the Hudson Bay railway, to Fort Churchill, Manitoba, within a prescribed period of time. As one of the two pilots selected for the job, he flew an open cockpit plane during six weeks of savage weather, with temperatures hitting 65 degrees

below zero. In paying tribute to the importance of this operation, which was an important factor in changing the economy of Canada, the government of Canada stated, "There has been no more brilliant operation in the history of commercial aviation."

After the crash-landing of the plane *America* on a test flight in which the pilot Floyd Bennett was badly injured, Balchen became involved in preparations for Byrd's Trans-Atlantic flight in 1927. He was chosen to be a co-pilot, along with Bert Acosta. As harsh weather conditions developed on that flight, Balchen took over the piloting of the plane for 40 hours, and finally saved the lives of all aboard by making an emergency landing off the coast of France. Balchen subsequently became the third person to successfully fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1928, Balchen piloted one of the relief planes flying to the crash site of the German aircraft *Bremen* on Greenly Island, off Labrador. The next year he piloted now-Admiral Byrd across the South Pole in the *Floyd Bennett*—the first flight over the South Pole. In addition to his work as pilot for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition I, Balchen played a major role in designing equipment and working out problems in logistics, constructing snow hangars and other equipment. The following year, back in the U.S., he instructed Amelia Earhart and redesigned her aircraft for her successful flight across the Atlantic.

In 1931, through a special act of Congress, Colonel Balchen became a U.S. citizen.

Balchen served as chief pilot for the Lincoln Ellsworth Trans-Antarctic Expeditions (1933–1935). Upon completing this association, he returned to Norway to work in aviation and the development of the Norwegian Airlines, and the laying of the foundation for a united Scandinavian airlines system.

With the invasion of Norway by Germany, Bernt Balchen became associated with the British Royal Air Force in ferrying planes over the North Atlantic and in transport flights from San Diego to Singapore. He carried out the first flight from San Diego to Singapore.

In 1941, as the U.S. began to ferry bombers to England, Balchen was requested by General "Hap" Arnold to join the U.S. Army Air Force and to build a secret base in Greenland—code-named *Bluie West 9* (8W-8). From this base, Balchen and his men carried out spectacular rescues of downed American bomber crews by dogsled and plane, one of which involved a belly-landing of a PBY by Bernt Balchen on the ice—a feat never before attempted. In 1943, he led successful bombing missions against German installations on the east coast of Greenland; later, in Iceland.

In 1944, Balchen became the commander of the Allied Air Transport Command for Scandinavia and the USSR, with a secret base in Leuchars, Scotland. This became part of the Carpetbagger Operation (OSS), involving the organization of an air route to Sweden using civilian plan markings and unmarked, black aircraft used for flights into Norway to supply underground forces and to carry out bombing missions. Close to 4,000 Norwegians were safely transported through the Sweden air route to England. His command supported Norwegian forces and helped in the evacuation of 70,000 Russians from slave labor camps in northern Norway, as well as participating in the destruction of the German "heavy water" development center. The Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, the

Soldiers Medal and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters were among the many honors awarded to Bernt Balchen by the U.S. for his wartime service, in addition to high honors from Norway and Denmark.

Returning to civilian life in 1946, Balchen resumed work in the development of the Scandinavian airlines system, while working for DNL in Norway. Recalled to the U.S. Air Force in 1948, he took command of the 10th Rescue Squadron in Alaska. In 1949, he piloted the first flight from Alaska across the North Pole, landing in Norway—thus becoming the first pilot to fly over both the North and the South Poles. He served as a special assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force on Arctic Affairs, developing search and rescue techniques and equipment, defense concepts, and navigational systems for the transpolar route which was soon to be adopted by commercial airlines. He pioneered the building of the anti-missile base at Thule, Greenland, hailed for its strategic importance.

Through all the rugged years, Balchen's sketch pad and watercolor paints were close at hand. In 1948, however, inspired by the grandeur of the scenery and wildlife in Alaska, he began a serious study of watercolor painting techniques, acquiring a large collection of the best books on the subject. In 1953, he held his first one-man show in New York, in which 73 of his paintings won critical acclaim from critics because of their brilliant colors and thrilling scenes of the High North. This was followed later by one-man showings in other areas of New York, as well as other states and abroad.

Upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1956, Colonel Balchen was honored with the Distinguished Service Medal with a citation for "his understanding of the intricate Arctic conditions and for his firm leadership, extensive background and selfless devotion to duty." He was the holder of many other honors, including the Harmon International Trophy, awarded to him by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954, and the National Pilots' Association Award. He held honorary Doctorate of Science degrees from Tufts College (1953) and from the University of Alaska (1954). His writings included "The Next 50 Years of Flight," his autobiography "Come North With Me" (Dutton 1958), and a cookbook published in Norway.

Until his death on October 17, 1973, Bernt Balchen served as a consultant to the U.S. Air Force and to leading corporations, including General Precision and General Dynamics, on Polar and Arctic matters, on energy problems and defense considerations.

In addition to Bernt Balchen's being honored by the 70,000 members of the Sons of Norway, Alaska's Governor, Tony Knowles, proclaimed October 23, 1999 as "Polar Flight Day." Furthermore, the Alaska Legislature as well as the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska proclaimed October 23, 1999 as "Bernt Balchen Day," a fitting tribute to this outstanding Norwegian-American on the anniversary of his 100th birthday.

Bernt Balchen is buried in Arlington Cemetery alongside Admiral Byrd. During the interment services, a red-tipped C-54 from his former Alaskan Command flew over Arlington Cemetery in a touching farewell.

Balchen's headstone at Arlington Cemetery reads: "Today goes fast and tomorrow is almost here. Maybe I have helped a little in the change. So I go on to the next adventure,

looking to the future but always thinking back to the past, remembering my teammates and the lonely places I have seen that no man ever saw before."

Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 1999, I ask that my colleagues pause to remember Colonel Bernt Balchen, a true hero who made significant contributions to the security of both Norway and the United States.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Olathe, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Olathe's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Olathe's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Olathe who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

ON THE OCCASION OF NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important date in the Florida educational community. Nova Southeastern University, Florida's largest independent university, will celebrate its 35th anniversary on December 2nd, 1999. This event, entitled "Celebration of Excellence," promises to showcase the outstanding achievements of NSU students and alumni alike, and I am honored to be a part of this joyous occasion.

Through Nova Southeastern University's quality educational programs, the university has made an immense contribution to the personal and professional advancement of thousands of Florida residents. In addition, NSU provides a wide range of community services and programs for the benefit of South Florida residents. Working to bring new skills and knowledge to the community around it, the work of Nova Southeastern University ultimately benefits Florida residents of all ages.

"Celebration of Excellence" is also notable because it features the fifth anniversary of the merger of Nova University and Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to form NSU in its current state. This synergistic merger of the two schools has resulted in the development of some of Florida's most impressive medical and health care education programs. Indeed, these programs benefit the entire community's health and well-being.

Nova Southeastern University has set itself apart in its ability to form partnerships with other educational institutions, state and local agencies, and community organizations. These successful cooperative efforts enhance local access to advocacy, counseling, health care, rehabilitative and other human services, raise community awareness on existing services and resources, and provide a valuable form to identify and address unmet local needs. It is without hesitation that I say that Nova Southeastern University has had a tremendous impact on the life of all South Floridians.

Mr. Speaker, Nova Southeastern University has spent the last 35 years demonstrating its strong commitment to the well-being and education of the Florida community. I am extremely proud to celebrate this anniversary with administration, students, and alumni of NSU. Reflecting on their success of the past, I wish everyone at NSU the best as the university turns its eyes to the immediate future.

RECOGNIZING THE 1999 RECIPIENTS OF THE MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, this year the Michigan Women's Historical Center will induct ten members into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. These remarkable individuals from

the past and the present have made noteworthy inroads in expanding opportunities and creating greater equality for Michigan women. Tonight at the Sixteenth Annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner, each of these individuals will be recognized for their significant contributions. I would like to congratulate the 10 new Hall of Fame members and thank them for blazing a trail for women to follow in future.

Contemporary Honorees include writer and humanist Doris DeDeckere; nature columnist Margaret Drake Elliot; Elizabeth Homer, who has fought for educational and professional equality for women; and Sister Ardeth Platte, who has committed her life to social justice and eliminating violence.

Historical Honorees include Patricia Beeman, a member of the Southern African Liberation Committee, who fought to educate Michiganites on apartheid in South Africa; the first woman minister in the United States, Olympia Brown, the first woman to head the Detroit Police Department's Women's Division, Eleonore Hutzel; dietitian, writer and child advocate Ella Eaton Kellogg; and Emily Burton Ketcham, a Grand Rapids woman who fought for women's right to vote.

Dr. Peter T. Mitchell, President of Albion College, was recognized with the Phillip A. Hart Award for his contributions nationally to improving educational opportunities for women.

STUDENT RESULTS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2) to send more dollars to the classroom and for certain other purposes:

Mr. FORBES. Madam Chairman, efforts to achieve gender equity have made herculean strides in the past 25 years, but now is not the time to look back with nostalgia and congratulate ourselves on how far we've come. We must look to how far we still have to go to ensure that everyone has equal access to the opportunities presented by the 21st century, as well as the means to meet the challenges of the new economy. The Women's Educational Equity Act is a key to unlock that door. The Act has focused on combating gender bias in the classroom, and provided funds to programs that train teachers and supply instructional materials to encourage girls to pursue careers and instruction in those areas that will drive our commerce in the future—math, science, engineering and technology.

Since the implementation of the act in 1974, girls have improved in areas such as math and science, but they have been left behind in learning the technological skills needed to compete in tomorrow's economy. The new global economy demands these skills. Technological literacy is essential for success in the workforce. Next year, 65 percent of jobs will require some technological skills. Why, then, do a very small percentage of girls take computer science courses? Of the girls that do participate in computer classes, they tend to

cluster in lower-end data entry and word processing classes. Boys, on the other hand, continue on to higher-skill, more challenging computer courses such as computer programming and problem-solving. We cannot afford, as a nation, to waste such a precious resource in this way.

The trend in educational initiatives is to give every student access to a computer and the Internet by the year 2000. These computers and the Information Highway have become as essential to the learning process as pencils and paper. We must ensure that girls in the classroom are equal partners in these opportunities and that teachers recognize and encourage their participation in technological training.

While steps have been made in narrowing the gender gap, girls and young women still encounter barriers in the classroom. Congress has an obligation to ensure that all students attain the highest standards and obtain the resources and tools needed to succeed in the new millennium. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of including this act as an amendment to the Student Results Act, H.R. 2.

IN HONOR OF MR. GUILLERMO ESTEVEZ ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Guillermo Estevez, Director of the New Jersey Office of the International Rescue Committee, for 20 years of dedicated service, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the organization.

From volunteer to Director, Mr. Estevez has had a remarkable career with the International Rescue Committee, Inc. Mr. Estevez and IRC provided assistance to more than 25,000 refugees from all over the world in the quest for freedom.

Since his arrival in the United States in 1979, Mr. Estevez has been a pro-active leader in the human rights struggle in Cuba. A political prisoner himself, who served more than 20 years in the jails of Communist Cuba, Mr. Estevez has firsthand knowledge of the flagrant disregard for civil and human rights on the island.

Over the years, Mr. Estevez has spearheaded many marches and demonstrations against the Communist Regime in Cuba. Through the streets of New York City, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Miami, Tampa, New Orleans, and various cities in my home State of New Jersey, Mr. Estevez has been instrumental in shining a light on the too often overshadowed abuses in Cuba.

In Mr. Estevez's fight for a free and democratic Cuba, he founded, organized, and served as first General Coordinator of the Cuban Civic Committee. Mr. Estevez's efforts were rewarded when he was recently named to the Free Cuba Task Force by the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Estevez was the first Hispanic member of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey State Prison Complex and was a member of

the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Committee of the Hudson County Human Services Advisory Committee.

For his remarkable contributions to the fight against civil and human rights violations, specifically in regard to the fight against the Cuban Communist Regime, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Estevez on a truly exceptional career and to wish him luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

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Included in this group are the good people of Paonia, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Paonia's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Paonia's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Paonia who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation to address the gaps, errors, and oversights in current law that impede the ability of battered immigrant women to flee violent relationships and survive economically. The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 1999 would restore provisions that allow battered women, who are entitled to permanent residency, to file their own application for immigrant status without requiring the cooperation of their abusive spouses. It would also allow them to remain in the United States while awaiting their green cards.

This legislation would also ensure that battered immigrants with pending immigration applications are able to access public benefits, food stamps, SSI, housing, work permits and immigration relief.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and domestic violence has grown to epidemic proportions. It is the single largest cause of injury to women in the United States. It is in every neighborhood and community throughout our Nation. Domestic abuse does not discriminate. Rural and urban women of all religious, ethnic, economic, and educational backgrounds; of varying ages, physical abilities, and lifestyles can be affected by domestic violence.

A woman's reasons for staying in an abusive relationship are more complex than a statement about her strength of character. In many cases, it is dangerous for a woman to leave her abuser. On average, a typical battered woman attempts to leave her abusive relationship five to seven times before she achieves permanent separation from her batterer.

This pattern indicates that battered women often lack adequate independent living and employment options. We must take the next step toward creating real solutions to the continuing problem of domestic violence. We must help women and families achieve economic self-sufficiency so that they are able to escape their violent relationships and secure protection.

Sadly though, in addition to the lack of adequate housing and employment options for many victims of domestic abuse, immigrant women and their children who suffer every day at the hands of abusers face one more threat—the threat of deportation. Battered women often experience shame, embarrassment and isolation. For immigrant women, who often have no family support and whose immigration status is tied to the abusers, it is even more difficult. In more ways than one, they are held hostage by their abusers.

The bill would expand legal protections for battered immigrant women so that they may flee violent homes, obtain court protections, and cooperate in the criminal prosecution of their abusers without fear of deportation.

It also ensures that women who are victims of terrible crimes, such as rape, incest, torture, battery, sexual assault, female genital mutilation, and forced prostitution, can remain temporarily in the United States. These women would then be able to apply for lawful permanent residency at a later date. Giving these

victims this opportunity to remain in the U.S. is an important step in the efforts of law enforcement to protect the victims and prosecute and investigate cases of domestic abuse and trafficking of aliens.

I'd like to share the story of "Celeste" to illustrate the dire need for this legislation.

Celeste was born in Mexico. She met her husband, Ronaldo, a lawful permanent resident of the United States in 1991. They immediately began dating and fell in love. Four months later, they married, and Celeste moved with her husband to Chicago.

For the first five months things went well. Celeste became pregnant, but soon after, things began to change. He suddenly became unpredictable and controlling. He began to abuse Celeste.

Celeste feared for her safety and that of her son. Ronaldo had promised to file a visa petition for Celeste when she came to the United States, but then refused to keep his promise unless she paid him a lot of money.

Celeste was left with only two choices: report the abuse to the police and face certain deportation or say nothing and live with the abuse.

If this critical piece of legislation is passed, thousands of women around the country like Celeste will be able to leave their abusive spouses and petition for citizenship on their own. Additionally, they will be authorized to work and will have access to basic services like transitional housing and counseling to help them get on their feet.

There is no reason to wait. We must act now to end the injustice, solve this problem, and help these women and their children. It is wrong to stand idly by as battered women and their children are forced to choose between a black eye and broken arm or a one-way ticket out of the country.

I submit the following summary of the bill.

**BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN PROTECTION
ACT OF 1999**

The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 1999 continues the work that began with the passage of the first Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994. Prior to VAWA 1994, abusive citizens and permanent residents had total control over their spouse's immigration status. As a result, battered immigrant women and children were forced to remain in abusive relationships, unable to appeal to law enforcement and courts for protection for fear of deportation.

VAWA 1994 immigration provisions remedied the situation by allowing battered immigrants to file their own applications for immigration relief without the cooperation of their abusive spouse, enabling them to safely flee violence. Despite the successes of the immigration provisions of VAWA 1994, subsequent legislation drastically reduced access to VAWA immigration relief for battered immigrant women and their children.

This bill seeks to restore, improve implementation of and expand access to a variety of legal protections for battered immigrants so they may file violent homes, obtain court protection, cooperate in the criminal prosecution of their abusers, and take control of their lives without the fear of deportation.

Under current law, many battered immigrants are forced to leave the US to obtain their lawful permanent residence. Leaving the US may put women at risk of violence from their abusers and would deny them the protection provided by courts, legislation, custody decrees, and law enforcement. This bill will allow battered immigrant women

and children to obtain permanent immigration status without leaving the U.S.

The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act would:

Allow for adjustment of status for VAWA self-petitioners, thus allowing women to remain in the U.S. while awaiting their green cards;

Prevent changes in abuser's status from undermining victim's petitions;

Provide for numerous waivers and exceptions to inadmissibility for VAWA eligible applicants;

Improve access to VAWA for battered immigrant women who are married to members of the armed forces, married to bigamists, and victims of elder abuse;

Allow for discretionary waivers for good moral character determinations;

Give VAWA applicant access to work authorization;

Protect certain crime victims including crimes against women;

Allow VAWA applicants access to food stamps, SSI, housing and legal services;

Train judges, immigration officials, armed forces supervisors and police on VAWA immigration provisions;

Provide permanent immigration status for immigrant victims of elder abuse.

**IMF SHOULD PAY INTEREST ON
ALL U.S. FUNDS USED**

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, under legislation I am introducing today, the International Monetary Fund [IMF] would have to pay interest on all the U.S. reserves it taps, or face a cut-off of future U.S. funds. The failure of the IMF to pay full interest to the U.S. has been estimated to cost a cumulative \$2.7 billion, or \$150 million annually. This fleecing of the taxpayer should be ended before any further U.S. funds are even considered for the IMF. No U.S. approval of IMF gold sales, credit lines, or quota increases should be considered until the U.S. is fully and fairly compensated for its current financial support of IMF operations.

The IMF's failure to pay interest on all U.S. reserves is another one of many inconvenient facts that has never been disclosed or explained to the U.S. Congress or to the public. It provides yet another example of the lack of transparency so characteristic of the IMF and its activities. The disclosure of this failure of the IMF to pay interest on all U.S. reserves is one result of the Joint Economic Committee research program on the IMF. The JEC finding was recently confirmed and quantified in an important new General Accounting Office [GAO] report, "Observations on the IMF's Financial Operations."

These interest costs to the U.S. also highlight the implausibility of the Administration's oft-repeated arguments that the IMF does not cost taxpayers a dime, and that the U.S. must pay its fair share to the IMF. The U.S. already provides over one-quarter of the IMF's usable resources, but it is the IMF that is short-changing the U.S., not the other way around. U.S. taxpayers have been more than generous to the IMF, a specialized agency of the United Nations Organization.

There can be little doubt that very few members of Congress would defend the current

IMF practice that has cost the U.S. \$2.7 billion to date. Although many issues involving the IMF are controversial, the IMF's full and fair payment of interest on all U.S. reserves provided is one area in which wide agreement should be possible. The current IMF practice of shortchanging the U.S. simply is not defensible.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OAK HARBOR HOTEL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise today to pay tribute to a special event taking place this weekend in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Beginning today and continuing through Sunday, October 24, 1999, the Oak Harbor Hotel will celebrate its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

In the final year of the Nineteenth Century, the Keubler Brewing Company of Sandusky decided to take an enormous step and build a hotel in Oak Harbor, Ohio. With a new railway line linking Toledo to points in the east, the hotel would be used to serve the many who came through Oak Harbor in search of a restful night's lodging. The three-story hotel, complete with its thirty-four rooms, lounges, and dining rooms, has served many travelers in the last one-hundred years. Its very presence in Oak Harbor and its grandiose appearance make it a truly remarkable building.

For the past century, the Oak Harbor Hotel has long been a centerpiece of this wonderful community. Located on the shores of Lake Erie, the Oak Harbor Hotel continues to fill its rooms to capacity with travelers throughout the year. Its history is long and its décor is breathtaking. Through all its changes—from operating the first telephone in town to housing the area Post Office—this elegant and vibrant hotel has remained strong in its service and dedicated to those who occupied its rooms.

Mr. Speaker, the Oak Harbor Hotel symbolizes all that is good in our communities—grace, elegance, and beauty. Over the last one-hundred years, the Oak Harbor Hotel has hosted many community groups, organizations, and clubs. In fact, the Rotary Club has met there nearly continuously since 1941. With its spacious and stylish dining, reception rooms, and state-of-the-art kitchen, the Oak Harbor Hotel is often the site of wedding rehearsals and receptions, banquets, and community events.

Mr. Speaker, the individuality of our culture and the warmth of our spirit are embodied in our communities and places like the Oak Harbor Hotel. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Oak Harbor Hotel on its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report of H.R. 2670, the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill for FY 2000. This legislation fails to provide for adequate funding for many issues important to the safety of our communities and our families. Programs such as the President's Community Oriented Policing initiative requires full funding to put more officers in our neighborhoods and on our streets to safeguard our children. I am also disappointed that Conference did not include legislation that would have expanded the definition of hate crimes to include acts committed against a person based on sexual orientation, gender or disability. Furthermore, I oppose this Conference Report because it also does not include any federal reimbursement to the Territory of Guam for taking on the federal responsibility to detain illegal aliens seeking asylum in the United States. In this first half of this year alone, Guam has spent more than \$8 million in behalf of the Immigration and Naturalization Service for housing illegal aliens attempting to enter the U.S. through Guam. From this month until the end of the year, an additional \$5 million will be spent.

In recent years, Guam has been subject to illegal immigration from Asian countries, particularly from the People's Republic of China, partly because of the Asian economic crisis. In just the first four months of 1999, Guam was the recipient of more than 700 Chinese illegal aliens seeking political asylum in the United States. Never before had Guam experienced such a surge of illegal immigration from Asia. This surge depleted INS financial resources on Guam and forced the Government of Guam to incur detention costs to our local correctional facility, which is already overcrowded, at a cost of nearly \$45,000 per day for more than 430 current alien detainees.

Since the start of the year, I along with Governor of Guam Carl Gutierrez, have been working with the Clinton Administration to address the surge of illegal immigration from China. With their cooperation and also with the collaboration of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, illegal immigration—for now—has slowed. However, there remains more than 430 alien detainees that are housed in Guam's correctional facility awaiting for the INS asylum process to run its course.

Illegal immigration into the United States is a federal responsibility. Because of Guam's proximity to Asia, it is incumbent that federal agencies assist the Government of Guam in combating this serious problem on our shores. Guam's size of only 212 square miles and a population of 150,000 does not lend itself to unexpected and significant increases in the immigrant population. Any increases translate into serious social and financial repercussions because our resources have been strained by the Asian economic crisis and we do not have

alternative resources available for non-criminal immigrants that are available on the U.S. mainland to supplement federal resources.

I believe that special budget requests from U.S. Territories in Congress are perhaps the greatest challenges territorial delegates face during our terms in office. Our needs and our states are often misunderstood because our distances from the mainland U.S. are great. Apart from federal programs that both states and territories can participate, any other requests outside of the norm can be a frustrating ordeal. We are vulnerable to federal interagency differences about how to treat the territories as well as having little leverage during the appropriations process.

I am appreciative for the collaboration and support of the President for including reimbursement for Guam as part of his Administration's priorities during the appropriations process. I remain confident that the President is committed to reimbursing Guam for shouldering the costs of the federal government's responsibility and I remain committed to working with my colleagues to ensure that Guam is reimbursed for all past, present and future costs related to the detention of illegal aliens on Guam.

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects, and for other purposes.

Coral reef ecosystems are the marine equivalent of tropical rain forests, containing some of the planet's richest biological diversity and supporting thousands of species of fish, invertebrates, algae, plankton, sea grasses and other organisms. The reef itself is composed of the massed calcareous skeletons of millions of sedentary, living animals (the corals). Coral reef communities are both exceptionally productive and diverse. Although coral reefs cover less than 1 percent of the Earth's surface, fully one-fourth of all ocean species live in or around the reefs of the world, including 65 percent of marine fish species. Southeast Asian reefs alone support an estimated 5 to 15 times the number of fish found in the North Atlantic Ocean. Reefs surrounding the Pacific island of Palau contain 9 species of sea-grass, more than 300 species of coral and 2,000 varieties of fish.

Coral reefs have great commercial, recreational, cultural and esthetic value to human communities. They supply shoreline protection, areas of natural beauty, and sources of food, pharmaceuticals, jobs and revenues through activities such as education, research, tourism and fishing. Coral reef ecosystems provide the main source of animal protein for more than 1 billion people in Asia.

Studies indicate that coral reefs in the United States and around the world are being degraded and severely threatened by human and environmental impacts. Land-based pollution, over-fishing, destructive fishing practices, vessel groundings, and climate change all affect coral reef ecosystems. Of particular concern is the effect of multiple impacts on coral

reef health. With increases in ocean temperatures, development in coastal areas surrounding coral reefs, and continued over-fishing, more and more reef ecosystems are showing signs of profound stress. These indicators include widespread bleaching events, when corals lose the ability to grow, and evidence that coral diseases such as black band disease, white band disease, and aspergilliosis are increasing in frequency and extent.

Since 1994, under the United States Coral Reef Initiative, Federal agencies, State, local and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations, and commercial interests have worked together to design and implement management, education, monitoring, research, and restoration efforts to conserve coral reef ecosystems.

The year 1997 was recognized as the Year of the Reef to raise public awareness about the importance of conserving coral reefs and to facilitate actions to protect coral reef ecosystems. On October 21, 1997, the 105th Congress agreed to House Concurrent 8, a resolution recognizing the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems by promoting comprehensive stewardship for coral reef ecosystems, discouraging unsustainable fisheries or other practices harmful to coral reefs, encouraging research, monitoring, assessment of, and education on coral reef ecosystems, improving coordination of coral reef efforts and activities of federal agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and industry, and promoting preservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources worldwide.

The year 1998 was declared the International Year of the Ocean to raise public awareness and increase actions to conserve and use in a sustainable manner the broader ocean environment, including coral reefs. Also in 1998, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13089 which recognizes the importance of conserving coral reef ecosystems, establishes the Coral Reef Task Force under the joint leadership of the Departments of Commerce and Interior, and directs Federal agencies whose actions may affect United States coral reef ecosystems to take steps to protect, manage, research and restore these ecosystems.

The bill would make it the policy of the United States to (1) conserve and protect the ecological integrity of coral reef ecosystems; (2) maintain the health, natural conditions, and dynamics of those ecosystems; (3) reduce and remove human stresses affecting reefs; (4) restore coral reef ecosystems injured by human activities, and (5) promote the long-term sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems.

The purposes of this legislation are to (1) preserve, sustain, and restore the health of coral reef ecosystems; (2) assist in the conservation and protection of coral reefs by supporting conservation programs; (3) provide financial resources for those programs; and (4) establish a formal mechanism for collecting and allocating monetary donations from the private sector to be used for coral reef conservation projects.

The bill establishes a Coral Reef Restoration and Conservation Program through the Secretary of Commerce. This program will provide funding for projects that: (1) restore degraded or injured coral reefs and their ecosystems, including developing and implementing cost-effective methods to restore or

enhance degraded or injured coral reefs; or (2) for the conservation of coral reefs and their ecosystems through mapping and assessment, management, protection, scientific research, and monitoring. These projects would be funded 75 percent by the Federal Government, and 25 percent by the non-Federal partner. The non-Federal partner's share could be an in-kind contribution.

The bill also authorizes a national program through the Secretary of Commerce to further the conservation of coral reefs and their ecosystems on a regional, national or international scale, or that furthers public awareness of and education about coral reefs on these broader scales. The activities under this program should supplement the programs under existing federal statutes.

For the past two centuries, abandoned vessels have damaged coral reefs to the detriment of our nation. Often times the owners of the vessels are unable or unwilling to pay for the damage these vessels cause. Section 8 of this bill is designated to address this problem by prohibiting the documentation of vessels the owners of which have abandoned vessels on U.S. coral reefs and the vessel either remains on a reef, or was removed from the reef using certain Federal funding, which has not been re-paid to the United States Government.

The bill also establishes legal liability to the United States for persons who destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any coral reef in the United States. The amount of liability is set at the cost to respond to the activity, including the costs of seizing and forfeiting the vessel causing the damage. The vessel causing the damage to a U.S. coral reef may be seized with the amount of liability constituting a maritime lien on the vessel. Costs recovered under this section would be used as reimbursement for past costs incurred under the section, and to restore the damaged coral reef, prevent future threats, or for educational purposes.

The bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate within 90 days regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

Finally, the bill authorizes \$20,000,000 to be appropriated for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2005, and establishes percentages of appropriated amounts for the programs contained in the bill.

CENTRAL ASIA: THE "BLACK HOLE" OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution on the disturbing state of democratization and human rights in Central Asia. As is evident from many sources, including the State Department's annual reports on human rights, non-governmental organizations, both in the region and the West, and the work of the Helsinki Commission, which I chair, Central Asia has become the "black hole" of human rights in the OSCE space.

True, not all Central Asia countries are equal offenders. Kyrgyzstan has not joined its neighbors in eliminating all opposition, tightly censoring the media and concentrating all

power in the hands of the president, though there are tendencies in that direction, and upcoming elections in 2000 may bring out the worst in President Akaev. But elsewhere, the promise of the early 1990's, when the five Central Asian countries along with all former Soviet republics were admitted to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, has not been realized. Throughout the region, super-presidents pay lip service to OSCE commitments and to their own constitutional provisions on separation of powers, while dominating the legislative and judicial branches, crushing or thwarting any opposition challenges to their factual monopoly of power, and along with their families and favored few, enjoying the benefits of their countries' wealth.

Indeed, though some see the main problem of Central Asia through the prism of real or alleged Islamic fundamentalism, the Soviet legacy, or poverty, I am convinced that the essence of the problem is more simple and depressing: presidents determined to remain in office for life must necessarily develop repressive political systems. To justify their campaign to control society, Central Asian leaders constantly point to their own national traditions and argue that democracy must be built slowly. Some Western analysts, I am sorry to say, have bought this idea—in some cases, quite literally, by acting as highly paid consultants to oil companies and other business concerns. But, Mr. Speaker, building democracy is an act of political will above all. You have to want to do it. If you don't, all the excuses in the world and all the state institutions formed in Central Asia ostensibly to promote human rights will remain simply window dressing.

Moreover, the much-vaunted stability offered by such systems is shaky. The refusal of leaders to allow turnover at the top or newcomers to enter the game means that outsiders have no stake in the political process and can imagine coming to power or merely sharing in the wealth only be extra-constitutional methods. For some of those facing the prospect of permanent exclusion, especially as living standards continue to fall, the temptation to resort to any means possible to change the rules of the game, may be overwhelming. Most people, however, will simply opt out of the political system in disillusionment and despair.

Against this general context, without doubt, the most repressive countries are Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Turkmenistan's President Niyazov, in particular, has created a virtual North Korea in post-Soviet space, complete with his own bizarre cult of personality. Turkmenistan is the only country in the former Soviet bloc that remains a one-party state. Uzbekistan, on the other hand, has five parties but all of them are government-created and controlled. Under President Islam Karimov, no opposition parties or movements have been allowed to function since 1992. In both countries, communist-era controls on the media remain in place. The state, like its Soviet predecessor, prevents society from influencing policy or expressing its views and keeps the population intimidated through omnipresent secret police forces. Neither country observes the most fundamental human rights, including freedom of religion, or permits any electoral challenges to its all-powerful president.

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbaev has played a more clever game. Pressed by the OSCE and Western capitals, he has formally permitted opposition parties to function,

and they did take part in the October 10 parliamentary election. But once again, a major opposition figure was not able to participate, and OSCE/ODIHR monitors, citing many shortcomings, have criticized the election as flawed. In general, the ability of opposition and society to influence policymaking is marginal at best. At the same time, independent and opposition media have been bought, coopted or intimidated out of existence or into cooperation with the authorities, and those few that remain are under severe pressure.

Tajikistan suffered a devastating civil war in the early 1990's. In 1997, war-weariness and a military stalemate led the disputants to a peace accord and a power-sharing agreement. But though the arrangement had promise, it now seems to be falling apart, as opposition contenders for the presidency have been excluded from the race and the major opposition organization has decided to suspend participation in the work of the National Reconciliation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, along with large-scale ethnic conflicts like Kosovo or Bosnia, and unresolved low-level conflicts like Nagorno-Karabakh and Abkhazia, I believe the systemic flouting of OSCE commitments on democratization and human rights in Central Asia is the single greatest problem facing the OSCE. For that reason, I am introducing this resolution expressing concern about the general trends in the region, to show Central Asian presidents that we are not taken in by their facade, and to encourage the disheartened people of Central Asia that the United States stands for democracy. The resolution calls on Central Asian countries to come into compliance with OSCE commitments on democracy and human rights, and encourages the Administration to raise with other OSCE states the implications for OSCE participation of countries that engage in gross and uncorrected violation of freely accepted commitments on human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. FORBES in this effort and we welcome their support.

IN HONOR OF SONIA DANIELS
EDWARDS, M.A., C.C.C.S.L.P.

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Sonia Daniels Edwards, M.A., C.C.C.S.L.P., who has been named "Teacher of the Year for Fountain Valley." Mrs. Edwards has been awarded the title, "Teacher of the Year" for her outstanding contributions to education. She is the first speech and language pathologist selected for this prestigious award.

As a speech and language therapist, Sonia Edwards is always at the cutting edge of new research and developments in speech and language. Her ability to diagnose and develop individualized programs for students has resulted in the identification and solution to problems that were interfering with the individual students ability to learn. Mrs. Edwards ability to solve these learning "mysteries" gained her the confidence and admiration of her fellow professionals.

Mrs. Edwards speciality is autism. During the past two years, she has served as the dis-

trict's Autism Coordinator, training staff, setting up home programs, and continuing to provide solutions to many of these baffling learning disorders.

Mrs. Edwards has been known to spend many long hours on the job. She is a dedicated teacher who always has the time to talk with parents regarding their child's special needs. As an educator, she rises to new challenges and tackles the most complex situations. The word "no" is not in her vocabulary.

Respected and admired by her peers, parents and students, Sonia Edwards, is a role model for all of those who know her.

Colleagues, please join me today as I recognize and pay tribute to a gifted and talented teacher, Sonia Daniels Edwards.

IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC SUMMER PROGRAM ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND DR. JUSTO GONZALEZ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hispanic Summer Program on its 10th Anniversary, and to recognize its Director, Dr. Justo Luis Gonzalez, for his dedication and leadership in the organization.

Born in Havana, Cuba, in 1937, Dr. Gonzalez has embodied the spiritual values of community, dignity, and ministry throughout his life. His significant contribution to theological education over the past twenty-two years has helped build a worldwide ecumenical network that serves as a model for academic globalization.

Upon completion of college studies in Cuba, Dr. Gonzalez studied at Yale University and received three graduate degrees there, including a doctorate. He was ordained as a Methodist Minister and, in 1969, he became an American citizen.

Dr. Gonzalez has educated students as a professor at the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico and at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is the author of more than sixty books and hundreds of articles, which can be found in the Spanish, English, Chinese, Russian, and Korean communities.

Currently, Dr. Gonzalez is committed to theological education in a variety of ways, including serving as editor of "Apuntes", a journal of Hispanic theology published in the United States.

For his remarkable commitment to theological education, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Justo and the Hispanic Summer Program on its 10th Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHAMPTON ELKS ON THEIR 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of

Southampton Elks Lodge 1574. Its long and rich history dates back to December 7, 1929, when 90 candidates were initiated by the Officers of Patchogue Lodge 1323. The fraternal organization was founded on the principles of improving the quality of life on Eastern Long Island and strengthening ties within the community. They have been fulfilling that pledge ever since. On July 10, 1930, the Southampton Lodge was awarded their Grand Lodge Charter.

Elks in Suffolk County have long been known for their dedication in assisting and comforting the veterans of our wars, especially those who are disabled or in distress. The Southampton Elks are very proud of the symbol for which they fought—our national flag. They not only promote and defend the flag but also see it as a symbol of charity. Furthermore, the efforts of the Elks to involve youth in the lives of our veterans should serve as a model for community building in this country.

We cannot overlook the close attention they pay to the individual members of society who are in dire need of assistance. In the past, they have donated such items as specially-designed bicycles, wheelchairs and other items needed by the physically-challenged, helped local families pay for medical treatments, and assisted those whose homes have been lost to fire.

I am especially proud of their local assistance when disaster strikes. During emergency situations, Southampton Elks have always been, and I'm sure always will be, prepared to assist by donating funds, volunteering their time, or doing whatever else is needed during times of difficulty.

Once again, I commend Southampton Elks Lodge 1574. Their unselfish, voluntary efforts and generosity are a credit to the communities they serve. They are an asset to Long Island, and I have no doubt that they will continue their good works and service strongly into the new millennium.

UNITED STATES JAYCEES RESOLVE SOCIAL SECURITY NEEDS REFORM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the United States Jaycees, numbering 115,000 individual members, recently adopted a resolution entitled, "Legislation to Ensure the Future Economic Solvency of the Social Security System."

The Jaycees, whose vision is to "become the organization of choice for young people, providing direction and leadership to our communities and nation," conducted more than 75 Social Security town hall meetings across America, reporting that 79% of the surveyed participants think it needs radical or major reform. When asked if there should be implementation of a program that allows individuals to place their Social Security contributions from their current wages in their own personal retirement account and require(s) them to maintain that account for retirement only, 77% either strongly favored or favored that idea.

This resolution's recommendations include reforming Social Security, the need for personal retirement accounts and for directing

part of the budget surplus to the solvency of Social Security. It was delivered to me by Penni Zelinkoff, president of the Colorado Jaycees and incoming vice president of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce; and Tana Bewly, incoming president of the Colorado Jaycees. I believe the resolution is of vital interest to my constituents and the United States Congress. Therefore, I hereby submit for the RECORD, the full text of the United States Jaycees' recommendations for Social Security's continued solvency.

RESOLUTION—CALL FOR LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THE FUTURE ECONOMIC SOLVENCY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Whereas, the membership of The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, as well as most America is concerned about the economic future of Social Security System; and

Whereas, payroll deductions will have to be dramatically increased or benefits significantly decreased unless Social Security is reformed; and

Whereas, we need to meet our Social Security promises to existing and future retirees; and

Whereas, the number of retirees will almost double by the year 2030; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce has conducted surveys at seventy-five Social Security Town Hall Meetings in forty different states; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce has testified before Congress to address these concerns; and

Whereas, as a result of The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce's Social Security Town Hall Report, an overwhelming majority approved the establishment of individual retirement accounts; and

Whereas, The U.S. Congress has introduced legislation for the establishment and maintenance of individual retirement accounts; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce has invested considerable time and resources in the solvency of the Social Security system; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce sees the need to get the average young American involved in the interest of their government; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce should actively promote getting out the vote to secure these aims.

Now, therefore, be it *resolved*, That the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors:

Recognizes that Social Security is in need of immediate revisions;

Recognizes that the future of Social Security is a vital concern for young people and future generations in the United States;

Recognizes the need for capitalization of the Social Security system;

Recognizes the need for personal retirement accounts;

Recognizes that a percentage of budget surpluses should go towards the solvency of Social Security;

Recognizes a need for a national "Get Out the Vote" campaign;

Gives authority to the USJCC staff to pursue a course to reform Social Security in local Junior Chamber communities and at the national level and organize a "Get Out the Vote" campaign.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud former Jaycee, I thank the organization for its most thorough examination of the Social Security System and recommendations for its reform.

WHEN WILL CROATIA BECOME A DEMOCRACY?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in the decade since multi-party elections first began to be held in what were the one-party states of East-Central Europe, the political leaders and societies of many of these states have committed themselves to building democratic institutions, respecting the rule of law and tolerating social diversity. Some have done well; others have not. One country which should have done well, but so far has not, is Croatia. I ask, "Why?"

Many will assert, with considerable credibility, that Croatia faced until 1995 the added burdens of Yugoslavia's violent demise, bringing months of conflict in 1991, and the occupation of considerable territory by Serb militants. We should not minimize the sense of victimization felt by the people of Croatia at that time. Indeed, I was in Vukovar in 1991, when it was still under siege, and personally saw the awful things that were happening to the people there. Similarly, we cannot ignore the effect in Croatia of the continued presence of Croats from Bosnia-Herzegovina who still cannot safely return to their homes in what is now the entity of Republika Srpska.

However much one may want to give Croatia the benefit of the doubt, in the eight years since the tragic events following the assertion of statehood, and four years since the occupied territories were either retaken or set for subsequent reintegration, Croatia has become accustomed to its newfound independence. Its people have increasingly seemed desirous of becoming a more united part of European affairs, including through the development of ties with the European Union and NATO. They are part of a sophisticated, well-educated society, feel more secure within their borders, and want greater freedom and prosperity for themselves and their children. Analysts have, for at least two years, viewed the country as being in a stage of real transition. Unfortunately, as this transition moves forward, it meets greater resistance from those who have become entrenched in, and enriched by, the power they hold. This resistance manifests itself in two ways, the gross manipulation of the political system to the advantage of the ruling party, and the continued reliance on nationalist passions.

Regarding political manipulations, elections must be held within the next three months, yet there is no date, no new election law that provides a free and fair standard, no loosening of the grip on the media. More specifically, there continues to be a so-called "diaspora" representation, which effectively is the same as giving almost ten percent of parliamentary seats to the ruling party up front. Moreover, for some time the authorities considered scheduling the elections within a few days of Christmas, a rather blatant attempt to manipulate popular sentiment and voter turnout.

The ruling party is maintaining its control over Croatia's broadcast media. Defamation laws have resulted in hundreds of prosecutions, both criminal and civil, of journalists and

publishers for critical comments deemed "criminal" for allegedly insulting the honor or dignity of high officials. In Croatia, it seems that alleged criminal activity by officials uncovered by independent journalists can be protected under a broad definition of "state secrets."

On the nationalist front, Serbs (who once represented over ten percent of Croatia's population) still have difficulty returning home—many fled in 1991 and 1995—and those who have returned face difficulties in getting their property back or obtaining government assistance. Statements by officials often create an environment which make individuals believe they can get away with more direct, physical harassment of the Serbs. While many Serbs may not be able even to participate in the voting for the upcoming elections, Croatian authorities are considering the reduction from three seats to one seat for Serb representation in the Croatian Parliament, or Sabor. Meanwhile, the "diaspora" vote sways the loyalties of Bosnia's indigenous Croat population, and Croatian President Tudjman recently resurrected notions of a Croat entity in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While Croatia's citizenship law still makes it difficult for members of the Serb and sometimes other minority communities to get citizenship, voting rights are extended to ethnic Croats abroad on the discredited basis of blood ties alone.

Tudjman further claimed this last week that Croatian generals cannot be held accountable for the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity. His resistance to cooperation with the International Tribunal in The Hague is reprehensible, and, if it continues, warrants a strong response by this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Croatian courts recently convicted Dinko Sakic, a commander of the Jasenovac concentration camp in Croatia during World War II. The trial and its outcome say something positive not only about Croatia's courts; the attention in Croatia given to this case indicates an ability to acknowledge a horrible period in the past. More broadly, Croats realize they must seek justice for the past and move forward so that they do not sink their personal futures in the pit of extreme nationalist aspirations.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, the leaders of Croatia today will come to their senses, and abide by the wish of the people to live in full freedom, true justice and greater prosperity. Signs of this would be: (1) holding an election which, from the campaign period to the vote count, is free and fair according to both international observers and domestic ones who should be permitted to observe; (2) cessation of the relegation of ethnic Serbs to the status of second-class citizens whose presence, at best, will be tolerated; and (3) surrendering to The Hague all indicted persons, including Mladen Naletilic (aka "Tuta") now that Croatia's own courts have cleared the way, and the information and documents which the Tribunal may request.

Only with progress in these areas can Croatia take its proper place in Europe and the world. Mr. Speaker, I ask Croatia's leaders, when that will be?

IN HONOR OF MR. NICHOLAS A. CAPODICE, BAYONNE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE, RECIPIENT OF SICILIAN CITIZEN'S CLUB 1999 MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bayonne City Council Member-At-Large, Mr. Nicholas Capodice, for being named this year's 1999 Man of the Year by the Sicilian Citizen's Club.

Grandson of Pietro Capodice, charter member of the Sicilian Citizen's Club, Mr. Capodice has been committed to serving the City of Bayonne. Through his exemplary service to the community, he has shown tremendous leadership.

Receiving his B.A. in special education and an M.A. in Administration and Supervision from the New Jersey City University, Mr. Capodice's commitment to the educational and social development of his students is truly remarkable. He has continued his work in the field of Special Education by serving on the Bayonne Board of Education for 10 years and on the Jersey City Board of Education for the last 11 years.

Mr. Capodice was recently elected Bayonne's City Council Member-At-Large, where he is Commissioner of the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority. In this capacity, Mr. Capodice is responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of the economic redevelopment of the City of Bayonne.

Prior to being elected to the City Council, Mr. Capodice served as a Trustee for the Bayonne Board of Education from 1991 to 1996, acting as President from 1992 to 1995. In addition, he was a member of the Board of School Estimates from 1993 to 1994.

For his dedication to the people of the City of Bayonne and his extraordinary service record, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating City Councilman Nicholas Capodice on being named 1999 Man of the Year by the Sicilian Citizen's Club of Bayonne.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNG WITNESS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1999

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week more than 350 young Americans gathered in our Nation's capitol to share their views about violence and how it has affected their lives. Three individuals from my district—Pierre Laurent and Amanda Abreu of Somerville, MA, and Yarimee Gutierrez of Boston, MA, came to Washington to take part in the Voices Against Violence conference. Their commitment to addressing the problems associated with violence among youth is to be commended, and I want to take this opportunity to personally thank them for their efforts to make a difference within their schools and communities.

As Pierre, Amanda, Yarimee and the other participants of the conference return to their

respective communities with a renewed commitment to this cause, I believe it is Congress' responsibility to do all that we can to support these young peoples' efforts. What better way to do this than to provide legislation that assists young people who are striving to do the right thing? For this reason, I rise today to introduce the Young Witness Assistance Act of 1999.

Sadly, more and more of our Nation's youth are becoming intimately familiar with violent crime. These crimes include homicide, assault, robbery, domestic violence and sexual assault. Upon witnessing such violent crimes, they suddenly find themselves in the uncomfortable position of deciding whether or not to report the act. Far too often, many young people choose to stay quiet. In many ways, who can blame them? Witnessing a violent crime is a traumatic experience. Additionally, reporting a violent crime can potentially lead to additional hardships that threaten the well-being of the young witness. Earlier this year in Connecticut, an 8-year-old boy and his mother were gunned down after the boy agreed to testify as a witness in a murder trial. In my district, a young man and his family were harassed and threatened after he agreed to assist authorities in an armed robbery case—eventually his family removed the boy from school and placed him into hiding in reaction to repeated threats on his life.

It's time we take a stand for the young people who are willing to stand against crimes in their communities. The Young Witness Assistance Act is a step in the right direction. It provides Federal funds to state and local authorities specifically for establishing and maintaining programs that assist young witnesses of violent crimes. Authorities can use these funds to develop such activities as counseling for the youth; pre- and post-trial assistance for the youth and their family; educational services if the youth has to be removed from school; community and school based outreach initiatives; and protective services. The bill would authorize \$3 million for each fiscal year from 2001 to 2003. No new money will be used to fund this effort. Rather, funding would be derived from existing monies within the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, this bill supports our Nation's young people who take a courageous stance against violent crime in their communities. It sends a message that Congress cares and is willing to provide the assistance young witnesses need. Forty-six members of the House, Democrats and Republicans, have acknowledged this by becoming original cosponsors of this legislation. It is my hope that the House will "do the right thing" and pass this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. LEONARD S. RASKIN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard S. Raskin, whose death on October 18 is an incalculable loss to his loving family and cherished friends, and to our community. Lenny loved life and was undaunted by its challenges. Even as cancer

claimed more and more of him, he did " . . . not go gently into that good night . . . (but) . . . raged against the dying of the light. . . ." His incredible strength and will to live emulate these words of courage written by Dylan Thomas to his dying father. Lenny adopted me into his life, and as my friend, reinforced in me the belief that anything was possible to accomplish if you just tried hard enough and were good enough. I knew even if I failed he'd still be there for me; so true was his love. Lenny loved his family and friends with a passion even death cannot diminish. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing my deepest sympathy to his devoted wife of 50 years, Sarah Raskin, his eldest son, Phillip E. Raskin, his only daughter and my dearest friend, Maryl D. Raskin, his youngest son and daughter-in-law Garry N. and Susan Raskin, and his beloved grandchildren, Kaley and Sydney Raskin. I ask unanimous consent that the following material be included with my statement. The poems, "Adios" by Naomi Shihab Nye, and "Reading Aloud to My Father" by Jane Kenyon; works Maryl shared with me which reflect upon life as we reflect upon this wonderful man's friendship and love. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Adios, Lenny.

ADIOS

It is a good word, rolling off the tongue no matter what language you were born with.

Use it. Learn where it begins, the small alphabet of departure, how long it takes to think of it, then say it, then be heard.

Marry it. More than a golden ring, it shines, it shines.

Wear it on every finger till your hands dance, touching everything easily, letting everything, easily, go.

Strap it to your back like wings. Or a kite-tail. The stream of air behind a jet.

If you are known for anything, let it be the way you rise out of sight when your work is finished.

Think of things that linger; leaves, cartons and napkins, the damp smell of mold.

Think of things that disappear.

Think of what you love best, what brings tears into your eyes.

Something that said adios to you before you knew what it meant or how long it was for.

Explain little, the word explains itself. Later perhaps. Lessons following lessons, like silence following sound.

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE.

READING ALOUD TO MY FATHER

I chose the book haphazard from the shelf, but with Nabokov's first sentence I knew it wasn't the thing to read to a dying man:

The cradle rocks above the abyss, it began, and common sense tells us that our existence is but a brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness.

The words disturbed both of us immediately, and I stopped. With music it was the same—Chopin's Plano Concerto—he asked me to turn it off. He ceased eating, and drank little, while the tumors briskly appropriated what was left of him.

But to return to the cradle rocking. I think Nabokov had it wrong. This is the abyss.

That's why babies howl at birth, and why the dying so often reach for something only they can apprehend.

At the end they don't want their hands to be under the covers, and if you should put your hand on theirs in a tentative gesture of solidarity, they'll pull the hand free; and you must honor that desire, and let them pull it free.

JANE KENYON.

TRIBUTE TO MANA, A NATIONAL
LATINA ORGANIZATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand before you today to pay tribute to the members of MANA, a national Latina organization whose members are in our Nation's Capital to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of this organization.

MANA, a national Latina organization, was founded in 1977 as a Mexican American Women's National Association. Its mission is to strengthen Latina community leaders; cultivate vital and prosperous Latino communities and advance public policy for an equal and just society. MANA is a membership-based organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has chapters across the country.

For over 25 years, MANA has been the voice for Latinas in the Nation's Capital and across the country—from the statehouse to the White House. They have shared the national and international concerns of Hispanics with Presidents of the United States and Mexico and consulted with cabinet-level leaders on a range of domestic issues. Through its chapters, MANA has duplicated a strong advocacy role at the community level.

Throughout its rich history, MANA has established a number of programs which have been replicated at the local level through their chapters. From the outset, MANA viewed leadership development as the key to achieve a dream of "full empowerment of Latinas." To that end, the organization holds annual training conferences on public policy issues and the legislative process. MANA also provides scholarships specifically targeting Latinas. Concerned with the high dropout rate, MANA developed its youth stay-in-school program, Las herMANITAS. This program has been duplicated at the chapter level. Through role models, success stories, personal triumphs, encouragement and leadership training, MANA has developed, inspired, motivated and mobilized self-reliant, determined and courageous women to become community leaders.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention the women who led the organization the last 25 years. Through their efforts they demonstrated how a totally volunteer organization of more than 1,000 women across the country can make a difference in creating a better future for Hispanic women, their families and their communities. Past National Presidents include: Blandina (Bambi) Cárdenas, Founder, 1974; Bettie Baca, Organizing Chair 1974-75; Evangeline (Vangie) Elizondo, President 1975-76; Gloria López Hernández, President 1976-77; Elisa Sánchez, President 1977-79 and 1995-1999; Wilma Espinoza, President 1979-81; Raydean Acavedo, President 1981-83; Veronica (Ronni) Collazo, President 1983-85; Gloria Barajas, President 1985-86; María Rita Jaramillo, President 1986-88; Irma Maldonado, President 1988-90; Judy Canales, President 1990-92 and Elvira Valenzuela Crocker, President 1992-94.

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we applaud you for your contributions, and we thank you for your leadership on behalf of Latinas and Latinos throughout the country. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

JACOB'S HOPE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the tenth anniversary of a tragic event in my home state of Minnesota. On October 22, 1989, an eleven-year-old boy named Jacob Wetterling was stolen from his family in the small community of St. Joseph, Minnesota. Since then, no one has heard from Jacob or the masked gunman who stole him that day.

This tragedy shook the community, our state and the nation. If a child could be taken from a closely-knit, small community like St. Joseph, Minnesota, what child in America was truly safe?

Jacob's parents, Jerry and Patty Wetterling, have made it their crusade to make America a safer place for our children. They turned an unthinkable horror in their own lives into an opportunity to bring hope to other families. Over the last 10 years, they have kept the hope of Jacob's return alive, and, at the same time, created the Jacob Wetterling Foundation to promote child safety.

Today, the Jacob Wetterling Foundation is an invaluable, nationally recognized resource for families with missing children and the law enforcement officials searching for them. The Foundation has helped 1,500 families with missing or exploited children and processed 1,000 leads on missing children.

Patty Wetterling has been a tireless crusader, traveling around the country to educate children and families about preventing child abduction and abuse.

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation has reached 160,000 people at 500 events and has distributed more than 1.2 million safety brochures across the nation.

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation has been instrumental in shaping our nation's laws to protect children. Working with Patty Wetterling, I introduced legislation to protect communities from the criminals who prey on children. This landmark legislation—the Jacob Wetterling Act—became the law of the land in 1994. Because of it, released criminals who are convicted of crimes against children must register with law enforcement, and communities are notified when dangerous offenders move into the neighborhood.

Several events are taking place in Minnesota and across the country this weekend to mark the tragic anniversary of Jacob's abduction and make America aware of the need for child protection. At 6:00 p.m. tomorrow in St. Joseph, Minnesota, there will be a balloon launch from Kennedy Elementary School. Also tomorrow on television, "Dateline NBC" will carry a report on the Wetterling case.

On Saturday, a safety fair for children and parents will be held at the Rainbow Foods store in St. Cloud, Minnesota. There will also be a local broadcast on KARE-TV at 10:00 a.m. with a behind-the-scenes look at a public service announcement by Jacob's friends and classmates.

On Sunday, a "Hope Service" will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. In addition, the November issue of "Reader's Digest" currently on newsstands carries a cover story about Jacob.

Mr. Speaker, there are few people who have touched my own life like Jacob

Wetterling, a boy I have never met. Because of Jacob, America's children are better protected from those who would steal their childhood. Because of Jacob, more and more children will have the opportunity to grow up safe and secure.

I ask my colleagues and fellow Americans to remember Jacob and his wonderful family. We owe Patty and Jerry Wetterling and the Jacob Wetterling Foundation a great debt of gratitude for their ten years of work protecting America's most precious gift—our children.

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN
WEEKEND

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize an effort sponsored by the Illinois Drug Education Alliance and others to raise awareness of and unite people against the dangers of illegal drug use. This effort, known as Pray for the Children, is a grassroots movement to keep children drug-free and safe through faith and community involvement.

The second annual "Pray for the Children Weekend" is this weekend, October 22, 23, and 24. This is a time for people all across the world to take a moment to reflect and pray for children to avoid the pitfalls of illegal drug use. It is also a time for families, religious institutions and political leaders to come together to keep children drug free and safe.

We are all aware of the devastating impact illicit drug use has on our society, particularly on young people. Illicit drug use is something we all understand must be addressed and overcome. While saying a prayer is not the sole answer to the drug problem, it is part of a larger solution that demands community involvement and responsibility for one's own actions.

I encourage those listening to participate in this effort and urge my colleagues to wear the red "Pray for the Children" ribbons that have been sent to their offices. The Ribbons and this campaign symbolize what members of this body and those around the world should be promoting—a zero tolerance for illegal drug use and a commitment to a drug-free lifestyle.

IN HONOR OF THE STATEWIDE
HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE OF NEW JERSEY ON ITS
"DECADE OF SUCCESS"

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey on a "Decade of Success" in the State of New Jersey on this occasion, its 9th Annual Convention and Expo.

Starting out with just a handful of volunteers in 1989, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey has become the flagship organization for New Jersey's small business community. Today, the SHCC is an organization committed to serving the needs

of the Hispanic business community, while working closely with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to provide leadership and to promote the continued growth and development of New Jersey's economy.

Championing the needs of Hispanic businesses in the State of New Jersey, the SHCC is a voluntary network of individuals, businesses, Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, and regional professional associations. The network is responsible for expanding business opportunities, forging a mutually beneficial relationship between the public and private sectors, advocating businesses in the political arena, and promoting trade between New Jersey businesses and their national and international counterparts.

The SHCC encourages growth through technical assistance and regional conferences for area businesses, professional associations, and entrepreneurs. Also, the SHCC provides strong leadership for New Jersey in the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as well as in programs such as Education NOW for future business leaders.

Nationwide, Hispanic businesses are thriving. With 30,000 Hispanic-owned businesses supporting 128,000 jobs and generating \$7.5 billion in sales nationwide, the Hispanic market is the fastest growing sector in the United States. In the State of New Jersey alone, this booming market has experienced an 87% increase in less than ten years. The efforts of groups such as the SHCC have been instrumental in fostering this growth.

For its commitment to the survival and prosperity of Hispanic-owned businesses, as well as its unwavering leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the State-wide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL NEEDS A
BOOST

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to submit an article by my colleague, the distinguished Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. Lane Evans. This article, about needed changes in the Montgomery GI Bill, appeared in the November 1999 issue of the Association of the United States Army's AUSA News.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL NEEDS A BOOST

We are enjoying a balanced budget for the first time in a generation. Now is the pru-

dent time to make badly-needed changes in the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB).

Army and other service recruiters and the commanders of the Armed Services' Recruiting Commands see the MGIB as the most important recruiting incentive for the Armed Services. Yet congressional leaders have refused to fund an upgrade, despite a recruiting crisis today that will be tomorrow's manpower crisis.

The House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Benefits held hearings this year on the Montgomery GI Bill Improvements Act of 1999, H.R. 1071, which I introduced, and the Servicemembers Educational Opportunity Act of 1999, H.R. 1182, introduced by Chairman BOB STUMP. Both bills would appreciably increase benefits provided by the Montgomery GI Bill. The testimony we received during those hearings was far-reaching, and it confirmed two things:

1. GI Bill enhancements are sorely needed, and

2. My H.R. 1071 is a significantly stronger bill.

Commanders and recruiters from all of the Armed Services told the Benefits Subcommittee that they face brutal recruiting challenges this year which will continue into the future.

Vice. Adm. Patricia A. Tracey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, said that it is a buyer's market out there. What most young Americans are not buying is military service.

As a result, the military has become increasingly unable to compete with colleges for the caliber of high school graduates it needs to operate today's complex weapon systems and equipment.

The Army missed its recruitment goal of 48,700 during the first half of 1999 by more than 7,300. Its "write-rate" is the worst in the history of the all-volunteer force, and the annual goal will be missed by ten times last year's figure.

Admiral Tracey told us that "money for college" is consistently the primary reason young men and women give for enlisting. All the recruiters backed her up.

To my mind the recruiting problems we see now reflect the diminished buying power of the Montgomery GI Bill. College costs have quadrupled in the last 20 years. The basic GI Bill benefit, however, has increased only 76 percent since the program was enacted.

No wonder America's young people aren't buying military service. The 21st century job market will demand a college degree—but they have a great many opportunities to pay for a college education without facing the rigors, the risks and the sacrifices of serving their country in the Armed Forces. Most of us who are veterans today grew up looking for ways to serve our country—and wearing the uniform was a good career move, too—whether for a few years before going on to a civilian job, or as a life's work. That ethic is dying, and Congress is doing nothing to reinforce it.

The GI Bill today simply does not provide enough education assistance to attract the numbers of high quality high school graduates the Army and the other services need. Today, potential recruits see the Montgomery GI Bill as an inadequate educational benefits package compared to the commitment required by the Armed Services.

As a result, the military has become increasingly unable to compete with colleges. The Armed Forces are accepting lower-ability recruits in an effort to meet recruiting goals.

Recently Patrick T. Henry, Army Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs said America has to understand that the Army is not an employer of last resort. I agree, but if we experience continuing recruiting shortfalls, our military may soon become just that.

The Armed Forces must have high quality recruits, defined as those who have a high school diploma and who have at least average scores on tests measuring math and verbal skills.

The Department of Defense says about 80 percent of high quality recruits will complete their first 3 years of active duty, while only 50 percent of recruits with only a GED will finish basic training successfully and complete their enlistment. The General Accounting Office notes that it costs at least \$35,000 to replace every recruit who leaves the service prematurely.

We must restore MGIB's effectiveness in recruiting the number of high quality young men and women the Armed Forces need and providing a competitive readjustment educational benefit for veterans.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the 10-year cost of enhancing the Montgomery GI Bill (H.R. 1071) to be \$5 billion over 10 years. This \$5 billion 10-year cost to recruit the high quality young men and women required to maintain our national defense and provide these veterans the opportunity to obtain the best education for which they can qualify after their military service is one-half of 1 percent (.005) of the 10-year nearly \$800 billion tax cut congressional leaders are trying to enact.

A single tax break—such as the five-year extension of a temporary tax deferral on income life insurance companies, banks and securities firms earn abroad—will cost the government that much in lost revenues, according to congressional calculations.

Shame on Congress and its Republican leaders if, in their lock-step march to give tax relief to those who need it least, they pass national security by.

Shame on Congress and its leaders, too, if they fail to find the relatively smaller amount we need to attract the new soldiers—and sailors, airmen and marines—this country needs to remain strong and free.