

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### WINNERS OF THE OLIN E. TEAGUE AWARD

#### HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, in a ceremony on Wednesday, September 13, 2000, in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing room, the Orientation and Mobility Section, Western Blind Rehabilitation Center, VA Palo Alto Health Care Facility, Palo Alto, California, received an Olin E. Teague Award for their efforts on behalf of disabled veterans.

The Teague Award is presented annually to VA employees whose achievements have been of extraordinary benefit to veterans with service-connected disabilities, and is the highest honor at VA in the field of rehabilitation.

The Section members, Miriam Emanuel, Scott Johnson, Julie Hazan, Richard Ludt, Patrick Ryan, Jennifer C. Smith, Candace Thelen, and Paul Thomas, Blind Rehabilitation Specialists; Charles "C.T." Vasile, Supervisor Blind Rehabilitation Specialist, and Bill Ekstrom, Chief Western Blind Rehabilitation Center, were selected to receive this prestigious award in honor of their work to develop the first power scooter training program for low vision blinded veterans with ambulatory problems.

Realizing that current support items such as canes, walkers, and scooters did not meet the needs of the less mobile, blind veteran, the team determined to find a solution. The team worked with specialists in Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine, and Prosthetics Service to study the various types of power scooters available for sighted individuals. In addition to their full daily schedules, the team members made the time to actually become power scooter travelers to learn to navigate on the scooters as sighted individuals. When they became fully knowledgeable of power scooter travel, they began to develop options to adapt the power scooter for use by blind veterans. Their enthusiasm, persistence, and creativity paid off. Two distinct power scooter programs were developed to meet the differing needs and capabilities of legally blind low vision veterans. These programs offer veterans a higher quality of life and a highly valued commodity—their independence.

Mr. Speaker, the name Olin E. "Tiger" Teague is synonymous with exemplary service to the Nation's veterans. The late Congressman Teague served on the House Veterans Affairs Committee for 32 years, 18 of those years as its distinguished chairman. No one who opposed him on veterans' issues ever had to ask why he was called Tiger. He set the standards by which we can best serve all veterans. I know my colleagues join me in offering our deep appreciation to the Orientation and Mobility Section for their concern, dedication, and innovation in meeting the special rehabilitation needs of disabled veterans. We congratulate them for the excellence of their

work and for the distinguished award they received.

### SECRET AGENT MAN

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following articles, which appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* on December 7, 2000 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### SECRET AGENT MAN—FASHION PHOTOGRAPHER SCORES BIG OFF PALS IN THE NARCOTICS TRADE

BARUCH VEGA MADE MILLIONS AS A FEDERAL  
INFORMANT, BUT WAS JUSTICE SERVED?—A  
PRIVATE JET TO PANAMA CITY

By Jose de Cordoba

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—For years, fashion photographer Baruch Vega jetted from Miami to Milan, shooting the industry's top models.

Few knew of Mr. Vega's off-the-books job, one that was far more lucrative—and dangerous. When he wasn't snapping collections for Versace or Valentino, Mr. Vega, a Colombian by birth and an engineer by training, was covertly meeting with some of the world's most-powerful drug traffickers, trying to persuade them to surrender to U.S. lawmen.

By most accounts, he was a star operative. "We regarded Vega as our principal weapon" in the battle against Colombia's drug cartels, says one former U.S. agent. "I think he was very successful," agrees retired cocaine kingpin Jorge Luis Ochoa, speaking by cellular phone from Colombia, where he recently completed a six-year prison term. "A lot of people got into his program and cooperated with him, and he with them."

So many, in fact, that a meeting brokered by Mr. Vega last year in a Panama hotel drew more than two dozen drug dealers or their representatives, according to Mr. Vega and the lawyer for one of the suspects. Rattled by a new Colombian policy permitting traffickers to be extradited to the U.S., they met in marathon sessions with Drug Enforcement Administration agents, negotiating plea agreements that would potentially net them reduced jail terms in exchange for providing information on drug shipments by other traffickers.

But in March, Mr. Vega's secret life unraveled. As he was unpacking from a photo shoot, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation burst into his penthouse and arrested him on money-laundering and obstruction-of-justice charges. In a criminal complaint filed in Miami federal court, the government accused him of receiving million-dollar fees from drug lords, in return for promising to use his influence with U.S. agents—and even bribes—to help them with their legal problems. The name he gave the operation, according to the complaint: "The Narcotics Traffickers Rehabilitation Program."

Mr. Vega, a trim 53-year-old who favors black T-shirts, readily admits he accepted the traffickers' money, which he says totaled

about \$4 million, but which others familiar with his midwifery put at as much as \$40 million. Mr. Vega says he took the payments as part of his undercover persona, and that his law-enforcement handlers knew it. He also denies paying any bribes. "The agents I worked with used to joke: 'Baruch, we trained to put people in jail, but with you, we get them out,'" he says.

However the case sorts out, Mr. Vega's story offers a rare look into the twilight world of the narcotics informant—and into the questionable relationships and accommodations. U.S. authorities sometimes enter into as they pursue the global war on drugs. Already, it is proving an acute embarrassment to the DEA, which has placed two agents on paid leave pending an internal investigation of their relationship with Mr. Vega. And it comes at a delicate time, just as the U.S. government begins to implement a \$1.3 billion program to fight the narcotics trade underpinning Colombia's bloody civil war.

Because of the highly secretive nature of undercover operations—and law enforcement's reluctance to disclose the details of cooperation agreements with drug suspects—it's impossible to answer the central question of whether traffickers who paid fees to Mr. Vega received special treatment from the U.S. justice system. No evidence has been presented that any agents accepted bribes. But what can be pieced together, through court documents and interviews with Mr. Vega and others involved in his career, suggests at the very least a highly unorthodox operation that took on a life of its own, fueled by piles of underworld cash.

#### RED FACES AT DEA

In a brief statement, the DEA says it is "very concerned about the allegations . . . concerning the conduct of certain DEA agents." It declines to comment further, citing a continuing investigation. The Justice Department also declines to comment.

Mr. Vega became a law enforcement go-between almost by accident. He was working in New York City in 1976 as a structural engineer when a neighbor and fellow Colombian was arrested in a police raid. The neighbor's wife tearfully sought Mr. Vega's help. Mr. Vega, who was studying law at night, had befriended a fellow student then working at the FBI. According to Mr. Vega, his friend said the case against the neighbor appeared weak, and charges would probably be dropped soon. They were.

The grateful neighbor, who was indeed involved in the cocaine trade, gave Mr. Vega \$20,000 for what he believed was a successful intervention. Word of Mr. Vega's supposed clout began to spread, and he soon met many of the future capos of Colombia's drug cartels, most of whom were then living in New York.

By 1978, Mr. Vega was dividing his time between New York and Miami, which was immersed in the violence and decadence later made famous by the television show "Miami Vice." "There were the beautiful people, cocaine, models, the fast life," says Sgt. June Hawkins, now a supervisor in the homicide unit of the Miami-Dade police department. There were also lots of unsolved murders involving Colombians with false names. "They were who-isits, not who-dunnits," says Sgt. Hawkins.

• 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.

After finding Mr. Vega's name and number in the phone book of one victim, police discovered he was often able to identify the who-isits. At the time, Mr. Vega was married to the daughter of a real-estate tycoon who counted among his properties the Mutiny Hotel, then a favorite watering hole for many of the city's most-notorious characters.

#### A YACHT NAMED ABBY SUE

Mr. Vega lived the Miami lifestyle, with a mansion off Miami Beach and a 78-foot yacht named the Abby Sue. "He was a real charmer," remembers Sgt. Hawkins, then a member of Centac 26, a joint federal, state and local police antidrug task force. "A wheeler-dealer extraordinaire who could sell snow to the Eskimos."

Mr. Vega's charm was enhanced by his willingness to fund his own activities, a welcome contrast to most informants, whom police tend to view as money-grubbing low-lives. Former Centac commander Raul Diaz says Mr. Vega aided in one of the unit's biggest cases ever, at great personal risk, and "didn't get any money from us for his help."

By 1985, the Miami police introduced Mr. Vega to the FBI, where agents determined to make use of his access to the highest echelons of Colombia's drug circles. Mr. Vega—who prefers to be called a "mediator" rather than an informant—was perfect for the job of double agent. He had turned a lifelong interest in photography into a career as a fashion photographer and producer of fashion shows. That gave him access to the beautiful women and glamorous social circles that dazzled drug traffickers.

Meanwhile, a former U.S. official says federal agents helped concoct Mr. Vega's cover: a jet-setting playboy who for a price would exert his influence with U.S. law-enforcement agencies. To aid Mr. Vega's deception, the former official says, agents would make leniency recommendations to prosecuting attorneys and judges in the cases of drug traffickers working with Mr. Vega. The result: Colombia's drug barons believed Mr. Vega could do anything.

#### APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY

The official insists that defendants received no special favors, but that they truly rendered assistance in investigations and that prosecutors, using their broad discretion, argued for sentence reductions commensurate with the level of cooperation. This official and Mr. Vega add that the appearance of impropriety was part of the act—that hardened criminals were much more likely to take the first step toward cooperating if they thought the U.S. system was rigged in their favor.

Nevertheless, a senior federal agent familiar with the case says such an arrangement would likely have violated Justice Department guidelines. Allowing Mr. Vega to represent himself as someone with influence over U.S. prosecutors and other officials "is totally unacceptable," he says. He adds that informants shouldn't be in a position to accept cash from drug traffickers without supervision—although he allows that such oversight is hard to maintain when the case involves work in dangerous foreign countries.

Among the people Mr. Vega says he helped is Luis Javier Castano Ochoa, now a federal deputy in Colombia's Congress. In 1988, Mr. Castano Ochoa pleaded guilty to U.S. money laundering and drug charges and was sentenced to 16 years. But three years later, the same Miami judge who sentenced him let him off with time served. Mr. Vega says he met with Mr. Castano Ochoa in prison, charging him \$40,000 to help him work out a cooperation agreement with the government.

Reached by telephone in Bogotá, Mr. Castano Ochoa says he never paid Mr. Vega

a cent, but knew him as a lawyer who visited prison "to ask Colombians for money to advise us." Mr. Castano Ochoa says he never cooperated with the U.S. government, and says he was freed because the judge "realized there was nothing against me."

That the drug dealers were paying Mr. Vega for his purported services was an open secret among the U.S. agents working with him, says one former official. Indeed, some saw it as a plus, given their tight budget. "The drug traffickers paid him to be their representative," say the former official. "We didn't have to spend any government funds; we never could have afforded the level he was spending."

In any case, Mr. Vega's results seem to have outweighed any misgiving. In 1987, when cartel hit men almost killed a former Colombian attorney general, Mr. Vega was able to learn the names of the would-be assassins, says the former official. In 1989, the FBI asked Mr. Vega to look into reports that drug dealers were planning to blow up President George Bush's plane during a trip to Colombia, says the former U.S. official. The feedback: The hit was off.

#### PLAYING A HORSE RANCHER

Mr. Vega even lived the life of a country squire, courtesy of the U.S. government, which set him up from 1988 to 1991 in a fancy ranch in Eustis, Fla., that had been confiscated from a drug dealer. Renamed "El Lago," the ranch boasted Paso Fino show horses, highly prized as status symbols among Colombian drug dealers. In fact, the operation was really an undercover sting conducted by a task force composed of members of the Internal Revenue Service, the FBI and the Lake County Police Department.

During those years, Mr. Vega entertained a long stream of drug capos at El Lago. "Drug dealers used to drop off their horses and say, 'Train them for me, Baruch,'" says an active U.S. law-enforcement official. The task force mostly gathered intelligence, and Mr. Vega helped induce an importance money launderer to cooperate with U.S. authorities, says a federal law-enforcement official.

"Baruch is a brave man," says retired Lake County Police Capt. Fred Johnson. "I think the world of this guy."

He was also industrious. Under Mr. Vega's management, the El Lago facility became one of the largest Paso Fino ranches in the U.S. The ranch remained government property, but Mr. Vega says he paid for numerous capital improvements, including new corrals and stables. During this time, Mr. Vega says he did receive about \$70,000 as his percentage of the haul from money-laundering stings, but added that he also continued to receive fees from drug traffickers.

In 1997, Mr. Vega's work came to the attention of David Tinsley, a senior supervisor at the DEA's Miami office. People who know Mr. Tinsley describe the 27-year veteran of law enforcement to be a hyperkinetic, dedicated and sometimes zealous agent. With Mr. Tinsley, an expert on drug-money laundering, Mr. Vega's work picked up considerably—especially so after a Miami federal grand jury indicted 31 Colombian drug traffickers in October last year.

#### A STAMPEDE OF COLOMBIANS

Billed as an enormous blow to Colombia's drug cartels, the so-called Millennium indictment came at a time of great confusion in the narcotics trade. Colombia's congress had recently changed the law to allow drug traffickers to be extradited to the U.S., where they couldn't readily pay off judges. A stampede of Colombians arrived at Mr. Vega's door; some had already been indicted and others feared they could be next. All sought the sort of edge that Mr. Vega purported to offer.

"There were 200 drug dealers who wanted to surrender to American justice and make a deal," says Mr. Vega.

For the DEA's Mr. Tinsley, the panic was a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity to strike a crushing blow against the drug trade, says Richard Sharpstein, his lawyer. "Tinsley believed they had the highest-level drug dealers in the world willing to cooperate at a level never seen before," says Mr. Sharpstein.

In the following months, Mr. Vega was constantly on an airplane, shuttling between Panama and Miami, brokering meetings between DEA agents and drug traffickers anxious to make their peace with the U.S., according to interviews with meeting participants and statements by lawyers for drug dealers submitted to the FBI. He was such a frequent flier that last November, he plunked down \$250,000 toward the lease-purchase of a seven-passenger Hawker jet, Mr. Vega says.

Panamanian flight manifests show that on many occasions he was accompanied on his jet by DEA agent Larry Castillo of the agency's Miami office. Mr. Castillo has been placed on administrative leave with pay, pending the result of an internal DEA probe, along with Mr. Tinsley. Mr. Castillo's lawyer declines to comment.

The FBI complaint says that soon after the Millennium indictment, Mr. Vega orchestrated a meeting at Panama's Miramar Intercontinental Hotel between an alleged drug dealer and U.S. agents. "Vega told the CW [confidential witness] that he had U.S. officials in the hotel room next door and arranged for the CW to meet with them. The CW then met with four DEA agents and a Miami police officer."

During the meeting, the confidential witness—whom Mr. Vega and several other individuals familiar with the case say is Carlos Ramon, an alleged drug trafficker known as "the Doctor"—discussed with the agents the procedures for his possible surrender, the complaint says.

Mr. Ramon, under indictment in Miami for conspiracy to import and distribute cocaine, wasn't alone. More than two dozen Colombian traffickers or their representatives were locked in similar marathon meetings in a suite of rooms rented by Mr. Vega on various floors of the Miramar, according to meeting participants.

Four months later, Mr. Ramon surrendered to authorities in Miami, but only after a farewell dinner at the trendy China Grill, for which Mr. Vega says he picked up the \$1,000 tab. After spending a month in jail, Mr. Ramon, who is cooperating with U.S. authorities, posted bail. He now lives in Miami Beach's luxury Portofino Tower, according to court papers.

Federal investigators are now trying to trace the path of the money Mr. Vega generated from traffickers. Mr. Vega says more than \$5 million wound up with Daniel Forman, a well-respected Miami defense lawyer, as legal fees to represent Mr. Ramon and 18 other accused traffickers.

Mr. Forman appears to have played an important role in Mr. Vega's final months as an informant. The defense attorney was brought into the case at the insistence of the DEA's Mr. Tinsley, who needed someone who would move the plea negotiations along without raising a lot of objections, according to Mr. Vega. The informant says he quickly became "50-50 partners" with the defense attorney, with Mr. Vega herding in clients and splitting the fees with Mr. Forman. Flight manifests show that Mr. Forman flew several times from Panama to Florida in the company of Messrs. Vega and Castillo.

Mr. Forman, in an e-mail, strongly denied that Mr. Vega relayed legal fees to him, adding that "Mr. Vega is not, and has never

been, my partner in any sense of the word." He declines to comment on his clients, except to say that the government didn't attempt to interfere with his representation of them.

Mr. Tinsley's lawyer, Mr. Sharpstein, says his client brought Mr. Forman into the case because he had worked with Mr. Forman when the latter was a federal prosecutor and then as a defense attorney. "He trusts Forman and still believes in him," says Mr. Sharpstein.

As for the financial arrangements, Mr. Sharpstein says Mr. Tinsley had no idea Mr. Vega was receiving money from traffickers, and wouldn't have allowed it had he known. Mr. Tinsley's understanding was that Mr. Vega would receive a percentage of the value of assets seized by law enforcement, a more-traditional method of compensating informants, says Mr. Sharpstein. "Unfortunately," he adds, "it's not in writing."

Apart from the controversy over money, Mr. Vega's wheeling and dealing caused rising tension in the law-enforcement community. Under a 10-year-old program, all cooperation agreements with major drug traffickers are supposed to be cleared through the Justice Department's secretive "Blitz Committee" to ensure that criminals don't pit one agency or prosecutor against another in search of the best deal. A senior committee member declines to comment on Mr. Vega.

But federal agents outside Mr. Tinsley's small DEA group grew increasingly upset as Mr. Vega breezed through their turf. One was Ed Kacerosky, a driven and highly decorated U.S. Customs agent known for his work leading to the 1997 indictment of the Cali cocaine cartel.

#### \$60 MILLION FOR VISAS

Now a supervisor in the agency's Miami office, Mr. Kacerosky didn't take it well when Mr. Vega tried to help the daughter of late Cali drug lord Jose Santacruz obtain U.S. resident visas for her family. At a meeting brokered by Mr. Vega and attended by Mr. Kacerosky and other U.S. officials, Sandra Santacruz offered to give the U.S. half of some \$120 million her family held in accounts around the world in exchange for the visas, say U.S. officials. The U.S. turned down the offer.

Last year, Mr. Kacerosky became enraged upon learning that Mr. Vega had approached Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, a former leader of the Cali cartel, in a Colombian prison. People familiar with the matter say Mr. Vega offered to help Mr. Rodriguez Orejuela's son William—under indictment in Miami on U.S. drug charges—in return for information on possible high-level Colombian police corruption.

Mr. Kacerosky, these people say, blames William Rodriguez for the brutal 1995 torture and killing of the wife of a key informant. After the prison meeting, these people say, Mr. Kacerosky wrote an eight-page memo to his superiors sparking the investigation of Mr. Vega.

Mr. Vega's activities also played into a growing feud between the DEA's Bogota detachment and Mr. Tinsley's Miami-based crew. The Colombia-based agents largely responsible for last year's Millennium indictment were unhappy that the alleged criminals they had long been stalking were working out deals with Miami-based agents appearing to poach on their turf with Mr. Vega's help.

Hearing on Oct. 21, 1999, that Bogota-based DEA agents were heading for Panama to crash the Miramar dealer summit, Mr. Vega

says he and Mr. Tinsley cleared the traffickers out of the hotel for fear of their arrest.

"There's a common distrust between DEA Bogota and DEA Miami," says Mr. Sharpstein, Mr. Tinsley's lawyer. "The Bogota agents were jealous of Miami agents racking up these cases."

Today, Mr. Vega is officially off limits to U.S. law enforcement. When the FBI charged him in March, authorities froze a Miami bank account in his name containing \$1.5 million. Though most condemn Mr. Vega's alleged illegal enrichment some agents believe his fall is undeserved after such a long career in a world whose common coin is often a violent death.

As fear and controversy swirl around him, Mr. Vega sits in his Miami Beach penthouse, wearing an ankle monitoring device and fielding phone calls from models in Greece and designers in Paris. "I will be in Miami for the rest of the season. Same place, same apartment," he tells a model who calls to commiserate, "I have a bunch of pictures for you. They used the one with the bathing suit. It looks very nice."

### THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S CHILLING WINTER FORECAST

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the winter months, the Energy Information Agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (EIA) delivered the cold facts on December 6th in its "Short-Term Energy Outlook for December 2000." The bottom line is that prices for home heating oil and natural gas will rise this winter—considerably.

While the EIA's report is written in approximations, averages, and technical language, its message resonates loud and clear with our constituents and those residing in the Northeast—that their heating oil bills may increase by more than 33 percent from last winter. Furthermore, it is predicted that those whose homes and businesses are heated by natural gas are likely to see an increase of 50 percent in their utility bills this winter over last winter's.

The reasons EIA give for the projected increases are: lower than average heating oil and natural gas reserves, an increase in demand versus available supply, and the onset of colder weather, earlier in the season. The American Gas Association reports that while exploratory drilling for natural gas has tripled over the past year, it will take another year or more before that gas will make its way into the marketplace. Another factor effecting home heating oil prices, a distillate of crude oil, is the relatively high price per barrel of crude. In this regard, our dependency on foreign oil, specifically from the OPEC nations, hurts us.

Mr. Speaker, the situation with OPEC is not any new issue. Our House International Relations Committee as well as the Government Reform Committee have held hearings on OPEC and their affecting the exorbitant costs of energy. I have called upon President Clinton, Secretaries Albright and Richardson, and to OPEC Ministers before their meeting last September urging their assistance. The theme

was the same, the price of energy is too high and is hurting our nation and others, and it must come down.

While OPEC has agreed to increase production, it is difficult to ascertain by how much and what effect that increase will make on the price of oil. Thus far, the price of imported crude oil remains over \$30 per barrel, and OPEC's increase in production has done little or nothing to stabilize the prices for heating oil, or significantly reduce the price per barrel of imported crude oil to an acceptable level for both consumers and producers. The oil market remains volatile and prolonged cold weather could easily result in prices soaring to the \$40 per barrel, ten-year highs of a few months ago. This is substantiated by EIA's following statement.

The EIA states: "unless the winter in the Northeast is unusually mild or world crude oil prices drop significantly, the projected high prices for heating oil will continue until next spring." The EIA further reports that, "a risk exists this winter for distillate fuel (home heating oil and diesel fuel) price spikes similar to what happened last February, especially if the weather stays unusually cold in the Northeast for more than a few days." The EIA once again underscores that mother nature plays a significant role in determining the price of energy.

Mr. Speaker, the next Administration must create and implement a strategic, coherent, forward looking short and long-term energy policy that takes winter weather into consideration when formulating a national policy. Notwithstanding the current Administration's failure to enact an energy policy that makes sense for the American people, there are short-term measures that we can take to make our homes more energy efficient this winter.

Regardless of how our houses are heated, there are certain steps that can lower the cost of our heating bills: checking doors and windows for leaks and drafts; wrapping the hot water boiler with insulated material; clean filters on forced air furnaces; making sure that fireplaces are clean and working efficiently, and if they are not being used, making sure that the flues are sealed; installing a programmable thermostat, and caulking and adding weather stripping where needed.

Mr. Speaker, as the price of energy continues to rise, no one should have to decide whether to feed their family or to heat their home. There are programs such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), for which I have been a strong advocate. LIHEAP is designed to assist our low income families with the costs of energy. As the Department of Health and Human Services states, depending on the LIHEAP grantee, LIHEAP can be used for: heating assistance, cooling assistance, energy crisis intervention, and weatherization and other energy-related home repairs. If constituents are having trouble paying for the high costs of energy, they should not hesitate to contact their Member of Congress to find out if they qualify for LIHEAP assistance.

While the EIA projects that the price of energy this winter may rise by as much as 50 percent, it is important for our constituents to know that no one should have to choose between eating or heating.

IN MEMORY OF FRANK HEBROCK

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special tribute to Frank Hebrock, a Leesburg High School teacher and former Lake County Schools Superintendent candidate, who passed away on October 14, 2000. He leaves his wife, Bernie Hebrock, his son Scott and his brother Bill. Mr. Hebrock was a talented and committed teacher and was greatly loved and respected by his family, friends, students, and colleagues.

Born in Cambridge, OH, where he attended high school, Mr. Hebrock later went on to major in education at the University of Ohio. After leaving Cambridge, he taught in Tallahassee and for the past five years in Leesburg, FL, he taught American and world history. Revered for his dedication, Mr. Hebrock exhibited a selfless commitment to his students both in and out of the classroom. He was devoted to actively involving students in their history lessons, and at the same time, equally devoted to fostering the students' physical well-being through his work as assistant football coach and junior varsity baseball coach at Leesburg High School. In addition, Mr. Hebrock combined his interest in government with his conviction in providing the highest quality of education to our area's schools by running for superintendent of the Lake County school system.

Mr. Speaker, our community has truly suffered a great loss. We will all remember his outstanding contributions and are forever grateful for his shining leadership in the field of education. I would like to express my deepest condolences to his family, coworkers, and all of the students whose lives he so profoundly touched.

HONORING ANGELO TOMASSO, JR.

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to recognize a milestone in the life of one of Connecticut's most treasured citizens. After serving for over 40 years in virtually every officer position and on every committee of New Britain General Hospital, Angelo Tomasso, Jr., has decided to retire from the Hospital's Board of Directors.

To read a list of Angelo's accomplishments and activities is to bear witness to a life spent in the service of others. Whether it was as a soldier, entrepreneur, parent, philanthropist, or dedicated volunteer, Angelo has brought to every phase of his life the caring and understanding of a man who embraces his responsibility to better the lives of his neighbors, community, and State.

Angelo's impact on New Britain General Hospital goes far beyond the work he did as a member of the Board of Directors. As the president of one of Connecticut's largest construction firms, Angelo set an example of the sense of responsibility business owners should have in keeping healthy the commu-

nities they serve. In being so generous with his time, Angelo has always showed that there is no one who can honestly say they are "too busy" to serve.

When we say that Angelo Tomasso helped build New Britain General Hospital, we mean so much more than the bricks and mortar of a new wing. Through his generosity, commitment and fine example of civic service, Angelo has proven himself to be a man who helped create the reputation of New Britain General as one of the finest hospitals in the area. I feel privileged to call him my friend and I thank him for all he continues to do for our hospital and city.

H.R. 4828

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues my understanding of the land exchanges regarding the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (H.R. 4828) that was debated on the House Floor on October 4, 2000.

I would like the record to indicate that the cash payments to the ranchers were designed to compensate the payees for severance damages to their remaining property. I want it to be clear that these payments are being made for economic losses that the ranchers are suffering from their dislocation as a result of the creation of this Wilderness.

H.R. 4828 was supported by the entire Oregon congressional delegation and is the product of a long and hard-fought battle to ensure that there was an Oregon solution to an Oregon issue.

THE MONOCLE RESTAURANT

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and recognize The Monocle restaurant in Washington, DC. The Monocle was founded in 1960 by "Connie" Valanos and his father, veteran restaurateur George Valanos. Today, the restaurant is owned and operated by Connie's son, John Valanos. This year The Monocle celebrates its 40th anniversary.

The Monocle is one of our nation's Capital's finest dining establishments. It has been one of the few restaurants that, year after year, helps set the standard for fine dining in Washington, DC. The food, ambience, and courteous staff all contribute to make a visit to The Monocle one to remember and cherish, as have so many of our nation's political leaders for 40 years.

The Monocle's location and building are further reminders of the unique history of which the restaurant has become a significant part.

I join many of my colleagues in recognizing the owners and the employees of The Monocle, as it celebrates 40 years of culinary excellence in Washington, DC.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROSLYN  
GLANTZ TROJAN

**HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, my friend and former constituent, Colonel Roslyn Glantz Trojan, is retiring after 29 years of exemplary active federal service in the United States Army. She has served our country with dignity, honor, and integrity.

Colonel Glantz Trojan, a native of Annapolis, Maryland, is a 1971 graduate of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in History and a 1981 graduate of George Washington University with a Masters of Business Administration. In 1972, she entered the Army through the Officer Direct Commission Program. After Officer Basic Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, she was assigned to the Combat Surveillance and Electronics School at Fort Huachuca, Arizona as a administrative officer.

Soon thereafter, Colonel Glantz Trojan was selected to serve as an Operations Officer and Officer Recruiter at the Army District Recruiting Command in New Orleans, Louisiana. From 1976 to 1979, Colonel Glantz Trojan served in the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, first as a division logistician and then as a Company Commander in the Division Support Command.

Following her advanced military and civilian schooling, she was nominated to the Army Staff in 1981, where she served as Team Chief, Tactical and Non-Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Program. Colonel Glantz Trojan left the Pentagon in 1984 to join the staff of the 2nd Infantry Division in Camp Casey, Korea. She left Korea to attend the Armed Forces Staff College.

From 1986 to 1987, Colonel Glantz Trojan served a joint duty assignment at the United States Readiness Command, MacDill Air Force Base. As the first J-4 for a newly formed Joint Task Force, she planned the deployment of forces and the employment of logistics for the CINC's operational plan. Colonel Glantz Trojan served in Germany in the Army's legendary 3rd Armored Division. She first served as the Executive Officer of the 503rd Forward Support Battalion in Kirchgoens, later commanding the 54th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) in Friedberg, Germany. As Battalion Commander of the 54th FSB Colonel Glantz Trojan deployed her battalion to Desert Storm in support of the 3rd Armored Division. Her support of this Division during the Gulf War was truly outstanding. Following the War, Colonel Glantz Trojan attended the U.S. Army War College and after graduation was assigned to the Supreme Allied Command, Atlantic as the Logistics Plans and Operations Officer.

It was during her assignment as the Deputy Installation Commander and Garrison Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland, that I personally came to know of Colonel Roslyn Glantz Trojan's considerable skills as a leader. I later learned of her deft diplomatic and political skills during her final assignment in the Army as the Chief of Legislative Liaison, U.S. Army Materiel Command from 1998 until now.

I am proud to report to my colleagues that Colonel Glantz Trojan's personal awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, as well as several Army meritorious and commendation medals and the Southwest Asia Campaign and Kuwait Liberation medals.

Mr. Speaker, this exemplary soldier, my friend Colonel Roslyn Glantz Trojan, deserves the thanks and praise of this grateful nation she has faithfully served for so long. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing her and her husband all the best in the years ahead.

## ELECTIONS IN AZERBAIJAN

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, parliamentary elections were held in Azerbaijan. In anticipation of those elections, the Helsinki Commission—which I chair—held hearings in May, at which representatives of the government and opposition leaders testified. While the former pledged that Baku would conduct a democratic contest, in accordance with OSCE standards, the latter warned that Azerbaijan's past record of holding seriously flawed elections required the strictest vigilance from the international community and pressure from Western capitals and the Council of Europe—to which Azerbaijan has applied for membership.

Subsequently, I introduced a resolution, H. Con. Res. 382, which called on the Government of Azerbaijan to hold free and fair elections and to accept the recommended amendments by the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to the law on elections.

From the start, there was pressure to withdraw the resolution from the Azerbaijani government and others. They argued that President Aliiev had made, or would make, the necessary changes to ensure that the election met international standards, claiming to render the resolution either irrelevant or out of date. That pressure intensified as the election drew near; in fact, the resolution never came to a vote before Congress went out of session in early November.

It is worth recalling this brief history in light of what actually happened during Azerbaijan's pre-election period and on November 5. With respect to the election law, one of ODIHR's concerns was ultimately addressed by a decision of Azerbaijan's constitutional court, but on other important issues, Baku rejected any concessions and refused to incorporate ODIHR's suggested changes. From the beginning, therefore, the election could not have met OSCE standards, as ODIHR made plain in several statements.

During the registration period, the Central Election Commission (CEC) rejected several leading opposition parties. Claiming that government experts could tell which signatures were forged, fraudulent or otherwise invalid merely on the basis of a visual examination, the CEC maintained the Musavat and the Azerbaijan Democratic Party had failed to get 50,000 valid signatures. The same thing hap-

pened to Musavat in the 1995 parliamentary election. At that time, the OSCE/UN observation mission emphasized the need to amend or get rid of this obviously flawed method of determining the validity of signatures, but Azerbaijan's authorities did not heed that advice.

The exclusion of leading opposition parties drew strong criticism, both inside and outside the country, including the OSCE and the U.S. Government. In early October, in apparent reaction to international concern, President Aliiev "appealed" to the CEC to find some way of registering excluded opposition parties. Some CEC members objected, arguing there was no constitutional basis for such a presidential appeal or a changed CEC ruling, but the Commission moved to include opposition parties. Though their participation certainly broadened the choice available to voters, the manner of their inclusion demonstrated conclusively that President Aliiev controlled the entire election process.

ODIHR welcomed the decision by the CEC and urged a reconsideration of the exclusion of over 400 individual candidates—about half of those who tried to run in single-mandate districts. But the CEC did not do so, and only in very few cases were previously excluded candidates allowed to run. As 100 of parliament's 125 seats were determined in single mandate districts, where local authorities exercise considerable power, the rejection of over 400 candidates signaled the government's determination to decide the outcome of the vote.

Though coverage of the campaign on state media favored the ruling party, opposition leaders were able to address voters on television. They used the opportunity—which they had not enjoyed for years—to criticize President Aliiev and offer an alternative vision of governing the country. Their equal access to the media marked progress with respect to previous elections, as noted in the ODIHR's election report.

However, the voting and vote count on election day itself, according to the ODIHR's election observation mission, failed to meet OSCE standards. That is the usual dry ODIHR formulation to characterize an election that was not fair—i.e., the conditions for the participants were not equal—and in which the official results are not reliable or credible. The November 6 statement elaborated: "The elections were marred by numerous instances of serious irregularities, in particular, a completely flawed counting process." Moreover, "observers reported ballot stuffing, manipulated turnout results, pre-marked ballots, and production of either false protocols or no protocols at all. . . . The international observers express their concern at what seems to be a clear manipulation of electoral procedures."

This would be bad enough, considering that the election was the fourth since 1995 that failed to meet OSCE standards, even if some progress was registered in opposition participation and representation in the CEC. Much more interesting and disturbing, however, were the words used in a post-election press conference by two key international observers: Gerard Stoudman, the Director of ODIHR, who generally employs measured, diplomatic language, said he had not expected to witness "a crash course in various types of manipulation," and actually used the phrase "primitive falsification" to describe what he had seen. Andreas Gross, the head of the observer dele-

gation of the Council of Europe—an organization to which Azerbaijan has applied for membership and which is not particularly known for hard-hitting assessments of election shenanigans—amplified: "Despite the positive changes observed in Azerbaijan in recent years, the scale of the infringements doesn't fit into any framework. We've never seen anything like it."

Mr. Speaker, in the context of international election observation, such a brutally candid assessment is simply stunning. As far as I know, representatives of ODIHR or the Council of Europe have never expressed themselves in such terms about an election that they decided to monitor. One senses that the harshness of their judgment is related to their disappointment: Azerbaijan's authorities had promised to conduct free and fair elections and had long negotiated with the ODIHR and the Council of Europe about the legal framework and administrative modalities but, in the end, held an election that can only be described as an embarrassment to all concerned.

According to Azerbaijan's CEC, in the party list voting, only four parties passed the six-percent threshold for parliamentary representation: President Aliiev's governing party, the New Azerbaijan Party; the Communist Party; and two opposition parties, the Popular Front [Reformers] and Civil Solidarity. Other important opposition parties allegedly failed to break the barrier and apart from a few single mandate seats won no representation in parliament.

In the aftermath of the election and the assessments of the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe, the international legitimacy of Azerbaijan's legislature is severely undermined. Within Azerbaijan, the ramifications are no better. All the leading opposition parties have accused the authorities of massive vote fraud, denounced the election results, and have refused to take the few seats in parliament they were given. Though some governing party representatives have claimed that opposition representation is not necessary for the parliament to function normally, others—perhaps including President Aliiev—understand that a parliament without opposition members is ruinous for Azerbaijan's image. New elections are slated in 11 districts, and perhaps President Aliiev is hoping to tempt some opposition parties to abandon their boycott by offering a few more seats. Whether opposition parties, which are bitterly divided, will participate or eventually agree to take up their deputies' mandates remains to be seen.

What is clearer from the conduct of the election and its outcome is that President Aliiev, who is preparing the succession of his son as Azerbaijan's next president, was determined to keep opposition leaders out of parliament and ensure that the body as a whole is supportive of his heir. If the only way to guarantee the desired outcome was wholesale vote fraud, so be it. Prognoses of possible accommodation with the opposition, or possibly even some power sharing arrangements, to facilitate a smooth and peaceful transfer of power, have proved unfounded. Indeed, President Aliiev reportedly has told the new UK Ambassador to Baku that Azerbaijan does not need to join the Council of Europe, indicating that he is not prepared to make any concessions when it comes to maintaining his grip on power and passing it on to his chosen heir, whatever the international community thinks.

Even more worrisome is that by depriving the opposition of the possibility to contend for power through parliamentary means, Aliev has seriously reduced the chances of a "soft landing" in Azerbaijan. When he eventually leaves the scene, anything could happen. This is not only a frightening prospect for the citizens of Azerbaijan, its neighbors and hopes for resolving regional disputes, especially the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict—it is a scenario that should alarm policymakers in Washington as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to say "I told you so" to those colleagues who argued against my resolution. I would much have preferred to make a statement congratulating Azerbaijan on having held exemplary elections and making substantial steps towards democratization. Alas, I cannot do so, which should sadden and concern all of us. But I fear the consequences will be far more serious for the citizens of Azerbaijan.

NEW YORK'S HEALTHY START  
CONSORTIUM HELPS REDUCE INFANT  
MORTALITY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I praise the outstanding work of New York's Healthy Start Consortium. Healthy Start/NYC (HS/NYC), a collaborative, community-driven, Federal project was founded in 1991 to combat infant mortality and poor maternal and child health in three medically underserved areas. New York neighborhoods like Bedford-Stuyvesant, Mott Haven and Central Harlem have some of the Nation's highest infant mortality and poverty rates. From 1991 to 1997, HS/NYC served 30,000 women and their families annually which lead to a 40 percent decrease in the infant mortality rate, a drop in low birth weights and a 24 percent decline in births to teens.

The Consortium has been able to create a strong public-private network of health and social service agencies, providers, schools, churches, businesses, and individuals. It has remained committed to its community-driven, collaborative approach. I want to particularly commend the work of Ngozi Moses with the Brooklyn Perinatal Network; Arlene Bailey-Franklin with the Bronx Perinatal Consortium; Sharon Rumley with the Queens Comprehensive Perinatal Council; Goldie Watkins-Bryant with Healthy Start/New York City Project; Luci Chambers, with Downstate New York Healthy Start Project; Mario Drummonds, with Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership; Cheryl Brown-Hoyte with Nassau County's Healthy Start Project and Dara Cerwonka with Suffolk County Perinatal Coalition.

Now that the Healthy Start Program has been reauthorized, I look forward to working with the Healthy Start/New York City Consortium in the months ahead. The Consortium hopes to broaden its work with consumers. I am certain that the Consortium will be able to bring new families into its program during the next fiscal year. Once again, I offer my congratulations to the Consortium on a job well done.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER  
CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2000*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, who died on November 28, 2000, and who served the House and the Nation for 37 years as one of its most revered public servants. To his family, his wife Bertha, his son CHARLIE who now serves in the House as our colleague, and to all of his constituents in the 20th District in Texas, I extend my most sincere condolences. My prayers are with all of you in the hope of giving comfort against the grief of your great loss.

What to say about Henry B., as he was affectionately known in his San Antonio Congressional District. In the House, Henry B. was known as a fierce activist for the poor and for minorities in the field of housing, small business, community development, and consumer fairness. He was an unbridled advocate for what he believed was right for his constituents and the Nation.

For Members like me, he was a friend, a mentor and an educator—because without his knowledge and willingness to share, many of us who did not have the privilege or opportunity to serve with him on the Banking and Housing Committee would not have known what was going on, or how to resolve the problems facing the Nation—from affordable housing to community development to salvaging the savings and loan industry, naming only a few of his many struggles to secure the American dream for all Americans.

From the beginning of his adult life, Henry B. was on fire to help his people and his State and his country. A feisty first-ever Mexican-American to serve in the State Legislature, he was also the first to be selected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1963—and in both jobs he went about kicking down ethnic barriers, facing civil rights issues with searing defiance that meant a 36 hour filibuster in the Texas State Senate, defeating 16 segregationist bills, to punching out a restaurant patron in the 1970's for calling him a "communist." When an apology was demanded, Henry B. said only that he was sorry he had pulled the punch.

During his 37 years in the House of Representatives, Henry B. Gonzalez spoke out for the people—all people—on behalf of the needs of the working poor—long before it was popular to do so. He held in his hand the day of his swearing in as a Member of this House a bill to abolish the Poll Tax which was eventually enacted, and he never stopped working against all kinds of discrimination against the poor and the disenfranchised in our country.

And so we say goodbye to Henry Gonzalez, knowing that the rich, the poor, the powerful, the disadvantaged, the young and the old, are better off than they would have otherwise been without his caring and compassion, and without the fire in his heart and the courage of his convictions as a public servant that left so much good in its wake—enough to last a lifetime.

We celebrate the life of Henry B. Gonzalez, who served under eight presidents and be-

came a legend in his own time, by conferring upon him the titles of statesman, warrior, pioneer, patriot, hero and a national treasure. We also remember him as funny, brilliant, a maverick, and a coalition builder who lived his life and served his people with exuberant ardor. Most of all he was genuine, and he was honest to a fault.

But Henry B. Gonzalez said it best: "I have never failed myself, and I have never failed you."

He provided the opportunity for all of us to follow in his footsteps, and none more so than his beloved son, the gentleman from Texas, CHARLIE GONZALEZ, our colleague now serving the 20th District of Texas, and I again extend to him and his family my heartfelt sorrow and tell them, Henry B. will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
ADDRESSING THE FLU VACCINE  
SHORTAGE

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, influenza is a serious illness that afflicts millions of Americans each year. While most Americans recover after a few days, influenza causes thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the elderly. Fortunately, vaccination can prevent a person from becoming infected with influenza.

Influenza vaccines are developed each year because the flu virus naturally mutates and changes. This year's strain of flu vaccine has been a particularly difficult strain to produce for all manufacturers, and as a result, there are lower than normal yields. Although we expect there will be sufficient vaccines for this year, there has been a delay in releasing vaccines to the public.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended vaccinations first be given to individuals who are at particularly high risk for developing complications. This group includes individuals who are 65 years or older, people who suffer from chronic illnesses, individuals in nursing homes, children who are undergoing long-term aspirin therapy, and pregnant women.

Ninety percent of vaccines are distributed by private sector distributors for use by health care providers. This resolution urges these private sector distributors to follow the CDC's recommendations to ensure that those at highest risk for influenza complications be given priority in receiving their vaccine.

H. RES. —

Whereas influenza is a contagious viral infection that affects the respiratory tract;

Whereas people of any age can become infected with influenza;

Whereas, although most people who become infected with influenza recover within a few days, some people develop serious complications that can become life-threatening;

Whereas influenza causes thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the elderly;

Whereas vaccination can prevent a person from becoming infected with influenza;

Whereas the periodic mutation of the influenza virus requires the influenza vaccine to be annually updated to contain the most recent influenza virus strains;

Whereas a lower-than-expected yield of one of the components of this season's influenza vaccine has caused the distribution of the vaccine to be delayed;

Whereas the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working closely with vaccine manufacturers to facilitate the availability of a safe and effective influenza vaccine for this influenza season;

Whereas temporary shortages of the influenza vaccine early in this influenza season may require decisions to be made regarding how to prioritize the use of the available vaccine;

Whereas the vaccine available early in this influenza season should be used to maximize the protection of people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection;

Whereas the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the groups of people at a high

- (1) people who are 65 and older;
- (2) residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house people who have chronic medical conditions;
- (3) people who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma;
- (4) people who have had required medical follow up or hospitalization during the past year because of chronic metabolic disease, kidney dysfunction, blood disorders, or immunosuppression;
- (5) children and teenagers who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy; and
- (6) women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season;

Whereas all influenza vaccine used in the United States is produced in the private sector, and 90 percent of that vaccine is distributed by private-sector distributors for use by health care providers;

Whereas reports have indicated that certain distributors of the influenza vaccine are taking advantage of the influenza vaccine shortage by raising their prices by as much as 500 percent;

Whereas distributors are first supplying those buyers willing to pay the highest price for the influenza vaccine, even when those buyers were the last to order;

Whereas, for example, although the Director of the California Department of Health Services contracted with a distributor in February to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$17.99 per vial and has received only one third of the order, the Director of the Maine Division of Disease Control contracted with that same distributor in June and July to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$39.00 per vial and received both shipments within two months; and

Whereas distributors are in a unique position to make vaccines available first to facilities serving people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection, such as nursing homes, hospitals, and doctors offices: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the private-sector distributors of the influenza vaccine should make all reasonable efforts to ensure that, during any shortage of the influenza vaccine, priority is given to distributing the available vaccine to those groups of people identified by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection.

## TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY YATES

### HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, our country lost a great patriot, Sid Yates. Sid was my very dear friend, and a beloved federal representative, who preserved and protected our country's finest cultural resources and historical landmarks.

For nearly a half of a century, Sid served in the House of Representatives. I was fortunate enough to have served with him for more than 25 years. He was a true gentleman and distinguished politician who brought honor and dignity to the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was a very sad day when Sid announced he would not run for reelection. I know the House of Representatives meant a great deal to him, and it was very hard for Sid to leave a place that he loved. Personally, I missed him greatly. It always made my day when he returned to Capitol Hill for a visit. I was saddened by his passing and he will be greatly missed by those of us who worked beside him, and the nation as a whole.

Many people remember Sid as a tremendous advocate of the arts, but I will always remember him as a master of the art of politics. Sid loved serving as a deputy in the Democratic Whip organization. So much so that for well over twenty years, Sid served as a deputy whip, while championing the causes of the Democratic Party.

Not only was Sid a great politician, but he was also a genuine and caring person. He worked hard behind the scenes to help individual members shepherd their projects through the legislative process, but he was always certain to give the credit to others. Although a giant in the House, Sid would always make it a point to take of the little things without any kind of fanfare. For instance, every Thursday, after our Democratic Whip meetings, Sid would always make sure to bring back muffins or danish to his staff. Although in the grand scheme of things this small token of thoughtfulness was probably lost on most Members, I believe it spoke volumes on the kind of person Sid Yates was.

While I will always remember Sid as a wonderful and caring person, I can't overlook how hard he worked to make our country a beautiful and cultural place to live. As Chairman of the coveted Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, he fought tirelessly to protect free expression of the arts, and to preserve funding for national parks, historical landmarks, and national seashores. He was a true believer in the benefits of the arts and historical landmarks.

My hometown of Boston had benefited greatly from his generosity and dedication to preserving historical landmarks. Over the years, Sid supported vital federal funding for Boston's Freedom Trail, a wonderful walking tour through the City of Boston that provides a historical review of the many famous Revolutionary War sites including the African Meeting House, Dorchester Heights, and the Old South Meeting House.

Thanks to Sid's work with the Freedom Trail, tourists can visit the famed Old North Church, where Paul Revere hung two lanterns warning citizens of Boston that the British

were coming by sea; or Faneuil Hall, where colonists met to protect British rule; and many other revolutionary war sites.

As an appropriations committee cardinal, Sid was also helpful in providing funds to preserve Boston's 31 harbor islands, which are rich with historical and geological treasures. Because of Sid's support, visitors will soon be able to take a ferry to many of these remarkable islands, which have been inaccessible for years. Sid's commitment to the preservation of the harbor islands will provide plenty of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Boston. The City of Boston is a better place to visit thanks to the kindness and wisdom of Sid Yates.

Just as the lanterns at Old North Church shone brightly to guide the patriots in their fight for independence, Sid Yates' commitment and dedication to the arts and humanities was a guiding light for all Americans. While his light has faded, his legacy will endure because of his devotion to preserving our country's historical landmarks and cultural resources. Just like Paul Revere, Sid Yates was a great patriot.

## IN RECOGNITION OF SUE NICHOLS

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the tireless dedication of Mrs. Sue Nichols to the children of our community. Mrs. Nichols was born and raised in Miami-Dade County where she is a teacher at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish School. She has now been teaching kindergarten for 25 years.

Recently, Mrs. Nichols wrote an article entitled "Flowers of Tomorrow Are Seeds of Today", which I believe is an accurate representation of her kind and exuberant demeanor. This outlook is the product of a healthy life philosophy which was passed on to her by her grandmother, Viola Erhart. It is quite simple and yet at the same time incredibly profound. At its core is the saying: "May each person I see today go happier for it on his way". She lives by this motto every day as a wife, friend and teacher.

Mrs. Nichols' greatest service to our community lies in her devotion as a teacher to the spreading of this wonderful vision among her students. She understands that while the young mind is fragile, it is at the same time remarkably open. By recognizing our children as the flowers of tomorrow and instilling within them her grandmother's message of kindness, Sue is actively contributing to the development of these same values among her students.

Mrs. Nichols deserves the greatest praise both from the families of these young boys and girls, and from all those whose lives she will touch. Her efforts are an invaluable investment in our community's future and we are all truly blessed to have her in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Mrs. Sue Nichols for her outstanding service to the youth of our community.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Church of the Incarnation on its 90th anniversary, which will be celebrated on Sunday, December 10, 2000. Founded in 1910, the Church of the Incarnation is celebrating ninety years of faith in God and community.

The Church of the Incarnation held its first service on January 8, 1911, in a room rented from the Afro-American Women's Industrial Club for \$6.00 a month. Although its beginnings were meager, its future would not be. Despite financial hardship, the congregation grew steadily, attracting members with the deepest faith and commitment.

In June of 1928, the Church of the Incarnation held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new building. On December 24, 1928, the Church held its first service there.

In 1971, the Church achieved "Parish Status," and later established an award for the man and woman of the year. In order to become more involved in the community, the Church began to sponsor and implement community outreach programs and participated in community development projects, including after school and summer camp programs; the renovation of P.S. #18, which currently provides housing for low-income families; a "Clothing Ministry" for the poor; and a scholarship fund. "Resurrection House" opened for occupancy in 1992. In addition, the Church established a Sunday school and a men's chorus and youth choir, as well as a newsletter entitled "Good News."

The Church of the Incarnation merged with St. Mathew's and St. Stevens in 1997. Today, the three churches together are St. Augustine. A new church and community center will be completed in December 2001.

Ninety years after its founding, the Church of the Incarnation proudly celebrates its history—a history that is a testament to the congregation's enduring faith and extraordinary commitment to God and community.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 90th anniversary of the Church of the Incarnation. This congregation's faith is a wonderful example for everyone.

**SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT  
WITH REGARD TO INDIA**

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the year 2000 comes to a close, we can look back over the past twelve months with a profound sense of accomplishment by pointing to a new chapter in our relationship between the United States and India. We have witnessed dramatic changes that have created a dynamic and lasting partnership as celebrated throughout President Clinton's visit to India last July and Prime Minister's Vajpayee's journey to the

U.S. where, on an historic September morning, he addressed a joint meeting of the House and Senate. Today, as never before, India and the U.S., the world's two largest democracies, are collaborating on a host of issues of mutual interest, from technology to the environment and from economic development to the fight against terrorism.

Our close ties with India would not have been possible without the bipartisan cooperation of the Congress. The vast majority of our members have embraced that relationship. We have enacted congressional resolutions demonstrating our solid support for India and its democratic institutions and we have been actively engaged in promoting regional stability in an area of vital concern to U.S. interests, and the flow of commerce between our nations. In view of the overwhelming support in forging a harmonious relationship for the new millennium, it is disappointing that a few of our colleagues have seen fit to disparage and discourage that relationship by launching a series of ill-informed attacks on India and its people. In the interest of accuracy and in the broader context of the growing bonds of friendship between the U.S. and India, it is important that we set the record straight.

First, let us consider the baseless claim that the Government of India was responsible for the bombing of an Air India jet in 1985, which occurred off the coast of Ireland in a flight originating in Canada, claiming the lives of 329 passengers. That incident has now been thoroughly investigated by one of the world's most respected law enforcement agencies, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). On October 27, 2000 after an almost 15-year inquiry, the RCMP charged two residents in British Columbia, Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Bagri, with the murders of the innocent civilians killed in the crash of the Air India jet. One of those individuals, Mr. Malik, has been identified by Canadian authorities as the financial backer of extreme Sikh separatist groups operating from Canada. Both Canadians have also been charged with the murders of two baggage handlers in Tokyo by a bomb that was meant to destroy yet another Air India flight. These individuals, will be given a trial and afforded every opportunity to defend themselves against the murder and criminal conspiracy charges lodged against them by Canadian authorities.

As the India Abroad News Service reported recently, moderate Sikhs in the U.S. have welcomed the RCMP's apprehension of the suspects. According to India Abroad, the Sikh Council on Religion and Education—a community think-tank based in Washington—concluded:

We, the Sikhs, condemn the killing of innocent people. We also want to emphasize in the strongest possible terms that any such employment of violence for political ends is totally against Sikh teachings and values. The Sikh religion teaches tolerance and respect for all religious beliefs and practices . . . The consensus in the Sikh community in India and internationally has been that political issues must be resolved through dialogue, political process and peaceful means. We are surprised and shocked that there could be Sikh individuals who would commit such a horrible act . . .

These moderate and responsible views of the U.S. Sikh community stand in sharp contrast to the false information in press releases prepared by the so-called "Council of

Khalistan" on the destruction of the Air India jet that were reflected in statements by one of our colleagues. This "Council" has little presence and

Turning to the second event—the massacre of 36 Sikh villagers in Chittisinghpura on March 20, 2000 which occurred just as President Clinton arrived for his state visit to India. Statements that the Indian government was responsible for this infamous act of murder, defies the facts. The true story is otherwise. Indian authorities have arrested a prime suspect in the case who disclosed that the massacre was the work of a group of terrorists in the ranks of the Hiz-ul-Majahideen (HUM) and HUM's affiliate, the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LET). The HUM has already been designated by the State Department as a foreign terrorist organization and I have joined with other members of the Congress in calling upon the State Department to name the LET as a terrorist organization.

Both the HUM and LET are on the long list of terrorist organizations that are encouraged and supported by Pakistan. Attacks from forces outside of India, often led by armed mercenaries, are consistent with the pattern of terrorism that these and other terrorist groups have carried out for many years against innocent Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir. Their motive is clear—they seek to disrupt the territorial integrity of India and to show that a multi-religious society cannot survive. The attack on the Sikh community in Chittisinghpura, by cynically choosing the very eve of President Clinton's visit to New Delhi to perpetrate these atrocities, follows the policy of ethnic cleansing to eliminate whatever little minority population that resides in the Kashmir valley. Casting blame on India for these deliberate acts of violence is at odds with the facts of the case and India's constitutional obligation to protect the civil and human rights of its diverse communities.

Finally, let us consider recent statements claiming that India is practicing "state terrorism" in Punjab and Kashmir, citing unsubstantiated figures from questionable and unreliable sources. Using these claims, it is contended India should be declared a terrorist state. Such a notion flies in the face of the documented record by the U.S. State Department citing the improvement of human rights in India. It is also contrary to the partnership between the U.S. and India in combating the menace of international terrorism by engaging in day-to-day cooperative counter-terrorist activities.

With India's record of democracy deeply rooted in its constitution and its tolerance for its many religious and ethnic communities, India itself has suffered from the ravages of terrorism to a degree virtually unparalleled around the world. The human cost of this cross-border terrorism has been staggering. Indeed, over the years, more than 16,000 Indians in Punjab have been murdered and maimed by cross-border terrorists. The deadly toll in Jammu and Kashmir has exceeded 21,000.

It is in this context that we should examine the damage that can be caused by unsubstantiated allegations and false propaganda. Charges are continually hurled against the Government of India every time a vicious act



of terrorism is committed—for example, the bombing of the Air India jetliner in 1985, the attack on the Sikh community in March of this year, and the shooting of innocent pilgrims on their way to the Amarnath caves in August. There is more than sufficient evidence to show that the last two acts committed this year were the handiwork of elements from Pakistan belonging to the LET. The facts with regard to the Air India case point to Canadian-based Sikh supra-nationalists as the source of the aviation disaster. If this kind of propaganda is uncritically allowed to hold sway, it encourages militant units like the LET to perpetrate similar atrocities against innocent civilians. It is characteristic of the modus operandi of these terrorist groups to deflect attention from their inhumane acts by deliberately shifting the blame to India.

The first and only address by a foreign head of state before a joint meeting of the 106th Congress by India's Prime Minister Vajpayee speaks volumes about the position of the U.S. Congress on U.S.-India relations.

The recent ill-informed statements by some of our colleagues do not represent the views of most Members of the U.S. Congress.

RECOGNIZING LARRY JUSTICE OF  
MACON, GA, FOR HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE BIBB COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor an exceptional citizen from Macon, Georgia's 8th Congressional District, Larry Justice of Macon, Georgia, on his retirement from the Bibb County Board of Commissioners.

Larry Justice was first elected to the Macon Board of Commissioners in 1969 and has served as chairman for 10 years. As a long time public servant, Larry has served on the State of Georgia Local Health Advisory Commission and is the past president of the Macon Board of Realtors.

I have had the distinct honor of working with Larry on such projects as the Fall Line Freeway, Robins Air Force Base and many other issues in transportation, health, education and defense. I will miss his tenacity and hard work ethic, as well as, our close working relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Larry Justice for his dedication and service to Bibb County. He is an extraordinary citizen, and I am proud to serve as his Representative in the People's house.

HONORING THE FORT WORTH  
ALUMNI (BETA TAU LAMBDA)  
CHAPTER OF THE ALPHA PHI  
ALPHA FRATERNITY

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding efforts of the Fort Worth Alum-

ni (Beta Tau Lambda) Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, which marked its 60th anniversary on this past Monday, December 4th.

Throughout its 94-year existence, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has been an exemplary organization, with a mission committed to public service. The Fort Worth Alumni Chapter has done a tremendous job of furthering Alpha Phi Alpha's mission and has worked to make a real difference in our North Texas community.

The Fort Worth Alumni Chapter has taken action in our community to curb juvenile delinquency, foster job training skills and community safety programs, and combat teen pregnancy by educating young men.

Through the years, the members of Alpha Phi Alpha and the Beta Tau Lambda chapter have become leaders of their community, a testimony to the strength of their education as members of this fine organization.

Congratulations again to the Beta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on your 60th anniversary. I know you will continue serving our Fort Worth community throughout the next 60 years.

HONORING MR. FRED W. LILLEY  
FOR 40 YEARS OF FAITHFUL  
SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN  
PUBLIC

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, upon my election to the House of Representatives in 1994, I opened a district office in Greenville, NC located next door to the local Social Security Administration. Little did I realize at the time how beneficial this location would be in helping the people of the third district.

As you can imagine, my district office over the past 6 years has been busy assisting constituents with their Social Security problems. The work my office has performed on these cases has allowed my staff and I to develop a number of wonderful relationships with the employees of the Administration. One of these relationships in particular has proven to be especially valuable—the relationship between my office and Mr. Fred Lilley, district manager in the Social Security office next door.

Fred Lilley has always been most helpful to my office. Time and time again he has assisted my staff and I in resolving problems for my constituents and has offered valuable advice and insight. That is why, while happy for Fred, I was somewhat saddened to hear of his upcoming retirement from the Social Security Administration.

Upon Fred Lilley's retirement on December 30, 2000, we will be losing a committed and caring public servant—one who has dedicated his career to helping his fellow man. He has given 40 years of service to the citizens of our Nation through his work with the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. Originally from Martin County, NC, Fred began working for the Social Security Administration following graduation from East Carolina College in 1960. During the ensuing years he worked in a number of offices throughout the southeast, including a ten year assignment in Social Security's Atlanta Re-

gional Office before being transferred to Greenville in July of 1979. Since that time he has served as District Manager in Greenville, which includes both the Greenville and Elizabeth City offices. The Greenville District serves eight northeastern North Carolina Counties having over 45,000 beneficiaries receiving over \$300 million annually in Social Security benefits. Fred's respect for individual differences, his ability to build on their strengths and compensate for weaknesses, has made him the quality manager with whom we have enjoyed working.

Fred Lilley loves his country, is active in local and community events, and lives each day to its fullest. A retired Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Fred is also a member of the Reserve Officers Association, the Civil Affairs Associations, The Association of the U.S. Army, and is a member and past President of the Greenville Civitan Club. He is a loving husband to his wife, Lenora who is an assistant librarian at a local elementary school and a wonderful father to his daughter Gail, who currently resides in Florida.

The service that Fred Lilley has given to the taxpayers for the past forty years has, in my opinion, exemplified what a true public servant should be. His concern about efficiency and always making sure the citizens are given courteous and sincere service will long be remembered as Fred Lilley's legacy.

HONORING HAROLD PRAEDIGER

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Harold Praediger, who is retiring as Borough Council President of Rockledge in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Praediger has been a resident of Rockledge for 45 years and has contributed years of extraordinary service to his community. He has been a member of the Borough Council for more than 14 years where he served as Recreation Chairman, Vice President and currently as President. As President, Mr. Praediger has played an integral role in kicking off the new Municipal Building project that is scheduled to break ground next year.

A graduate of Abington High School, Mr. Praediger resigned as the Head of Maintenance at Jeanes Hospital in Philadelphia and is now a co-owner of Acker's Hardware. He and his wife, Linda, have three children: Michael, Steven and Leigh Anne.

It is a privilege to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Harold Praediger. The entire Rockledge community has benefited from his leadership and fellowship. I join the Borough Council in congratulating him on his many years of exemplary service.

A FREE KASHMIR IS IN THE U.S.  
VITAL INTEREST

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from a 1-week visit to Pakistan and

Kashmir. This brief tour of a nation of more than 140 million people who were our loyal allies during the critical years of the cold war with the Soviet Union was pleasant and tremendously informative. The purpose of my trip was twofold. First, I represent the largest community of Pakistani and Kashmir-American citizens in our nation. Their concerns for their homeland are also my concerns. Secondly, since I was a high school student, and for all of my adult life, I have been captivated by the problem of Kashmir self-determination which mysteriously does not arouse the pity and anger throughout the world that it deserves. To raise the national and world level of visibility on this issue I have founded the House Pakistan-Kashmir Caucus.

During our stay in Pakistan and Kashmir as the guest of the Council of Pakistan Americans and the government of Azad Kashmir we covered a full and productive itinerary:

We were received by several high level officials of the national government including the Head of State, General Parvez Mucharref; whose present title is Chief Executive Officer. We also met with the Foreign Minister, the Minister of Education, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, the Administrator of the City of LaHore, the Governor of the province of Punjab.

We conferred with the American Embassy and Consulate officials in both Islamabad and LaHore including Ambassador Milman, Principal Officer Sheldon Rappaport, and Counsel General David Donahue along with the very helpful members of their staffs.

As a result of the recent passage of the Brownback amendment which exempts education aid from the set of sanctions presently being imposed on Pakistan, we met with an unusual number of education officials and visited six schools and four higher education institutions. Because of my long-term assignment on the Education Committee I applauded the Brownback amendment and conveyed my intent to closely work with those who are charged with administering it.

On a one day trip to Azad Kashmir we visited three schools and a refugee camp. We met children with high spirits and keen intelligence. We also met refugees who were obviously crushed in both spirit and body.

In Islamabad, and LaHore as well as in Azad Kashmir we participated in several press conferences and meetings which discussed the Kashmir problem at great length. The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sultan Mahmood Chaudary showed particular concern about the present stalemate and the decline in American interest as a third party. We assured him that, despite the exceptional power and influence of the Indian lobby, we would return to achieve a greater balance of thinking and action with respect to Pakistan and Kashmir. We also pledged to work with the Pakistani and Kashmiri community in America to "jump-start" a "People's Movement to Free Kashmir".

Self determination, democracy and human rights are assigned the highest priority in the value scheme of the international community in this year 2000. The people of Kashmir have been denied all three of these vital social and political components while the nations of the world have watched their plight for 53 years. The United Nations has reneged on a vital promise to Kashmir for more than five decades. The great powers who sit on the Secu-

rity Council have ignored the pains of the Kashmir people.

For humanitarian reasons Kashmir must be set free. Of equal importance is the fact that this long festering problem fuels an explosive dispute between Pakistan and India. Because both of these powers now have nuclear weapons, Kashmir has become one of the globe's most dangerous regions. Justice for the people of Kashmir is now inextricably interwoven with freedom from the massive world nuclear contamination which would result from any nuclear conflict in South Asia.

The continuing refusal of the United States and its allies to assign the highest priority to the Kashmir problem is a dangerous strategic blunder. The failure to pursue a vigorous and thorough non-violent diplomatic solution in Kashmir will result in tragic future consequences.

TRIBUTE TO JACK VALENTI ON  
HIS RECEIPT OF THE CIVILIAN  
PATRIOT AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in congratulating and honoring Jack Valenti, the President of the Motion Picture Association of America, on his receipt of the first Citizen Patriot Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions by civilians to our nation's military personnel and to our nation's security. My dear friend, Jack Valenti, is a friend to many of us here in this body, and he is most deserving of this singular honor. Jack first served our country during World War II, flying over 50 combat missions over Italy. Later, he served in a position of great responsibility in the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson. He then went on to represent our nation's film industry here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I could spend all day extolling the virtues of this outstanding man, this extraordinary citizen and patriot. However, my efficient nature suggests that I share with you the excellent remarks of Secretary of Defense William Cohen when he presented Jack with this award. I request that excerpts of Secretary Cohen's speech be placed in the RECORD.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM  
COHEN PRESENTING THE CIVILIAN PATRIOT  
AWARD TO JACK VALENTI, PRESIDENT OF THE  
MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

I had a long speech tonight, but that's not what I'm going to inflict upon you. You had an opportunity to pay tribute to a young sailor who survived the U.S.S. *Cole* tragedy. I don't know if many of you are aware of what took place following that terrorist bombing. But for 48 to 72 hours following that tragic event, these young men and women aboard that ship worked much of the time without any power. They were in total darkness. They had no external support. They had lost 17 of their colleagues. Fifty were desperately wounded. They had chaos all around—smoke, jagged metal. Then they lost the power and the water was coming in at 10 gallons per minute, and they had to bail it out bucket by bucket. But they were determined to save that ship to make sure that ship did not go down.

So I again want to tell you how proud I am [of our forces], and how proud I am of President Clinton for having reached across the aisle to say, "I want this Republican to serve in my administration to send a signal to the American people and to the Congress that when it comes to national security there is no party label. There is no party difference. We have one national security commitment." And I thank him for giving me this opportunity to be the civilian representative of the greatest military in the world, bar none. They are the finest military that we have ever had. They have performed magnificently the world over. Janet and I had the opportunity to visit General Tilelli in Korea up on the DMZ in the frozen hills. We've been out in the Persian Gulf where the temperatures ranged from 120 up to 140 degrees. We have been all over the world where our men and women serve us. And I must tell you—there can be no higher honor for me and Janet than to be working on their behalf.

It takes a great tragedy like the U.S.S. *Cole* to remind the American people that our men and women in uniform are serving us. Because of them, you and I are able to sleep safely. We go home tonight and we sleep under that blanket of freedom because of what they do day in and day out, because of the dangers they face day in and day out, because of the lives they put on the line day in and day out. They are great warriors. They are also great musicians, as you've seen. They are great peacekeepers. They are diplomats. But most of all, they're our sons and our daughters, and we must do everything in our power to make sure that we give them everything that they need and deserve in order to continue to serve us in the fashion that they do. That has been our commitment. That will be, hopefully, the commitment of those who will follow.

The film industry plays a critical role. On the way in, a number of the television reporters were asking us, "Why are you doing this? Why are you here in Hollywood?" Well, Hollywood has played a role in the security of this country throughout our history. If you go back to World War I, it was the movie star celebrities who were helping to push those Liberty Bonds. If you look at World War II, many of the celebrities were raising over \$1 billion to support that war effort. And then there are the film clips that we have seen here tonight—"Saving Private Ryan" by Steven Spielberg; "U-571," "The Perfect Storm," [and] "Top Gun" that Jerry Bruckheimer produced earlier. And we are going to witness another movie produced by Jerry with Michael Day, "Pearl Harbor," coming out on Memorial Day. And, of course, there's another great tribute to our military by Cuba Gooding, Jr. in "Men of Honor."

The film industry is important in shaping what people think about our military and supporting them, and we wanted to be here to say something to Hollywood you don't hear very often, and that's "Thank you." Thank you for all that you do in portraying the men and women who serve us, their patriotism, their courage, their sense of honor. On behalf of all of us, we in the Pentagon want to say thank you to Hollywood.

Tonight, we're going to present the first Citizen Patriot Award. And again, I was asked on the way in, "Why Valenti?" Of course, you have to say, well, why not Valenti? . . . We are celebrating a patriot in Jack Valenti. He is a veteran who flew 50 combat missions over Italy in World War II, who went on to public service in the White House with President Johnson, who has continued his service to this film industry but also to this country. And you know that he's a man of great language and literature and passion and commitment. He has been a

strong advocate on behalf of the men and women who are serving us in the military. So if we're looking for a citizen patriot, at the very top of the list we take Jack Valenti for all that he represents.

I will tell you that patriotism is in his blood. I remember reading a book that he wrote some years ago, and I came across a passage. He said, "I remember my white-mustached grandfather, Sicilian, proud, and dignified, and dominant, speaking to me and his dozen grandchildren in heavy accents, thick with an odd mix of Sicily and the Texas gulf coast, and he said, "Love this country, be proud of this country. It's a good land."

Jack Valenti has lived up to the words of his grandfather. He is proud of this country. He is a proud patriot. And I can't think of a better summation than one I read from Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, who also was a warrior, during the Civil War. Holmes said that, "Through our great and good fortune, in our youth our hearts were touched with fire. And it was given to us to learn at the outset that life is a profound and passionate thing. And while we're permitted to scorn nothing but indifference and don't pretend to undervalue the worldly rewards of ambition, we have seen with our own eyes beyond and above the gold fields, those snowy heights of honor. It's for us to bear the reports of those who follow. But above all, we have learned that whether a man accepts from Fortune her spade and will look downward and dig, or from Aspiration her axe and cord and will scale the ice, the one and only success which is his to command is to bring to his work a mighty heart."

For more than half a century, Jack Valenti has brought to his work a mighty heart, and we are eternally grateful for that.

---

TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. MACKINNON

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. HOYER, and I wish to recognize Special Agent John MacKinnon of the U.S. Customs Service for his exemplary service with the Office of Congressional Affairs for the past two years, including his work as the acting team leader for appropriations since May of this year. Special Agent MacKinnon has provided extraordinary assistance to the Subcommittee on

Treasury, Postal Service and General Government including planning and coordinating important Subcommittee travel to review counter-narcotics programs in the Andean drug source countries, port security and drug trafficking in Miami and the West Coast, and Customs automation projects at busy commercial ports such as Detroit and New York. Mr. MacKinnon also has been highly responsive to the requirements of this Subcommittee in both anticipating and responding to our information requirements, and in facilitating any hearings or other meetings between the Subcommittee and the Customs Service. He has brought great professionalism to his work, and has always contributed a fair measure of his energy, enthusiasm and a dram of Scottish wit to all his endeavors.

Special Agent MacKinnon came to his current assignment after a full and productive decade carrying out investigations of narcotics smuggling, illegal export of munitions and sensitive technology, and trafficking in child pornography. This work included six years leading undercover investigations of international child pornography, many of which involved the Internet. Out of that work, Mr. MacKinnon moved on to be one of the first investigators to work in and develop the Customs Service's Cyber-Smuggling Center. He has developed a wide reputation for his work in the field of Internet investigations, testifying before our counterpart Subcommittee in the Senate, assisting foreign police in international investigations, and teaching undercover courses for State and local police on Internet crimes against children.

Special Agent MacKinnon will soon depart for Boston to take up a new assignment in the field as a Group Supervisor in the Office of the Special Agent in Charge officers. From our perspective, he has served Customs well, and in so doing has done the same for our Subcommittee and the Congress. We wish him all the best in his new assignment and expect to see great things as his career progresses.

---

LEGISLATION ABOLISHING THE  
ELECTORAL COLLEGE

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2000*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an amendment to the Constitution abolishing the Electoral College.

Mr. Speaker, on November 7, 2000 two Presidents may have been elected.

Vice President GORE received a majority of the popular vote cast that day and Governor Bush may have received a majority of the elector college electors.

Regardless of your political viewpoints, I believe that from this point forward the President of the United States should be elected by direct popular vote.

This legislation will abolish the electoral college and ensure that when the American people step into the voting booth they, and not a slate of faceless electors, will choose the next President.

The Founding Fathers installed the electoral college as a mechanism to ensure only the best and brightest individuals of their time served as our President. This relic of a by-gone era was created because the Founding Fathers did not trust Americans to learn all they needed to know to make an informed decision.

But times have changed and the American people have come along way from those days.

We now live in an era of high-speed Internet access, instantaneous media coverage of international events, 24-hour news stations, and cross-country flights. There is no reason all Americans can't access the information they need to make an informed choice about who they want as their President.

There was a lot of discussion about trust in the recent Presidential campaign—on both sides: trusting people to make their own choices about retirement savings; trusting seniors to choose their own prescription drug plans; trusting women to control their reproductive health. Well, if we are going to entrust Americans to make these personal choices, we must also trust them to choose the President they believe best represents their interests.

Americans do not need to be protected from their own decisions—it's time to trust them.

In the 20th Century we gave women the right to vote, allowed direct elections of our United States Senators, and passed numerous voting initiatives designed to open the polling place to all citizens wishing to participate.

In the 21st Century, we must to sweep away these last archaic roadblocks and move forward to a truly modern democracy.