

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF NICHOLAS SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the birth and life of my grandson, Nicholas Bradley Smith, my namesake.

Born to Brad and Diane, on June 27, 1987, my wife Bonnie and I join Nick's other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON, in celebration of his life.

That year the first heart-lung transplant took place, astronomers at the University of California saw the first sight of a birth of a galaxy, and the US and Russia signed an accord to remove midrange missiles. That year the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 2,700 for the first time in history. Our economy was growing.

Over the next decade government spending would outpace inflation and the national debt increased to monstrous proportions.

It is my hope that we can reduce the national debt that will otherwise be passed on to this young man and his generation. We must work today to provide Nick with a better future, a sound economy, and the ability to achieve his greatest potential.

Let us remember Nicholas Smith and all the other young people in this country. We leave our legacy to them. May it be a good one.

HONORING MATTHEW BOWERS FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Norman Bowers, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matt has been very active with his troop, participating in such scout activities as the Packard and Sea Base High Adventure Camps. Additionally, Matt earned 29 merit badges for different activities and projects. Over the eleven years he has been involved in scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions with his troop, serving as den chief, troop guide, quartermaster, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matt remodeled a nursery for the Parkville Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Norman Bowers for his

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF IONE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 1953, the City of Ione was incorporated as a General Law City and is now the largest city in Amador with a population of 7,500 people. This year the city, and all those who enjoy its unique atmosphere and year round recreation, celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

Ione got its name by Thomas Brown around 1849 after one of the heroines in Edward Bulwer Lytton's drama "The Last Days of Pompeii." During the days of the Gold Rush, miners knew the town by the names of "Bedbug" and "Freezeout." Unlike other communities in Amador County, which were founded on gold mining, Ione was a supply center, stage and rail stop and agricultural hub.

The town of Ione continued to grow and prosper after its gold rush founding. The first school was built in 1853 and the first flour mill in 1855. The first brick building was built by Daniel Stewart in 1855 for his general merchandise store and is still owned and operated by the same family.

At the centennial of 1876, Ione had a population of 600 people. The centennial also celebrated the completion of the railroad to the town of Ione. The centennial celebration was the beginning of what is now known as the Ione Homecoming. This annual celebration has been held during the month of May almost every year since that first Centennial celebration in 1876 and is now held on the first weekend in May every year.

Our community is indeed proud of the City of Ione and its history. And I am proud to congratulate the City and its residents as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the City of Ione.

THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET: TAKING FROM THE POOR TO GIVE TO THE RICH

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the following column authored by Bob Herbert that appeared in today's New York Times. "Mugging the Needy" accurately details the serious dangers posed by the budget plan recently passed by the House: that in providing \$1.4 trillion in tax cuts to the wealthy, House Republicans are slashing billions of dollars in

funding that aids low-income Americans. These cuts will affect Medicaid recipients, children in foster care, the national school lunch program, as well as veterans' benefits and the ability of students to afford their higher education.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget is not just a political document that details their misguided vision for America. It is far more serious than even that, for it fails to stimulate the economy and create jobs, it saddles future generations with enormous deficits, and it robs needy Americans—both young and old—of critical services. The Congress should reject this budget.

MUGGING THE NEEDY

(By Bob Herbert)

I had wanted today's column to be about the events in Tulia, Tex., where a criminal justice atrocity is at long last beginning to be corrected.

(For those who don't know, prosecutors are moving to overturn the convictions of everyone seized in an outlandish drug sting conducted by a single wacky undercover officer.)

But there is another issue crying out for immediate attention. With the eyes of most Americans focused on the war, the Bush administration and its allies in Congress are getting close to agreeing on a set of budget policies that will take an awful toll on the poor, the young, the elderly, the disabled and others in need of assistance and support from their government.

The budget passed by the House is particularly gruesome. It mugs the poor and the helpless while giving unstintingly to the rich. This blueprint for domestic disaster has even moderate Republicans running for cover.

The House plan offers the well-to-do \$1.4 trillion in tax cuts, while demanding billions of dollars in cuts from programs that provide food stamps, school lunches, health care for the poor and the disabled, temporary assistance to needy families—even veterans' benefits and student loans.

An analysis of the House budget by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that its proposed cuts in child nutrition programs threaten to eliminate school lunches for 2.4 million low-income children.

Under the House plan, Congress would be required to cut \$265 billion from entitlement programs over 10 years. About \$165 billion would come from programs that assist low-income Americans.

This assault on society's weakest elements has been almost totally camouflaged by the war, which has an iron grip on the nation's attention.

The House budget does not dictate the specific cuts that Congress would be required to make. In its analysis, the center assumed (as did the House Budget Committee) that the various entitlement programs would be cut by roughly the same percentages. If one program were to be cut by a somewhat smaller percentage, another would have to be cut more.

The analysis found that in the year in which the budget sliced deepest:

"The cut in Medicaid, if achieved entirely by reducing the number of children covered, would lead to the elimination of health coverage for 13.6 million children."

• 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.

"The cut in foster care and adoption programs, if achieved by reducing the number of children eligible for foster care assistance payments, would lead to the elimination of benefits for 65,000 abused and neglected children."

"The cut in the food stamp program, if achieved by lowering the maximum benefit, would lead to a reduction in the average benefit from an already lean 91 cents per meal to 84 cents."

When's the last time one of the plutocrats in Congress waded through a meal that cost 84 cents?

The Senate budget is not as egregious. It calls for a total of about \$900 billion in tax cuts, and there is no demand for cuts in entitlement programs. But it is not a reasonable budget. In fact, there's something obscene about a millionaires' club like the Senate proposing close to a trillion dollars in tax cuts for the rich while the country is already cutting social programs, running up huge budget deficits and fighting a war in the Middle East.

At least in the House budget the first—if not the worst—of the cuts are in plain view. In the Senate plan the inevitable pain of the Bush budget policies remains concealed.

"There is a significant human toll in the Senate budget, but it's in the future," said Robert Greenstein, the center's executive director. "What I mean is that given the deficits we're already in, you can't keep doing tax cuts like this—you can't keep cutting your revenue base—without it inevitably leading to sharp budget cuts."

House and Senate conferees are now trying to resolve the differences in the two budget proposals. They will do all they can to minimize the public relations hit that is bound to come when you're handing trainloads of money to the rich while taking food off the tables of the poor. So you can expect some dismantling of the House proposal.

But no matter what they do, the day of reckoning is not far off. The budget cuts are coming. In voodoo economics, the transfer of wealth is from the poor and the working classes to the rich. It may not be pretty, but it's the law.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN
HONOR OF SELENA AND JAMES
BURNETTE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my grandchildren, Selena Anastasia and James Azarial, born February 26, 1997 to Elizabeth and Fred Burnette. My wife Bonnie and I join with James and Selena's other grandparents, Bonnie and Charles Burnette, to celebrate these children.

In James and Selena's birth year we made great advances in space technology. Onboard our flight to Mars was "Sojourner." This roving device, the first autonomous vehicle to travel on another planet, sent back to earth chemical analyses of soil and rocks. Sojourner was one of the greatest achievements in our space travel history.

Inventors play a unique role in our history creating new products to improve our way of life. Invention comes from the Latin, inventio, to discover or find out. Today, we continue to "find out" and create new ways to travel, grow food, communicate, and continue exploration of uncharted territory.

I hope that for these children curiosity will always be their guide so that they and their generation will continue scientific research to invent ways to make their own lives better.

I hope that as we consider legislation for these new issues we consider what we can contribute to our children and grandchildren by encouraging invention. I hope that we can leave Selena and James, and children and grandchildren everywhere, a brighter future because of our decisions today.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. JAMES W.
HALLMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this nation's most dedicated citizens, Sergeant James W. Hallman, Jr. On February 24, 2003, we lost James when he was senselessly gunned down during a morning stroll in Cantonment, the randomly chosen victim of a crime that has no explanation. We will forever miss James, but his impact and influence on our Northwest Florida community will never be forgotten.

A 34-year veteran of the Pensacola Police Department, James was the epitome of every law enforcement officer in the world. James was awarded the prestigious Silver Cross from the department in 1989 for going above and beyond the call of duty when he attempted to rescue two children near the 17th Avenue boat ramp. It was that dedication and determination to serve his community to the furthest lengths of his abilities that made him a hero to all and an officer to whom so many have tried to model themselves after.

Probably best known as the "Candy Man," James could always be found passing out candy to children when he was out patrolling schools and housing developments. As Chief John Mathis said at his funeral, "there is little doubt in my mind that right now, James is passing out candy to angels in heaven."

James' dedication to serving his community did not end upon his retirement from the police force in 1998. He was a member of the East Brent Baptist Church, the Brownsville Masonic Lodge, 32 Degree Scottish Rite and York Rite Mason, and the Hadji Shrine Temple. He was a man who lived to serve his community and for that we will be forever grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Sgt. James W. Hallman for their loss. His friends knew him as a kind man with an easy laugh and his coworkers knew him more for putting his fingers in his pocket to pull out candy than for putting his hand on his gun belt. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens, Sgt. James W. Hallman, Jr., whose legacy will live on long beyond his passing.

TRANSMITTAL OF IMPORTANT
CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS TO
POLAND

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to direct the attention of the House of Representatives to a sad anniversary. Almost 60 years ago, on April 13, 1943, Americans awoke to a startling announcement from Radio Berlin: the disclosure that thousands of bodies of Polish officers had been found by the Germans in a remote wood near the Dnieper River called Katyn Forest. These men had been captured in the fall of 1939 by the Red Army and executed the following spring by the NKVD which later became the KGB. Until the German discovery all trace of these men had disappeared.

The German discovery put tremendous strain on the western alliance from the moment it was announced. Our mortal enemy had accused the Soviet Union, a great ally who had just defeated the Wehrmacht at Stalingrad, of the unspeakable crime of murdering prisoners of war. For many in the West, it appeared to be a cheap propaganda stunt by Joseph Goebbels. Perhaps the Germans had murdered the Poles and were merely covering their tracks by blaming the crime on the Soviets. But as more and more facts were collected, it became abundantly clear that the Russians, not the Germans, had the blood of the Poles on their hands.

Over the next two years the governments of the United States and Great Britain took great pains to hold together the Alliance with the Soviet Union and downplayed Soviet responsibility for the murders in Katyn Forest and at two other sites that took the lives of more than 14,000 Polish officers. Eyewitness reports that should have been made public were classified top secret and subsequently disappeared. An Ambassador to the Balkans was forbidden to disclose incriminating documents and photographs. Polish broadcasters were censored by the Office of War Information.

Finally, between September, 1951 and December, 1952, a Select Committee of the U.S. Congress stepped in to investigate this horrible crime. This committee held hearings in six cities and four countries, received testimony from 81 witnesses and took depositions from another 100 who could not appear in person. Its published report of 2,162 pages filled seven volumes. In many ways, this investigation was Congress at its best. It meticulously assembled a body of fact that left no doubt about its principal conclusions: first, that the Soviets were guilty; and second, that the State Department and Army Intelligence (G-2) had engaged in a determined effort to shield the American people from the truth.

I recently learned that the seven-volume published record of the Select Committee to investigate the Katyn Forest massacre is not available anywhere in Poland. At the request of the Polish Government, I have arranged to provide Poland with a copy of this record which most experts believe is the most comprehensive body of record ever assembled on this subject. I would like to thank the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington, and his fine staff for their extensive cooperation and assistance in this matter.

On Friday, I will present this document to Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudzinski, who will accept it on behalf of the Polish government. These records will then travel to Poland with Mr. Allen Paul, an American author whose book, *Katyn: Stalin's Massacre and the Seeds of Polish Resurrection*, provides a comprehensive overview of the crime and the context in which it occurred. Mr. Paul's book has recently been translated into Polish and will be released at an event in Warsaw on April 12. He will place the hearing record at that time, in my behalf, in the hands of Mr. Andrzej Przewoznik, Secretary General of the Polish Government Council on War Archives, Public Monuments and Historic Sites.

It is to be hoped that the record established by the Select Committee will aid public officials, historians and many others in efforts to understand the terrible crime of Katyn and its continuing impact on Russo-Polish relations. I am including with this statement some excerpts of Mr. Paul's reflections on the importance and scope of the select committee which will be delivered on April 12 in Warsaw at a Conference on the 60th Anniversary of Disclosure of the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Mr. Speaker, as we observe the anniversary of the discovery of this tragedy, let us hope and pray that humanity is spared such tragedies in the future.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL
INVESTIGATION OF KATYN

At this moment we are only a few hours away from the sixtieth anniversary of Radio Berlin's sensational announcement that the Wehrmacht had found the bodies of thousands Polish officers in Katyn Forest who had been "bestially murdered by the Bolsheviks." Fresh from their catastrophic defeat at Stalingrad, the Germans were eager to divert the world's attention from the pierced veil of Wehrmacht invincibility, and they correctly surmised that this, too, was a golden opportunity to sow seeds of discord in the Western Alliance. At that moment the victims—men who had served Poland faithfully, in fact one might say, valiantly, men who represented the present and future leadership of their nation, fathers and husbands, physicians and engineers, professional soldiers and shopkeepers, unfortunate souls placed by an unkind fate in Soviet hands, prisoners of war who were not recognized as POWs by their captors—from the moment the news crackled over the airwaves from Berlin, these tragic victims became geopolitical pawns and would remain so for years to come.

... Amidst all the atrocities of World War Two why have the crimes commonly referred to as the Katyn Forest Massacre been so enduring? Poland's feisty wartime Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Stanislaw Kot, proved to be eerily prophetic on this issue. In 1941, exasperated by continued stonewalling by the Soviet government on the case of his country's missing soldiers Kot said, "People are not like steam. They cannot evaporate." More than 60 years later, we are still thinking, writing and debating the facts of the case because, I suspect, it provides such a powerful mirror into the human soul.

Let me turn now to one of the great milestones on the arduous path to truth about the terrible murders in Katyn Forest, that being the work of what was officially called "The Select Committee to Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence and Circumstances on the Katyn Forest Massacre."

On September 18, 1951 the United States Congress authorized what would become the

most comprehensive neutral investigation of this crime ever undertaken. It followed by five years an abortive attempt to address this darkest of tragedies at the Nuremberg trials. That charade collapsed under the sheer weight of Soviet prosecutorial ineptitude. In 1948 the Poles themselves—through their London-based government-in-exile—completed their own investigation and published it as, *The Crime of Katyn: Facts and Documents*. It was the most complete record of the crime at the time but it was far from what the Poles had hoped for: a high profile, independent investigation and trial to prove once and for all that the Soviets—not the Germans—were responsible for these brutal murders.

In their conclusion to the 1948 report, the Poles had emphasized Roman-law canon: i.e. "nobody can be judge in his own case." The Soviets had attempted with disastrous effect to judge their own case at Nuremberg. The Poles knew that they, no more than the Soviets, could judge this case, thus they called for an international tribunal to affix guilt and mete out punishment.

In a sense the investigation sponsored by the U.S. Congress vindicated the Poles' findings in 1948. The congressional investigation lasted from September 18, 1951 to December 22, 1952. It resulted in hearings in six cities and four countries; 81 witnesses were heard; and private depositions were taken from 100 individuals, most of whom required anonymity to protect relatives still in Poland. The final report of 2,162 pages filled seven volumes. After all was said and done, the Select Committee of Congress concluded, just as the Polish Government-in-Exile had four years earlier, that an international tribunal, in this case the new United Nations International Court Justice, should investigate the crime.

This similarity of findings in no way diminishes the scope and importance of the congressional investigation. Once and for all it put the United States clearly on the side of the truth in this case and that was no small accomplishment. The committee clearly, meticulously and, I would say, courageously documented U.S. concealment of Soviet guilt and its de facto pursuit of an ends justifies the means policy.

... Like the recommendations of the Polish government-in-exile in 1948, the recommendations of the Select Committee of Congress were never acted on. During the war geopolitical realities—principally the fear that the Soviets would sign a separate peace with Germany—stood squarely in the way. After the war geopolitical realities—the fact that the Soviets could block action at the United Nations—continued to stand squarely in the way.

... The words of Sir Owen O'Malley and Ambassador Stanislaw Kot ring just true today as the day they were uttered. Kot told us in 1941, "People are not like steam. They cannot evaporate." Kot would tell us today that the quest for justice for Poland's officers and deportees will inevitably continue. And surely O'Malley would tell us that justice, if found nowhere else, must be found in our own hearts.

IN MEMORY OF ODELIA ROBINSON

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Odelia V. Robinson, known for her focus on economic development and safety during the dec-

ade, represented Mount Pleasant on Cleveland City Council.

Robinson took office in 1990 with a promise to bring housing and youth services back to the community that had seen little construction in recent decades. When she resigned for health reasons at the end of 1999, her accomplishments included the new Zelma George Recreation Center as well as new houses, apartment buildings and a shopping center.

Robinson grew up in the Miles Heights area, where she was a lifelong member of Liberty Hill Baptist Church and taught Sunday School. She graduated from John Hay High School in 1948 and enrolled in the Cleveland College of Western Reserve University. She also took business administration courses at Cleveland State University. In 1953, she married Clarence Robinson, a bus driver who spent his weekends playing baritone saxophone in bands.

Odelia Robinson was the office manager for the American Civil Liberties Union in the 1960s and later worked for the Benjamin Rose Institute, an agency that provides services to the elderly. She also served on the boards of Hill House, the Murtis H. Taylor MultiServices Center and the Inner City Renewal Society.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I offer my sympathies to the family of Odelia Robinson.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN
HONOR OF ALEXANDER FREDERICK
BURNETTE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my ninth grandchild, Alexander Frederick Burnette, born May 31, 2000, born to our daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Fred. My wife Bonnie and I join with Alexander's other grandparents, Bonnie and Charles Burnette, in celebrating Alexander.

Alexander faces a great world of great opportunity. Scientific discoveries and advanced technology daily improve our lives. They allow us to live longer, better, and more productive lives. In the year of Alexander's birth scientists finished a map of the human genome. This was a huge scientific achievement which will help doctors and scientists improve our health and life.

Today, we continue to push forward with scientific advancements. Like information technology and biotechnology breakthroughs of the past ten years, nanotechnology holds the potential to revolutionize our way of life. However, the science is still very much in its fledgling stage, so it is important that the federal government coordinate and fund basic research into the fundamental aspects of nanotechnology so that its potential can one day be realized.

I hope that as we consider legislation for these new issues we consider what we can contribute to our children and grandchildren by encouraging new technologies. I hope that we can leave Alexander, and his generation every where, with a brighter future because of what we accomplish today.

IN HONOR OF HAROLD BROWN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Harold Brown. Harold is celebrating his 30th anniversary as chief executive officer at Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital.

Wisconsin's second oldest city, Prairie du Chien, is a town of 5,500 people that is rich in both history and culture. Located on the beautiful Mississippi River, Prairie du Chien works hard to maintain its pioneer heritage. Memorial Hospital, a model for rural hospitals around the country, is a 40-bed facility that receives approximately 1,800 admissions and 6,600 emergency room visits each year. Under Harold's guidance, Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital has won both national and state awards for its exemplary service.

My friend Harold has brought an enormous amount of leadership to his position at the hospital. He has been a small and rural hospital administrator for 37 years and was previously a health care consultant and medical education administrator for 6 years. He has received numerous awards, most recently the Governor's Exemplary Employers Award and the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund Award, both in 2002. In 1988, Harold received the Louis Gorin Award for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Health Care by the National Rural Health Association. Continually awarded the Employee of the Year Award by the employees of Memorial Hospital, he also received the Community Distinguished Service Recognition Award for 25 years of service.

From 1985 to 1990, Harold worked hard to provide new services for the elderly at Memorial Hospital. He developed and implemented certified hospice and rural regional hospice, as well as day care for the elderly. He helped establish an independent living program for seniors, as well as meals-on-wheels service. Further, Harold was instrumental in starting elderly apartment housing, as well as a companion care program.

In 1990, Harold expanded Memorial Hospital's service to the community to include, among other programs, child day care, expanded rehab services, athletic training, parish nursing, and personal care.

A longtime member of the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Harold is also a part of the National Rural Hospital Association, serving as the group's president in 1996. He is also a board member of the Rural Wisconsin Hospital Cooperative, an organization that includes 26 rural hospitals. A member of the AIDS committee, Harold is involved with Shared Health Services, a corporation providing services to 400 hospitals and nursing homes.

Harold continues to take an interest in Prairie du Chien. A highly active member of the community, he is a member of the City Planning Council, the Special School Board Committee, and the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Council. His service has not gone unnoticed; in 1997, Harold was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by the National Rural Health Association. He received the Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce C.F. LaPointe Award in 1999, an honor that is given annually for service to one's community. He has committed himself to not only the healthcare

needs of Prairie du Chien but to its other needs as well.

Harold's service to the state of Wisconsin and the community of Prairie du Chien has been tremendous. He has dedicated much of his life to providing quality health care and has touched many lives along the way. Harold is truly a man of great service, and I feel privileged to call him a friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR PAUL JADIN

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today before this house I'd like to recognize and honor Mayor Paul Jadin, whose exceptional leadership and commitment to the citizens of Green Bay have strengthened our community, and set a superb example for our future leaders.

Paul's dedicated service as mayor spanned 8 years. During that time, he helped our struggling downtown find new life, eliminated a score of government inefficiencies, revitalized our neighborhoods, and showed our business community that it makes sense to reinvest in a city like Green Bay.

As a friend and colleague, I am sad to see Paul leave. However, I know that his constituents are very grateful for the tremendous contributions he has made to our community throughout his tenure. Green Bay is a strong community with an exceptional work force, a proud history, and a wholesome tradition. There's no question Paul has kept Green Bay on that path.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to recognize today the extraordinary service of Mayor Paul Jadin. On behalf of my constituents, we say thank you, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

REINTRODUCTION OF AMERICANS ABROAD LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that would require a test census of Americans abroad in 2004. There are approximately 3 million to 6 million private American citizens living and working overseas, and many of them continue to vote and pay taxes in the United States. These citizens help increase exports of American goods, because they traditionally buy American, sell American, and create business opportunities for American companies and workers. Their role in strengthening the U.S. economy, creating jobs in the United States, and extending U.S. influence around the globe is vital to the well-being of our Nation. From a test census, we will learn methods and ways to count Americans abroad accurately. The legislation's goal is to include, if possible, all of these missed citizens in the 2010 decennial census.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF CLAIRE MARGARET SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of Claire Smith, born to our son Brad and his wife Diane on February 2, 1992. It was in this year on my birthday, November 5, that I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; 1992 was the international space year and my first committee assignment was Science.

It is for Claire, and for all our children and grandchildren, that we in Congress continue to push the boundaries of science, invention, and technology, so that their lives, will be better and more productive in the years to come.

My wife Bonnie and I join with Claire's other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON in celebrating this young life and all the opportunities we have through science to make the future better for our legacy, those children and grandchildren like Claire Smith.

HONORING GREGORY HAWKINS FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gregory Hawkins, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Gregory has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Camp Bartle, and 45 nights of camping with his troop. Additionally, Gregory has earned 33 merit badges for activities and projects he has participated in. During his time with Troop 66, he has been involved in over 112 hours of community service that the troop has performed.

For his Eagle Scout project, Gregory landscaped an area next to Clinton County Middle School. He moved a tree and constructed and installed five benches for the middle school students to use.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gregory Hawkins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE CREDIT UNION

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, in 1953, the roots of Heritage Community Credit Union were planted. This year the Credit Union, and all those

who enjoy its unique service, celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

It was 1953 when seven civilians working on Mather Air Force Base recognized a need for better financial service on base. Each member contributed \$5 to form what was then called Mather Civilian Credit Union. In 1962 the Credit Union merged with another military credit union to form Mather Federal Credit Union.

In an effort to increase membership the Credit Union added products and services such as mortgage loans, Priority Line Audio Response, and a Telephone Services Department. In 1992, the Credit Union merged with Electrical Workers #340 Credit Union to add 1600 new members. In a third effort to expand membership the Credit Union merged with Proctor & Gamble Employees Federal Credit Union, which added another 1600 new members.

On December 14, 1998, Mather Federal Credit Union members voted to convert to a State chartered community credit union. Membership eligibility was again broadened to include anyone living or working in Sacramento County and the name was changed to Heritage Community Credit Union.

It is no surprise that the Credit Union has received "Business of the Year," "Federal Credit Union of the Year" and "The Best Small Business to Work for in the Sacramento Area." The Credit Union has devoted countless hours and financial support to local charities and philanthropic causes. The Credit Union has used its rapid growth and increased recognition to serve not only its members but also the entire community.

Our community is indeed proud of Heritage Community Credit Union and its history. And I am proud to congratulate the members and staff as we celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday April 1, 2003, I meant to vote "yea" on rollcall vote No. 96.

I support H.R. 1412, the HEROES Act of 2003, a bipartisan bill recognizing the contributions of our men and women in uniform serving in the Middle East.

Hundreds of thousands of the United States military personnel have been called upon to serve in active duty for "Operation Iraqi Freedom." Some of our troops serving in this conflict are student reservists who were called up from their college campuses to serve their country, many of whom receive financial aid to help pay for their college education. While many other active military personnel are paying back their student loans.

The Act extends waiver authority to the Secretary of Education to ensure that members of the Armed Services and students are not punished financially as a result of their voluntary service to our country at time of war, or a national emergency.

While H.R. 1412 is a necessary and appropriate step, we should also recognize that Congress should be doing more to provide relief to our active military personnel. We should

take additional steps such as allowing military personnel to defer their student loans while they are on active duty, so that military personnel would not be charged interest on their student loans for the duration of their active duty. We must do everything that we can to recognize and to reward the sacrifices of the courageous men and women who are fighting in "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF EMILY BEATRICE SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of our second grandchild, Emily Smith, born on March 9, 1989 to our son Brad and his wife Diane.

The year of her birth was a time of change for America and the world. A new President, George Bush Sr., took office. More importantly it was the year that the world ushered in a new era of peace. On the second of May, Emily Smith was a just a few months old, but her future would be changed forever. It was in 1989 that the Berlin Wall fell and forty-five years of conflict and fear were soon behind us. It was a new era of prosperity, potential, and peace.

As we stand here today decisive moments confront us, but we have the opportunity to give Emily Smith, and all our children and grandchildren, the peace that we knew in 1989. It is my hope that by our work and decisions today we can give them peace for tomorrow.

My wife Bonnie and I join Emily's other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON, in celebrating this wonderful person.

JWOD PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, for the past 64 years the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program has empowered Americans who are blind or severely disabled by providing them with a diverse set of employment opportunities. Today 38,000 disabled Americans are realizing their potential by working in their local communities across the country under this program. These Americans are proud to provide federal and military customers with a wide array of SKILCRAFT and other JWOD products and services. The JWOD Program prides itself on delivering high quality products and services at a competitive price in the most convenient way possible.

Some of the product categories offered by the JWOD program include office supplies, military specific, safety, maintenance, repair, medical-surgical, janitorial-sanitation, and customization. The services that are provided to the federal and military customer include but aren't limited to call center and switchboard operation, military base and federal of-

fice building supply centers, CD-Rom duplication-replication, data entry, document imaging and grounds care.

I rise today in support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program and the opportunities it provides for an underemployed population of hard working Americans. Furthermore, I urge my colleagues to purchase SKILCRAFT and JWOD products from the House-Senate Stationary stores not only because of their quality and value, but also because of the socio-economic benefits that can come from supporting the program. By purchasing these products and using these services we are enabling more disabled Americans to have the opportunity to become taxpayers. Today in Runnemede, New Jersey, X blind Americans are employed under the JWOD Program and are producing X items or services for us, the federal customer.

The JWOD Program is administered by the Presidentially-appointed Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, with much assistance from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, which serves people with a wide range of disabilities. More than 650 local nonprofit agencies associated with NIB and NISH employ people who are blind or disabled to produce the quality products and offer the services authorized for sale to the federal government under the JWOD Program.

The JWOD Program is a great illustration of a successful partnership that has the ability to continuously grow with the changing procurement environment within the federal government.

The Javits-Wagner O'Day Program works for America.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD E. WOOD AS HE TAKES THE HELM AT DEFIANCE COLLEGE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to Dr. Gerald E. Wood. Tomorrow, Dr. Wood will be inaugurated as Defiance College's 17th president. He has spent his entire life "writing, reading and doing" to have an opportunity like the one that has been placed before him. Dr. Wood would tell you that his involvement in higher education "is a calling, not just a job."

Dr. Wood has spent the better part of his life focusing on the values that he holds the most dear. His core values are the liberating experience of learning and the importance of community. These principles will serve him and the Defiance College community very well as he officially takes the reigns from outgoing president, Dr. James Harris.

Dr. Wood is keenly aware of the good things that happen at Defiance College. Given his credentials for this position, I have no doubt that he will expand upon the successes at Defiance College, ultimately taking the institution to a new level.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wood was not looking for the opportunity to make a change in his career, rather this opportunity came to him. An official working with Defiance College matched his credentials with the college in terms of experience and commitment in general and, in

particular, his background in service learning. Dr. Wood believes that every college needs a distinctive niche and for Defiance College it is the pervasiveness of service learning in its academic programs. He would tell you that it's a thread that is important to getting Defiance College known for the good, solid liberal arts education it offers.

Dr. Wood came to Defiance College from Elkins, W. Va, where he served as vice president for the College of Advancement the past three years at Davis and Elkins College. His responsibilities included raising money and developing a marketing strategy for the school. Prior to that, he was assistant dean of the chapel/assistant dean of student development from 1983–1995 at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, W. Va, where he jump-started the service learning concept and founded the Bonner Scholars Program at the school. He was honored as West Virginia Wesleyan College Outstanding Administrator/Faculty of the Year in 1986.

An avid reader on America's 16th President, Dr. Gerald E. Wood is aware of what it means to lead. He says that his reading about Abraham Lincoln has shown him the importance of facing challenges head on. Dr. Wood appreciates how Lincoln drew from his personal experience to be able to perform as he did while in office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Gerald E. Wood. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Dr. Wood, who care about their well-being and stability. We wish him, his wife, Nancy, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to Defiance College's 17th President.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 2003

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today to help America's energy consumers by repealing an outdated law that serves as a barrier to competition in the energy marketplace. I am pleased to be joined by the Gentleman from New York, Mr. TOWNS in introducing this important legislation. This bill, which is nearly identical to legislation I introduced in the last Congress and very similar to legislation approved by the Senate in the last Congress, would repeal a New Deal Law, the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA).

This legislation is a bipartisan initiative. The current Republican and previous Democratic Administrations have called for the repeal of PUHCA. Further, the bill would implement the recommendations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) made in 1995 following an extensive study by the SEC of the effects of this outdated law on today's energy markets.

PUHCA is a law that has long outlived its usefulness. It imposes unnecessary costs on consumers and directly undermines the intent of current federal and state policies designed to bring more competition to America's energy market.

PUHCA was enacted in 1935 to address abuses arising out of pyramid corporate structures at a time when electric utility regulation was just starting at both the federal and state level. PUHCA's primary purpose was to dismantle more than 100 complex utility holding company structures that, in many cases, took advantage of weak federal and state regulations to pursue inappropriate business practices. There are now 28 top electric and gas utility holding companies that are required by PUHCA to operate under arbitrary investment caps that preclude them from investing in areas of need. Other utility companies are exempt from PUHCA's caps, but must operate primarily within one state in order to maintain their exemptions. Our nation's gas and electric utility companies, therefore, must operate principally within certain geographic "boxes." This stifles innovation, hinders competition, and undermines the development of regional electricity markets. Moreover, such a circumstance inhibits the very competition that Congress has sought to foster in our national energy policy.

More specifically, PUHCA delays or, in some cases, prevents registered companies from offering new products and services to their consumers. As a barrier to entry for gas and electric utilities in all states, PUHCA limits investment and growth opportunities on a nationwide basis in the gas and electric industries. PUHCA also unnecessarily restricts the flow of capital into all states thereby inhibiting the development of new transmission and generation capacity. PUHCA stands in the way of the efforts by our nation's utility industry to serve consumers in a more competitive manner.

Interestingly enough, the financial collapse of Enron underscored the need to encourage—not discourage—the entry of stable, regulated, asset-backed energy companies into the marketplace. Ironically, it is just these types of companies that are effectively barred from investing in new markets by PUHCA. Enron was opposed to PUHCA repeal because its continued existence imposed competitive handicaps on well-established, asset-backed energy companies in emerging competitive markets.

The counterproductive restrictions that PUHCA places on the natural gas and electric power industries are based on historical assumptions that are no longer valid. The factors that existed when PUHCA was enacted in 1935 no longer exist today. Federal and state laws at that time were inadequate to protect consumers and investors. Today, federal and state regulations have become much more comprehensive and sensitive to market conditions. PUHCA, however, remains an economic drag on America's energy industry.

The ability of State commissions to regulate holding company systems and, together with the development of regulation under the Federal Power Act of 1935 and the Natural Gas Act of 1938, have eliminated the regulatory "gaps" that existed in 1935 with respect to wholesale transactions in interstate commerce. The expanded ability of State commissions and the FERC to regulate inter-affiliate transactions have further rendered the 1935 Act unnecessary. In addition, important market power issues will continue to be reviewed by FERC, DoJ and the FTC.

This legislation would reform the regulation of utility holding companies by repealing the

uplicative SEC-related provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, while assuring that the SEC retains all of its non-PUCHA jurisdiction of securities and securities markets in order to protect investors. The bill would put gas and electric power companies on an equal competitive footing, allowing them to take advantage of market opportunities that benefit investors and utility companies.

Registered companies will continue to be subject to all government regulation intended to protect investors to which other industry participants are subject. SEC authority under the Securities Act, Exchange Act, Investment Advisers Act, and Trust Indenture Act will all remain in place. The State securities commissions will also have available to them the various State Blue-Sky laws. The bill will enhance the ability of FERC and the State utility commissions to access the books and records of utilities and their subsidiaries in order to improve customer protection. This would be in addition to the ongoing authority of state and federal regulators to oversee rates charged by regulated utilities in retail and wholesale markets.

In the new environment confronting the utility industry, PUHCA has become nothing more than a bottleneck that constrains the ability of our nation's natural gas and electric power industries to serve consumers. PUHCA is an anachronism that burdens utility systems with costs and restrictions that impair their competitiveness and prevent them from adapting to the new and more competitive environment. PUHCA is no longer a solution because the problems of the 1930's have been replaced by effective state and federal legislation and by the realities of today's marketplace. Simply put, America no longer can afford the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. It is time for Congress to act on the recommendations of the SEC and to enact this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA QUALITY OF LIFE ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as the attention of the country is focused on the men and women of our armed forces who are fighting to liberate Iraq, we must not forget about those who are serving elsewhere around the world. That's why I am introducing today the "United States Forces Korea Quality of Life Act." I, as well as my original co-sponsors, believe this bill is essential in providing much needed relief to our military personnel in Korea.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, improving the quality of life for our military is one of my foremost goals. No place needs improvement more than our facilities in Korea. Simply put, the conditions our troops in Korea must currently endure are unacceptable.

But you don't have to take my word for it. In recent testimony before Congress, Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander, United States Pacific Command and General Leon LaPorte, Commander United States Forces Korea, testified that conditions on the Korean Peninsula

for U.S. service personnel are "the worst in the Department of Defense."

My bill provides members of the U.S. armed forces, the benefit of a tax exclusion to help offset the high cost of living and the poor quality of life while serving in South Korea and applies to personnel who execute permanent change of station orders or orders for temporary duty exceeding 30 days. Service members will be provided with an immediate boost in their quality of life as they keep more of the money they earn.

Why should we provide this benefit to our soldiers in Korea?

An unusual hardship of family separation for more than a year is borne by 94 percent of the 37,000 plus personnel who serve in Korea. Conditions are so poor for personnel that one third of those authorized to bring family members choose voluntary family separation before subjecting their families to the conditions on the peninsula.

Seoul is the third most expensive city in the world to live according to a recent United Nations survey. Despite this, our service men and women receive no cost of living allowance, COLA, for being stationed there. That means they receive no additional compensation to help offset higher costs in Korea. Working and living facilities in Korea, as well as living conditions for our service personnel are sub-standard by any measure.

Even the living quarters on post are smaller than typical military installations, and all our soldiers must live in an environmentally degraded region. Beyond cost and comfort, let's not forget that these soldiers live under the threat from an unpredictable North Korea.

It's no wonder then that those who are allowed to bring their families to Korea rarely do so and that those who are given the opportunity to command forces in Korea decline at a rate five times the normal Army wide rate.

There are many uncertainties about the future of our forces abroad as we re-examine our overseas basing and force structure. Unfortunately, discussion of overseas re-alignment may lead to further neglect of the critical quality of life and infrastructure requirements of our forces in Korea.

As we work to rectify the inequities in pay/benefits for those stationed in Korea, I believe it is so important to give our soldiers there an extra boost now. The United States Forces Korea Quality of Life Act won't fix all the hardships that our service members face in Korea, but it will give them a chance to make their life there a little better and their time there more agreeable.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me in giving our soldiers in Korea the additional assistance they need and deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I was inadvertently detained in the Senate while attending to duties associated with my role as Chairwoman of the Civil Service Subcommittee. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" to H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 743 makes necessary changes to existing Social Security law to ensure the protection of recipients and the Social Security system. The provisions included in this bill aim to promote the accountability of the Social Security program by closing the present government pension offset (GPO) loophole. I feel that the clarifying corrections addressed in this bill will result in the improvement of the Social Security program.

THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the support of several of my colleagues on the Workforce Protections Subcommittee to introduce legislation designed to correct matters of fundamental unfairness in the area of workplace safety and health. Our goal is to address situations where employers, and especially small employers, are being denied fundamental fairness and/or equitable results in their efforts to defend themselves against citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, for alleged violations with which, in good faith, they take genuine issue.

This matter of fundamental fairness is achieved through several key amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This proposal targets only those situations when an employer must defend against heavy-handed or arbitrary enforcement of health and safety laws. This measure is especially targeted to help small employers who do not have the means to defend themselves against the substantial resources and formidable power of the Federal Government.

With this in mind, Mr. Speaker, the amendments we propose are designed to level the playing field so that these employers are: (1) Not deprived of their day in court due to legal technicalities; (2) not forced into settlement when they believe OSHA is wrong, just because it is the most cost-effective option available; (3) aware of the legal standards under which they will be judged; and (4) extended legal consideration for their unique situations and good-faith efforts to comply with the law.

Each reform in this proposed legislation is designed to make what I believe is a narrow, precise, and sensible adjustment for an omission regrettably not caught by Congress at the time of original passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In my mind, Mr. Speaker, all of the provisions in this legislation lend themselves to bipartisan support, and I ask each of my colleagues to support this proposal.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF FRANCES DIANE SMITH

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of my

grandchild, Frances Smith, born on November 4, 1998. My wife, Bonnie, and I join with Frances' other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON, in celebrating this young life.

Three days after Frances was born, John Glenn returned from his second trip into space at 76 years of age. Medical futurists predict that a person born in 1998 may very well live to an age of 110 or even 120 years old.

The system of free enterprise in our country makes it possible for Frances Smith, and all our children and grandchildren, to make dreams a reality.

As we stand in this chamber each day we must remember the potential of our youth and the strength of the free enterprise system. Those two things, bonded together, will continue the tradition of prosperity we have so long enjoyed.

It is my hope that Frances Smith, the daughter of Brad and Diane, will never forget the achievements possible through the free enterprise system that can take us much further than John Glenn ever dreamed we could go.

REVISED COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 21, THE UNLAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING FUNDING PROHIBITION ACT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a revised cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This revised estimate, dated April 2, 2003, describes the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by the legislation. The CBO's estimate of its impact on the Federal budget and on State and local governments is unchanged.

The original estimate was included in the Committee's report on H.R. 21 (H. Rept. 108-51, Part I) and was dated March 27, 2003.

APRIL 2, 2003.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed revised cost estimate for H.R. 21, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act. This cost estimate supersedes the previous estimate. The cost estimate provided to the committee on March 27, 2003, did not identify or describe the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by H.R. 21. Our estimate of the bill's impact on the federal budget and on state and local governments is unchanged.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Mark Hadley (for federal costs), and Cecil McPherson (for the impact on the private sector).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 21—Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act

Summary: H.R. 21 would prohibit gambling businesses from accepting credit cards,

checks, or other bank instruments from gamblers who illegally bet over the Internet. The bill also would require financial institutions to take steps to identify and block gambling-related transactions that are transmitted through their payment systems. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) would enforce the provisions of H.R. 21 as they apply to financial institutions.

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and revenues would not be significant.

H.R. 21 would create no new intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would impose a private-sector mandate, but CBO estimates that the direct costs of the mandate would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$117 million in 2003, adjusted annually for inflation) in any of the next five years.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: CBO estimates that the government would incur no significant costs under H.R. 21. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 21 would increase administrative costs of the Department of Justice, but any such costs would be negligible. The bill also would have a small effect on the operating costs of the FDIC and the Federal Reserve System. Finally, the bill would have a negligible effect on the collection and spending of criminal penalties.

Basis of estimate

The bill would have only minor budgetary effects, as described below.

Spending subject to appropriation

Because H.R. 21 would establish new federal crimes relating to Internet gambling, the federal government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects, however, that most cases would be pursued under existing state laws. Therefore, we estimate that any increase in federal costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 21 would require the Department of the Treasury to submit an annual report on deliberations with other countries on issues related to Internet gambling. CBO estimates that preparing and completing the report would cost less than \$100,000 a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Direct spending and revenues

The NCUA, the OTS, and the OCC charge fees to cover all their administrative costs; therefore, any additional spending by those agencies to implement the bill would have no net budgetary effect. That is not the case with the FDIC, however, which uses deposit insurance premiums paid by banks to cover the expenses it incurs to supervise state-chartered institutions. (Under current law, CBO estimates that the vast majority of thrift institutions insured by the FDIC would not pay any premiums for most of the 2004–2013 period.)

The bill would cause a small increase in FDIC spending but would not affect its premium income. In total, CBO estimates that H.R. 21 would increase direct spending and offsetting receipts of the NCUA, OTS, OCC, and FDIC by less than \$500,000 a year over the 2002–2006 period.

Budgetary effects on the Federal Reserve are recorded as changes in revenues (governmental receipts). Based on information from the Federal Reserve, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 21 would reduce such revenues by less than \$500,000 a year.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under the bill could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. Any additional collections are likely to be negligible because of the small number of cases involved. Because any increase in direct spending would equal the amount of fines collected (with a lag of one year or more), the additional direct spending also would be negligible.

Estimated impact on state and local governments: Although H.R. 21 would prohibit gambling businesses from accepting credit card payments and other bank instruments from gamblers who bet illegally over the Internet, the bill would not create a new intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA. Under current federal and state law, gambling businesses are generally prohibited from accepting bets or wagers over the Internet. Thus, H.R. 21 does not contain a new mandate relative to current law and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated impact on the private sector: H.R. 21 would impose a new federal mandate on the private sector. The bill would require designated payment systems to establish policies and procedures designed to identify and prevent transactions in connection with unlawful Internet gambling. Designated payment systems are defined in the bill to include any system utilized by businesses such as creditors, credit card issuers, or financial institutions to effect a credit transaction, an electronic fund transfer, or other transfer of funds. Information provided by representatives of the financial services industry indicates that such transactions can currently be identified through the use of codes. Most financial institutions are currently able to identify and block restricted transactions by using the coding system. Thus, CBO estimates that the private sector's cost to comply with the mandate would be small. There also could be direct savings to those entities subject to the mandate as the bill limits their liability arising from their compliance with the requirement. CBO estimates that the total direct costs for private-sector mandates in this bill would fall well below the annual threshold (\$117 million in 2003, adjusted annually for inflation) established in UMRA.

Although section 3 would prohibit gambling businesses from accepting credit card payments and other bank instruments from gamblers who bet illegally over the Internet, those provisions would not create a new private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. Under current federal and state law, gambling businesses are generally prohibited from accepting bets or wagers over the Internet. Thus, those provisions do not contain a new mandate relative to current law.

Previous estimate: The cost estimate for H.R. 21 transmitted to the House Committee on Financial Services on March 27, 2003, did not identify or describe the private-sector mandate that would be imposed by the bill. This cost estimate supersedes that previous estimate. The estimate of the bill's impact on the federal budget and on state and local governments is unchanged.

Estimate prepared by: Federal spending: Ken Johnson and Mark Hadley; federal revenues: Mark Booth; impact on state, local,

and tribal governments: Victoria Heid Hall; impact on the private sector: Cecil McPherson.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

BOUNDARY COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY IN BONNERS FERRY, ID

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the distinguished accomplishments of the Boundary County District Library in Bonners Ferry, ID. Under the leadership of Director Sandy Ashworth, the Boundary County District Library received the 2002 National Award for Library Services. The Institute of Museum and Library Services and First Lady Laura Bush bestowed this well-deserved honor upon the library at a White House ceremony.

Established in 1956, the Boundary County District Library was the first countywide library district in the State of Idaho. The library is dedicated to using innovative collaborations in raising both the quality and quantity of library resources while helping to overcome the rural isolation of Boundary County's residents.

The Boundary County District Library is a model for the community and the State of Idaho, as well as for other libraries trying to meet increasing demand for services with less money. The library and the community work together toward the common goals of providing excellent service and improving the quality of life in northern Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to nominate the Boundary County District Library for this special award. Furthermore, I am very proud of the independent nature of Boundary County, ID, and citizens, whose hard work and sense of community should serve as an inspiration to us all. I wish to convey a special thanks to the Boundary County District Library for leading that effort.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHIP WEB-BASED ENROLLMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a piece of legislation that will provide an e-government solution to the complicated process of signing kids up for health insurance, the SCHIP Web-Based Enrollment Act of 2003. This bill provides a simple, targeted method for expanding access to children's health care by giving States the flexibility they need to implement web-based enrollment programs for SCHIP.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), a program that allows States to cover uninsured children in families with incomes that are above Medicaid eligibility levels. Like Medicaid, SCHIP is a Federal-State matching program, but spending

has fallen well below allotment levels for a variety of reasons. One of the most striking reasons is that States have had difficulty enrolling enough children to meet the allotment standards. Enrollment in SCHIP has involved lots of redtape, and the complexity of the application has discouraged families from signing up.

To address this problem, States are beginning to utilize new technology and the Internet to streamline enrollment in SCHIP and Medicaid. This new technology has enabled States to reduce program enrollment time, improve accuracy, increase access for applicants, and centralize social service applications in State government. States that have launched or are planning to launch web-based enrollment in SCHIP include: California, Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington.

While web-based enrollment is promising, many States are challenged by high start-up costs. This bill would provide States with more flexibility to use their Federal SCHIP funds for this kind of activity, and would create a grant program to help States promote web-based enrollment.

The SCHIP Web-Based Enrollment Act of 2003 meets these objectives in the following ways:

First, it would allow States to use unused, "retained" (redistributed from the Federal Government back to the State) SCHIP money for this effort. Under current law, a State may use up to 10 percent of retained 1998 allotments for outreach activities approved by the Secretary. The bill adds an additional provision under that section that allows States to use any amount of their retained funds for web-based enrollment outreach.

Second, the bill establishes a separate grant program, allowing States to apply for additional funds (separate from SCHIP money) for this purpose. The grant program would make \$50 million available over 5 years, and grants would be subject to a match rate. The match rate would be tied to their SCHIP match rate, but States would be eligible for up to 20 percent more than their rate, not to exceed 90 percent.

Finally, this legislation provides assistance to States from HHS for development and implementation of the web-based enrollment system by providing information and technical assistance.

There are 9 million uninsured children in the United States. In fact, a child is born without health insurance every minute in this country. We must do everything we can to make it easier for families to enroll children in the health insurance programs available to them. I believe that this bill will provide the necessary means to help states expand enrollment in SCHIP. I urge my Colleagues to support this important legislation.

LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE TO OVERSEE RESEARCH AND COMPLIANCE WITHIN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to establish an office to

oversee research compliance and assurance within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am pleased that this legislation has bipartisan support, including CHRIS SMITH, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Representative LANE EVANS, Ranking Democratic Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee; Representative TERRY EVERETT, the former chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; Representative MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, Vice Chairman, Veterans' Affairs Committee; Representatives MICHAEL MICHAUD, JULIA CARSON, BOB FILNER, MICHAEL MCNULTY, BOB BEAUPREZ, JEFF MILLER, JOHN BOOZMAN, CLIFF STEARNS, JOHN SWEENEY, JACK QUINN, HENRY BROWN, GINNY BROWN-WAITE, and JOHN MCHUGH.

The VA has made tremendous contributions in the field of medical research. I think we all recognize the many accomplishments made by the VA in discovering new drug therapies and developing medical devices that have benefited not only veterans but all Americans. For instance, the VA invented the implantable cardiac pacemaker, developed the nicotine patch, performed the first successful liver transplant, and assisted in the development of the first oral vaccine for smallpox.

The intent of this legislation is to ensure that all research funds are directed with focus and accountability. It does not seek to impede the VA from continuing with the research it conducts.

Before I summarize the bill, I want to provide some pertinent background information as to why this legislation is necessary. In April 1999, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to examine violations of human research protections that occurred in the West Los Angeles and Sepulveda Veterans Affairs medical facilities that resulted in the shutdown of all research activity at those two facilities. These violations were traced as far back as 1993 and came to light in 1998. The subcommittee's hearing reviewed what happened and what was being done to correct the situation.

At the hearing, the VA announced that it had created a new Office of Research Compliance and Assurance (ORCA). Then-Under Secretary for Health Kenneth Kizer stated at the April 1999 hearing, "I want to emphasize that this new Office of Research Compliance will be an independent, objective, and unbiased entity in its compliance and oversight activities." Dr. Kizer also said, "By placing the Office of Research Compliance outside of the Research Office, and directly reporting to top management within the Veterans Health Administration, it is my intention to minimize any real or perceived weakness of this type." In subsequent hearings, Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, who succeeded Dr. Kizer as Under Secretary for Health, and Dr. Robert H. Roswell, the current Under Secretary both echoed the sentiments expressed by Dr. Kizer in his April 1999 testimony.

ORCA served as the primary advisory component for the Under Secretary for Health on all matters affecting the integrity of research in the protection of human subjects and welfare of laboratory animals, promoting enhancements in the ethical conduct of research in conformance with regulations and policies and investigating any allegations of research improprieties and scientific misconduct. ORCA's major responsibilities included providing direc-

tion, guidance, and oversight to its field offices that perform their delegated roles and responsibilities, in promotion of the office's mission.

ORCA conducted a follow-up review of the Greater Los Angeles Health Systems Research Program and recommended lifting its probationary status. The review also made recommendations for improvements in the research programs. ORCA oversaw the implementation of these recommendations.

Further oversight hearings conducted by my subcommittee produced GAO recommendations on necessary VA actions to strengthen the protection of human research subjects. GAO recommended that VA identify adequate funding levels needed to support human subject protection activities at medical centers and ensure an appropriate allocation of funds to support the activities.

The VA's Office of Research Development also provided preliminary guidance to VISN Directors on the needed Independent Review Board, IRB, staffing levels. The IRBs approve and monitor research protocols for all projects at the facility level.

In January, 2003, it came to the committee's attention that the VA intended to combine the oversight responsibility for all human and animal research within the Office of Research Development, ORD, the very body it was supposed to oversee. I, along with several other members of the Oversight Subcommittee, including Representative LANE EVANS, strongly objected to the proposal and requested the Department review its decision and brief the subcommittee before any further action was taken.

The move to combine ORCA with ORD came after a report of alleged research misconduct involving human subjects at the VA medical center in Albany, NY. My colleagues and I want to insure that oversight of human subject research remains truly independent.

The bill I am introducing would:

First, create an independent office to oversee research compliance and assurance.

Second, require that the new office have a director who reports directly to the Under Secretary for Health.

Third, provide that the missions of the new office be to offer regular counsel to the Under Secretary for Health on all matters related to the protection of human research subjects, research misconduct, laboratory animal welfare and bio-safety; to promote and enhance the ethical conduct of research; to investigate allegations of research impropriety and misconduct; to suspend, restrict, or modify research to ensure the safety, and ethical treatment of human subjects; to preserve integrity and validity of research; to prevent mistreatment of laboratory animals used in research; and to assure compliance in the conduct of research.

The bill would require that the director of the office conduct periodic inspections at research facilities; observe external accreditation site visits; investigate allegations of research improprieties, research misconduct, and non-compliance with research policies and regulations. The bill would also require the immediate notification of the Under Secretary for Health when endangerment of human research subjects is evident or suspected and requires that Congress be notified when impropriety of misconduct of research conducted by the Department has been found.

The bill will provide that funding for the new office would come from the medical care account of the Veterans Health Administration rather than from ORD funding.

Finally, the legislation mandates that the Comptroller General of the United States conduct a study of the effectiveness of the new office and submit a report to Congress by January 1, 2005.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation to improve protection for our Nation's veterans who participate in VA medical research

COMMENDING SHERIFF HAROLD N.
HAL BARKER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to commend and thank Sheriff Harold N. "Hal" Barker for his public service as the Sheriff of El Dorado County, California. His retirement in January of this year marked the end of a law enforcement career that lasted four and a half decades and spanned from Southern to Northern California.

Law enforcement is one of the most basic and honorable services provided by government. Those who put their own lives on the line to uphold peace and order and protect their fellow citizens deserve the thanks and respect of all. It is in this spirit that I thank Hal Barker for his leadership and hard work in helping make California safe and prosperous.

Hal's professional service has consisted of both excellent training and extensive experience. His formal education includes an Associate of Arts degree in Police Science from Ventura College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Administration from California State University at Los Angeles, and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California. Additionally, he graduated from the P.O.S.T. Command College and graduated first in his class from the FBI National Academy, earning the Hoover Medal.

Hal first hit the street as a reserve officer in the Santa Paula Police Department in 1958, ultimately rising to the rank of captain and assistant chief. From 1974 to 1984, he was the San Mateo County Assistant Sheriff. During that time, he acted as the San Francisco International Airport Police Chief for 18 months. Then, in 1984, he began a 12-year tenure as Chief of the Folsom Police Department. In this capacity, he led the department through a period of unprecedented growth.

In 1997, Hal was appointed Sheriff in El Dorado County, and was elected to the position for a full term the following year. As Sheriff, he managed 400 employees and a \$30 billion budget in a growing county.

I join with the communities he has protected to thank Hal Barker for his long and distinguished service. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

WHERE THE AMERICANS COME,
THEY MAKE ORDER

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the March 31, 2003, editorial from the Norfolk Daily News entitled "Unharmful."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) remains critical to Slovenia and other countries who until recently suffered under the yoke of tyranny. Such countries have made difficult, immediate sacrifices to gain the long-term protection which NATO membership provides and should be recognized for their efforts.

UNHARMED

SLOVENIA'S VOTE INDICATES NATO NOT HARMED
BY WAR ON IRAQ

Critics of Bush administration policy have feared, that the war in Iraq and U.S. "unilateralism" might damage critical alliances like NATO.

From tiny Slovenia—population 1.9 million—comes heartening evidence that this may not be so. Slovenia is the most successful of the Balkan nations to come out of the breakup of Yugoslavia, and from the beginning, its leaders decided the future lay with the West.

In recent referendums, Slovenes voted to join both NATO and the European Union. The E.U. vote was never in doubt, but Slovenia's leaders, who fully understand that NATO membership has real obligations, feared the effect of the war on that vote. In the end, two-thirds of the voters approved.

An economist, Milan Cadez, gave the New York Times a reassuring reason why as he left a polling place: "Only America is capable of doing anything for peace. The E.U. is not capable of doing anything. They watched the crimes in Bosnia and when the Americans come, they make order." And, it should be noted, are still there to help maintain order.

The Slovenes might have their doubts about the war in Iraq, but they have few reservations about the benefits of the U.S.-led military alliance.

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN
HONOR OF CHAUNCY FLOYD
SMITH OF MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to honor the life and birth of our tenth grandchild, Chauncy Smith. Born on March 20, 2001, to Brad and Diane Smith, Chauncy is a source of great joy to both me and my wife Bonnie, in part because he was named after my brother who was killed 44 years earlier when his jet fighter went down. We celebrate with Chauncy's other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Kitchener, ON.

It is for this young life, and many others just like it, for which we make decisions in Congress each day. In 2001, the year of Chauncy's birth, we passed one of the largest tax cut packages in history bringing historic

levels of tax relief to working families in America. I'd like to think that we did that to help assume a strong economic future.

In that same year the events of September 11' forever changed the diplomatic landscape in ways still unknown to us. Today, we face great challenges as we seek a world without terror in an effort to avoid the fear we knew during the Cold War.

As we consider the first pieces of legislation of this Congress, let us also consider the children and grandchildren who will bear the burden of our debt and the fears of our miscalculations. We must consider each bill with all the wisdom possible so that future generations do not bear our burdens and fear our fears, but, instead, live their dreams.

As Abraham Lincoln said on December 3, 1861, "The struggle of today, is not altogether for today—it is for a vast future also. With a reliance on Providence, all the more firm and earnest, let us proceed in the great task which events have devolved upon us."

In this time of constant change may we remember and take hope in the great potential of our children and grandchildren and remember that our struggle today is for their vast future also.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT DAVID L. BENSON

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Chief Master Sergeant David L. Benson. Originally from Chittenango, NY, Chief Benson enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1962 and subsequently has spent over 38 years with New York Air National Guard. Chief Benson has been decorated with numerous medals, awards and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and soldier.

Chief Benson's career began as an Aircraft Mechanic at Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas. Soon after he was assigned to the 4626th Support Squadron, Sage, Air Defense Command at Topsham Air Force Station in Brunswick, Maine. After completion of his four year tour of duty, Chief Benson was granted his release from active duty and became a member of the 174th Fighter Wing of the New York National Guard. Here he performed duties as an Aircraft Crew Chief on the F-86H Sabrejet Fighter Aircraft and the A-37B Dragonfly. He was also an Egress Shop Chief and Accessories Element Supervisors. Concluding his career, Chief Benson served as a Non-commissioned Officer In-charge of the Component Repair Flight.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Benson has served our nation proud in many military arenas. He has been deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of the Persian Gulf War and once again to the Middle East during Operation Northern Watch as part of contingency operations enforcing the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq. He also participated in Operation Noble Eagle after the September 11th attacks.

During these times and throughout his career, Chief Benson has displayed honorable character and service to the 174th and our country. His military decorations include the

Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. He also holds the Joint Meritorious Service Award with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" device and four oak leaf clusters. His service awards include the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with ten oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with two bronze service stars, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three bronze campaign stars, the Air Force Longevity Service Award with eight oak leaf clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with the gold hourglass device and three Mobilization "M" devices, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and the Air Force Training Ribbon. His Foreign Service awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Government of Kuwait. Chief Benson's New York State military awards include the New York State Long and Faithful Service Award with five shield devices, the New York State Desert Storm Service Medal, the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal and the New York State Exercise Support Ribbon with two "E" devices.

Without question Mr. Speaker, Chief Benson is a very special person. He willingly served his nation, exuding loyalty and pride. For his unrelenting service, Chief Benson can retire knowing he has earned such a status. I would like to wish him well in his retirement years, as he will now be able to spend more free time with his Stephanie, daughter Natalie and two sons, David and Jason. Thank you Chief for all your years of hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT COULTER "DINK" ELDRIDGE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to one of Knoxville, Tennessee's finest citizens. Many in this body and around the Country will not recognize his name, but when Mr. Robert Coulter "Dink" Eldridge, Sr. passed away at the age of 85 on February 21, 2003 this Nation lost a great American. Many Knoxvilleans join me in mourning his death.

Dink Eldridge graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1940. During his final years at the University, he managed the Volunteer Football team as they went undefeated in regular season play and participated in the Orange Bowl, the Rose Bowl and the Sugar Bowl. More than victory marked his time with the Volunteers however. Those who knew him at this time also remember his dedicated leadership and desire to see every athlete reach his fullest potential.

In addition to his time managing the Volunteers, Dink managed the East Army All Star football team at Yale University with the great General R.R. Neyland.

In 1942 Dink Eldridge was called to serve his Nation in the United States Army where he served with distinction as a second lieutenant in the Tank Corps. Here again, Dink proved his willingness to serve his fellow man and was awarded both a Purple Heart and Bronze

Star medal for his efforts. After a brief period away from the military, Dink was called on again, this time in the Korean War.

During his professional career, Dink demonstrated a deeply held commitment to excellence. Following his early days as a lineman for Bell Systems, Dink steadily rose in his career. While his supervisory work for Bell took him to cities across the State, Dink was eventually able to return to Knoxville where he served as District Engineer until his retirement in 1971.

Like many leaders, Dink was unable to remain retired for long. In 1986, he was named president of the Concord Telephone Exchange. Dink provided steady leadership to this organization during a period of tremendous growth and remained president until his second retirement in 1993.

With this said, Dink is possibly best known to the people of East Tennessee for his dedicated work in the community. His generosity of time touched countless lives. Through his work on the executive board of the Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America and as President of the Bearden Little League Baseball league alone, Dink passed his love of Country and community onto a generation of young people.

In everything Dink did, he strove for excellence in himself and sought to inspire the same in those around him. I am proud to have known Dink for many years, but I am even more proud to have called Dink Eldridge a personal friend.

To his wife Anna Yvonne I say thank-you for being such a supportive and loving part of his life and to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, I simply say continue carrying the banner of service your father and grandfather held so high.

HONORING HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Huntington Historical Society.

The Huntington Historical Society was founded by the local community as an outgrowth of the collection of artifacts gathered together in 1903 for exhibition at the celebration of the Town of Huntington's 250th anniversary. The exhibition was so well received by the community that the exhibition committee decided to keep its collection together and found a Society whose mission would be to preserve the heritage of the Town of Huntington, by maintaining museums, collections and a research center, by educating the public about Long Island's regional history, and by promoting the preservation of historic buildings and sites.

The society serves the dual role of being a repository for the treasures of Huntington's founding families while also reaching out to the community to provide a sense of place and identity in a rapidly changing area proud of its deep historic roots. In addition, the Huntington Historical Society is distinguished as one of the oldest repositories of local history in the New York metropolitan area.

I commend the Huntington Historical Society for their dedication to the historical preservation of the great town of Huntington, and congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

PRESIDENT SHEVARDNADZE'S STATEMENT WELCOMED, BUT ACTION ALSO NEEDED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I want to acknowledge and welcome the March 14th statement of the President of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, pledging his commitment to religious freedom for all Georgians and promising the punishment of individuals complicit in mob attacks on religious minorities. (I am submitting the statement for the RECORD below.) President Shevardnadze made this pledge during an ecumenical service in Tbilisi's Evangelist-Baptist Cathedral Church, attended by leaders of the Georgian Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic, Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Baptist churches and many individuals from the diplomatic community. The U.S. Ambassador to Georgia, Richard Miles, also attended and addressed the gathering. Reportedly, so many people came that hundreds had to listen via loudspeakers in the churchyard.

The service was initially planned for late January, but defrocked priest Basil Mkalavishvili and his crowd of thugs assaulted worshipers and clergy an hour before it was scheduled to begin—as they have been doing with impunity since 1999. Individuals were beaten as they tried to leave, with rocks and stones being reportedly thrown. While President Shevardnadze quickly condemned that attack, ordering the Interior Minister, the Prosecutor General, State Chancellery Head, and the Security Council Secretary to investigate and punish the perpetrators, no arrests or prosecutions followed.

Despite Georgia's appalling record on religious tolerance for the last few years, I hope President Shevardnadze's speech at the Baptist church signals a new determination to arrest and aggressively prosecute the mob leaders and their henchmen. He promised that "as the President of Georgia and a believer, I shall not restrict myself only to a mere expression of resentment. I do promise that the President and the Authorities of Georgia will do their utmost to grant every person freedom of expression of faith." Driving home the point further, Mr. Shevardnadze declared, "the state will exert its pressure on whoever comes in defiance of this principle. You may stand assured that the aggressors will be brought to justice."

As Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, over the past three years I have watched with increasing alarm the escalation of mob violence. On September 24th I chaired a Commission hearing focused on this disturbing pattern. The Jehovah's Witnesses have borne the brunt of attacks, along with Baptists, Pentecostals, Adventists and Catholics. Most disheartening has been the government's indifference; victims throughout the country have filed approximately 800 criminal complaints, without one criminal conviction.

Despite a series of statements by President Shevardnadze, Georgia's Minister of Interior

and Prosecutor General appear unwilling to effectively enforce the rule of law, refusing to arrest mob leaders like Mkalavishvili and Paata Bluashvili and not attempting serious prosecutions. For example, the trial of Mkalavishvili has dragged on for more than a year, without a single piece of evidence considered yet. I would hope the provision of adequate and visible security, which took months to organize, will continue and that the prosecutor will begin his case shortly. Also, the inauguration of trial proceedings against Bluashvili in Rustavi is positive; I trust the delays and shenanigans seen in Mkalavishvili's trial will not be repeated there. I also urge the Government of Georgia to arrest and detain Mkalavishvili, Bluashvili and other indicted persons who continue to perpetrate violent criminal acts against religious minorities.

Undoubtedly, President Shevardnadze's presence at the March 14th service and his statement illustrate his personal commitment to religious tolerance and basic law and order. Yet, while I appreciate his gesture, it is time for real action. If the attacks are allowed to continue, it will only become more difficult to rein in this mob violence. If presidential orders are repeatedly ignored, it will only further weaken the government's ability to enforce the rule of law. And, of course, we must not forget the plight of minority religious communities that continue to live in a state of siege, without any real protection from their government. Ironically, it appears that minorities religious communities are freer to profess and practice their faith in regions of Georgia not under the control of President Shevardnadze's government.

In closing, I urge President Shevardnadze to fulfill his most recent commitment to punish the aggressors, thereby restoring Georgia's international reputation and upholding its international commitments as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I and other Members of Congress are acutely interested in seeing whether the Government of Georgia will actually arrest the perpetrators of violence and vigorously prosecute them.

REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL RELIGIONS AND NATIONS HAVE TO RAISE PRAYERS FOR PEACE TOGETHER

My dear friends, Christians, dear Ambassadors: I am here to give utterance to my contentment and admiration, which derives from seeing you, all Christians, or, to be more precise, representatives of all Christian folds, assembled here, under the same roof of this temple, in the capital of Georgia famed as the Virgin's lot.

I am happy to be a witness to this occurrence. I am happy because you are together, because we are together. But all of us have our own faith.

I am an Orthodox believer, but we are all Christians. It is what we should always bear in mind and keep intact this wholeness and unity.

Georgia is one of those countries on the planet whose roots go back the farthest in history. Tolerance has become particularly entrenched in its history and nature since the days we embraced Christianity.

Christ granted that we be together. And more than this: Georgia is a multinational country, where Muslims and followers of other confessions have dwelt along with Christians in the course of centuries.

We live presently in a world of stark contradictions. It remains anybody's guess when

a bomb may blast. You probably understand what I mean. Therefore, we should pray for peace, and these prayers should be raised by all of us: Christians, Muslims, representatives of every religion, confession and nation.

But prayers alone will not keep us together. We have also to struggle, in order that, through our benevolence, faith, love and respect to one another, we may put up resistance to the eradicating processes of which I already made a mention.

As was customary with my great ancestors, I go to an Orthodox church. But nor do I keep distance from synagogues, mosques or churches of different Christian confessions.

I feel respect for all who have confident belief in kindness and its victory.

I am happy to see, along with Georgian citizens, the attendance of the distinguished ambassadors and diplomats accredited in Georgia, who have come this evening to share our happiness.

I cannot but express a deep sense of regret, even resentment at the gross infringement of our unity, mutual respect and freedom of faith by some of the aggressors.

As the President of Georgia and a believer, I shall not restrict myself only to a mere expression of resentment. I do promise that the President and the Authorities of Georgia will do their utmost to grant every person freedom of expression of faith.

The state will exert its pressure on whoever comes in defiance of this principle. You may stand assured that the aggressors will be brought to justice.

I would like to greet you once more and wish you happiness and advancement of goals. So as with Georgia, a multinational country of various religious confessions, my wishes are for joy, happiness and prosperity.

MEDICARE OUTPATIENT CO-PAYMENT REDUCTION ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives MCDERMOTT, KLECZKA, DELAURO, FRANK, FROST, JACKSON-LEE, McNULTY and ABERCROMBIE to introduce legislation to expedite the timeframe for reducing to 20 percent the coinsurance amounts that Medicare beneficiaries are required to pay for hospital outpatient services. I'm honored that this bill has the support of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and Families USA.

For most Medicare services, beneficiaries are required to pay 20 percent of the allowed payment amount, and Medicare pays 80 percent. However, for hospital outpatient services, Medicare beneficiaries are required to pay much higher co-payments—up to 55 percent for some services.

This is an anomaly due to an error in legislative drafting many years ago. Based on earlier legislation I helped enact into law, Congress has already taken some partial steps to correct this wrong. Under current law, hospital outpatient co-payments will reduce to 40 percent by 2006, but they will not reduce to the typical 20 percent level until 2029. We didn't solve the full problem because Congress didn't want to spend the money.

The Medicare Outpatient Co-payment Reduction Act of 2003 will speed up this reduction process by decreasing beneficiary coin-

surance rates in increments of 5 percent each year beginning in 2007 until the coinsurance rate for all hospital outpatient services is 20 percent by 2010. This expedited reduction is consistent with a recent recommendation made by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission or MedPAC—the expert body that advises Congress on Medicare.

While high coinsurance rates affect all Medicare beneficiaries, they are particularly devastating for the approximate 3.6 million beneficiaries who have no supplemental insurance. Most of these individuals are the “near poor”—with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid or the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary or QMB program, but with incomes too low to be able to afford supplemental insurance. This group is made up of a disproportionate number of minorities and women.

Furthermore, coinsurance amounts are much higher for certain services than others. Those with the highest coinsurance are the “high-tech” services, such as radiology services and cancer chemotherapy services. Thus, high coinsurance greatly limits affordable access to these life saving services for many Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, the Medicare Outpatient Co-payment Reduction Act of 2003 is a simple bill. We've charged seniors outrageous amounts for too long already for hospital outpatient services. Seniors shouldn't have to wait another 26 years before they are fairly charged for outpatient services. This is an incremental approach that lowers the co-payment level to 20 percent by 2010. It's a small, but important step to improve health care access for seniors. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact it as soon as possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 100, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

HONORING BEN BERLINGER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ben Berlinger of La Junta, Colorado. Ben has worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service for over 25 years, and I would like to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Ben started his job with Natural Resource Conservation Service in 1975, becoming an area rangeland management specialist in 1981 when he moved to Eastern Colorado. He has served in La Junta for 14 years, working with his agency and local ranchers and agricultural producers to ensure good rangeland management and to develop and implement sound technology on grazing land resources. This year NRCS named Ben its rangeland

Conservationist of the Year, one of two national awards presented by the agency. Ben was nominated for the award by co-workers and still attributes much of his success to them and to the ranchers with whom he works.

Mr. Speaker, rangeland management is a significant challenge facing the West and Ben Berlinger has tackled that challenge head-on. He has done much to promote awareness of conservation issues and to promote good stewardship of Southeastern Colorado's grazing land. His dedication is an inspiration to others and an immense benefit to his community. I thank him for his efforts.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE E. LEDFORD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of George E. Ledford, United States Veteran, beloved husband to the late Marjorie Jean; dedicated father, grandfather, educator, community volunteer, and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Ledford's life reflected a true example of an outstanding citizen—he lived each day with a consistent and deep commitment to his family, his community and to his country. He was an inspiring teacher for many years, and later, he was an effective and dedicated high school principal.

Mr. Ledford graduated from the Merchant Marines Academy in 1946. After serving in WWII, Mr. Ledford served for many years as a reservist in the United States Navy, and remained committed to the Marines throughout his life. Beginning in the nineteen seventies—and continuing after his retirement as an educator—Mr. Ledford volunteered his time and expertise in the role as admissions officer with the Merchant Marine Academy.

In that capacity, Mr. Ledford hosted informational "College Nights" for students considering a career in the military and also volunteered a significant amount of time that focused on outreach work for military families. And for many decades, Mr. Ledford represented the Merchant Marine Academy at the annual Military Academy Service Days, held at the Congressional District office. Mr. Ledford's kindness, honesty, openness, and willingness to share his personal experiences provided local students with a realistic glimpse of life in the military, and assisted them in making a sound decision regarding their future.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of George E. Ledford, an outstanding American citizen whose integrity, warmth, wit and concern for others have served to uplift our entire Cleveland community. I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Ledford's cherished daughters, Barbara and Cathy; cherished son, David; and also to his beloved grandchildren, and extended family members and friends. Although he will be deeply missed, George E. Ledford's spirit will live on in the hearts and memories of everyone he loved and inspired—especially his family, students, and closest friends—today, and for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL DEALING WITH CLAIMS FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY UNDER R.S. 2477

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to establish a process for orderly resolution of one of the most important problems associated with management of the Federal lands—claims for rights-of-way under a provision of the Mining Law of 1866.

That provision was later embodied in section 2477 of the Revised Statutes, and so is usually called R.S. 2477. It granted rights-of-way for the construction of highways across Federal lands not reserved for public uses. It was one of many 19th-century laws that assisted in the opening of the West for resource development and settlement.

More than a century after its enactment, R.S. 2477 was repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, often called "FLPMA," and was replaced with a modern and comprehensive process for establishing rights-of-way on Federal lands.

However, FLPMA did not revoke valid existing rights established under R.S. 2477—and, unfortunately, it also did not set a deadline for people claiming to have such rights to file their claims.

As a result, there is literally no way of knowing how many such claims might be filed or what Federal lands—or even lands that once were Federal but now belong to other owners—might be subject to such claims. But I have no doubt that potential claims under R.S. 2477 could involve thousands of square miles of Federal lands, not to mention lands that now are private property or belong to the states or other entities.

This is obviously a serious problem. It also is the way things used to be with regard to another kind of claim on Federal lands—mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872. However, that problem was resolved by section 314 of FLPMA, which gave people 3 years to record those claims and provided that any claim not recorded by the deadline would be deemed to have been abandoned.

The courts have upheld that approach. I think it should have been applied to R.S. 2477 claims as well. If it had been, R.S. 2477 would be a subject for historians, not a headache for our land managers or a nightmare for private property owners.

I think that now, finally—more than a quarter of a century since it was repealed—the time has come to let R.S. 2477 sleep in peace. And that is the purpose of the bill I am introducing today.

My bill is based on legislation proposed by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt in 1997, but is somewhat broader because it would apply not just to States or their political subdivisions with R.S. 2477 claims, but also to those individuals now able to assert such claims. It follows the sound example of FLPMA by providing that any R.S. 2477 claim not filed with the government within 4 years will be considered abandoned.

I think this is more than reasonable, because those interested in claiming rights-of-way under R.S. 2477 already have had ample time to decide whether they want to file a claim.

The bill also recognizes that as things stand now, R.S. 2477 claims are a potential threat to the National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, units of the National Trails and National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems, designated wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas as well as to lands that the United States has sold or otherwise transferred to other owners. It specifically addresses this threat by providing that any claim for such lands will be considered to have been abandoned when the lands were designated for conservation-purpose management or when they were transferred out of federal ownership unless a claimant can establish by clear and convincing evidence that there was a well-established right-of-way whose use for highway purposes was intended to be allowed to continue.

The bill also spells out what information must be included in a claim, how claims are to be considered administratively, and the rules for judicial review of administrative decisions about the validity of R.S. 2477 claims.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair, balanced bill. It gives claimants under R.S. 2477 ample opportunity to come forward and seek to have their claims upheld, with an opportunity to seek ultimate redress from the courts if necessary. At the same time, it gives the American people—the owners of the Federal lands—and private property owners assurance that the time will come when they will know what they own, without having to worry about new R.S. 2477 claims being made against their lands.

In my opinion, such legislation is long overdue, and deserves the support of every Member of Congress.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a brief outline of the main provisions of the bill.

OUTLINE OF R.S. 2477 RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACT OF 2003

The bill is based on a legislative proposal sent to Congress by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt in 1997. Here is a section-by-section outline of its provisions:

Section 1 provides a short title, has findings about the bill's background, and states its purpose of setting a deadline for filing claims and specifying how claims will be handled.

Section 2 defines key terms used in the bill.

Section 3 deals with the filing of claims for rights-of-way based on R.S. 2477:

Subsection (a) sets a deadline of 4 years after enactment for filing.

Subsection (b) specifies where claims must be filed: in the state or regional office of a federal agency responsible for management of claimed Federal lands; with the commanding officer of a military installation subject to a claim; or with the Bureau of Land Management if the claimed lands are no longer in Federal ownership.

Subsection (c) provides that claims not filed by the deadline shall be deemed abandoned—this parallels Section 314 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which required recordation of unpatented mining claims. A claimant would have 3 years to file a lawsuit challenging the effect of this provision on a claim.

Subsection (d) provides for coordination among federal agencies.

Subsection (e) provides that R.S. 2477 claims by non-Federal parties can only be validated in accordance with the process established by the bill.

Section 4 provides procedures for handling R.S. 2477 claims:

Subsection (a) specifies that claimants have the burden of proof and that claims for

lands in conservation, wilderness study, or inventoried roadless areas or for lands not owned by the Federal government are presumed to have been abandoned unless a claimant can show that continued use of a right-of-way for highway purposes was clearly intended to continue after conservation designation or transfer of title by the United States.

Subsection (b) specifies what information must be included in a filing by a claimant.

Subsection (c) specifies procedures for review of claims by federal officials.

Subsection (d) requires reviewing officials to consult regarding pending claims.

Subsection (e) provides for issuance of a draft decision about a claim's validity, followed by a period of public comment.

Subsection (f) provides for issuance of a final decision on a claim within one year after release of the draft decision.

Subsection (g) requires a lawsuit challenging a final agency decision on a claim to be filed within 3 years after the decision and limits judicial review to review of the administrative record. It also provides that the Federal Government can decide to purchase a right-of-way that a court determines belongs to another party.

Subsection (h) requires a successful claimant to file information about the right-of-way with BLM and the relevant State within 5 years, and specifies that a failure to do so will constitute abandonment of the right-of-way.

Subsection (i) provides that the Federal government can choose to purchase a right-of-way determined to belong to another party.

Section 5 specifies that administrative decisions about claims are to be based on federal law and state laws that are consistent with federal law. It also provides that prior adjudications of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way are to be recognized.

Section 6 provides that nothing in the bill will affect provisions of FLPMA or the Alaska Lands Act related to rights-of-way.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO CLEMENTE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Roberto Clemente, an outstanding athlete and a very successful baseball player. Thirty years ago, in 1973, the National Baseball Hall of Fame held a special election for Roberto Clemente, who had died on New Year's Eve, 1972, while attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. He was the first Latino elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Born on August 18, 1934 in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Roberto Clemente Walker's pride and humanitarianism won him universal admiration. Despite an unorthodox batting style, the Pirates' great won four batting crowns and amassed 3,000 hits. He was equally brilliant in right field, where he displayed a precise and powerful arm. Clemente earned National League Most Valuable Player honors in 1966, but achieved his greatest fame in the 1971 World Series, when he batted .414. Tragically, Clemente's life ended at age 38—the victim of a plane crash while flying relief supplies to Nicaraguan earthquake victims.

Mr. Speaker, in 1952 Roberto Clemente attended an open tryout in Santurce, sponsored

by the Brooklyn Dodgers' Al Campanis. There were seventy-two kids at the tryouts that day. First Campanis had everyone line up in center field and throw to home plate. Throw after throw fell short until young Roberto's turn. He came up and threw a straight hard throw that hit the catcher directly in the mitt with a loud pop. So Campanis had him throw another one, which was as good as the first. Campanis then told the rest of the 71 young men to go home and asked Roberto to stay. Next, Campanis had Roberto run the 60-yard dash. He was amazed when Roberto ran it in a sizzling 6.4 seconds. Next, they moved to the batting cages. For 20 minutes, Roberto hit one line drive after another. Campanis and the Dodgers wanted to sign him right then, but he was only 17 and he had to be 18 before he would be able to play in the Major Leagues. Three days later, he signed with a local semi-pro team the Santurce Crabbers.

Clemente played with the Crabbers for 1 season before signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954. After spring training he did not join the Dodgers in Brooklyn, he was sent to the Dodgers' farm team, the Montreal Royals. Roberto was not happy and was homesick and in 1954, he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Clemente was only 20 years old and spoke almost no English at all. Pittsburgh was not integrated in 1955. When he went to Forbes Field he saw only two other black players. He encountered a lot of racial discrimination, starting in spring training when a Pittsburgh sportswriter labeled him a "Puerto Rican hot dog." His answer to all the social injustices he encountered was: "I don't believe in color; I believe in people."

Clemente got off to a great start with the Pirates. He had an inside-the-park home run against the Yankees, and drove in a run that gave the Pirates their first win of the season. He played right field for the Pirates.

Clemente played 5 seasons with the Pirates before they finally won the World Series. The year 1960 was the year the Pirates could do no wrong. Led by Roberto Clemente, Kick Groat, Bill Mazeroski, Bill Virdon, and Dick Stuart, Pittsburgh snatched first place in May and never let go. They won 23 games by their final at-bat. In May, Clemente had a .353 batting average. In one game at Forbes Field, he caught a ball and went head first into a concrete wall but somehow managed to throw his head back and only cut his chin. The Pirates faced the New York Yankees in the 1960 World Series. The Pirates took the series into the seventh game. Few people expected the Pirates to win, but sure enough, they pulled it off. The Pirates won the game in the ninth inning when Bill Mazeroski smashed the ball over the fence for a home run.

The next season Clemente won the National League batting title and a Gold Glove for the bestfielding right fielder. In 1966, he won his first MVP award.

Four years later, in 1970, Clemente was honored on Roberto Clemente Night at the Pirates' new Three Rivers Stadium. He was given a lot of awards and gifts including a scroll signed by over 300,000 people in Puerto Rico. Thousands of dollars were also donated in his name to his favorite charity in Pittsburgh. The entire ceremony was broadcast on radio and TV in Puerto Rico.

In 1971, the Pirates again won the World Series again with Clemente finishing the se-

ries with a .414 batting average and several spectacular catches. In 1972, he had another great season. During the season, he hit his 3,000th career hit. Only 10 players before him had done that.

In December 1972, a massive earthquake struck the Central American country of Nicaragua. An estimated 7,000 people were killed, and thousands of people were left without food, shelter, or water. Nicaragua badly needed help. So Clemente was asked to be an honorary chairman of the Puerto Rican Earthquake Relief Committee, and he immediately agreed.

He started to raise money as fast as he could. Contributions of food, money, clothing, and medicine poured in and were sent to Nicaragua. However, some of the supplies were being stolen and sold for high prices. When Roberto heard what was going on he was furious, and decided to accompany the next planeload of supplies to Managua and supervise their distribution himself.

On December 31, 1972 at 9:22 p.m., the old DC-7 rumbled down the runway and took off. Before long, there was trouble. One of the engines exploded so the pilot turned the plane around and started heading back. However, there were more explosions and the plane went down in the Caribbean Sea. Unfortunately, Roberto Clemente was not rescued and died at sea.

Through his dedication, discipline, and success in baseball, Roberto Clemente served as a role model for millions of youngsters in the United States and Puerto Rico who dream of succeeding, like him, in the world of baseball.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mr. Roberto Clemente for his contributions and dedication to baseball, as well as for serving as a role model for the youth of Puerto Rico and the U.S.A.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT OGBURN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Robert Ogburn and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to both the 12th Judicial District of Colorado and the greater San Luis Valley. Judge Ogburn officially retired from his job as a District Judge in January after more than twenty-six years on the bench. Today I would like to honor Judge Ogburn's long and distinguished career of service to his community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Judge Ogburn began his legal career in the Army's Judge Advocate General's office. In 1966 he entered private practice and later served as a District Attorney. Judge Ogburn was appointed to the bench in 1976, at the same time taking over duties as District 3 Water Judge. The longest tenured judge on the 12th Judicial District bench, Judge Ogburn presided over many of the major San Luis Valley water cases in the past quarter century, as well as the area's high-profile criminal cases.

In addition to his career on the bench, Judge Ogburn has offered his time and talent as a teacher at the National College of Court Trial Judges in Reno, Nevada and at Adams

State College. He was one of only about thirty judges from across the United States to attend an advanced seminar in Anglo-American Jurisprudence at England's Oxford University in 1988. An amateur historian, Judge Ogburn has authored numerous articles for historical journals and serves on the boards of both the San Luis Valley Historical Society and the state historical society. He and his wife, Ann, have been married over forty years and have three children and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Ogburn is an exemplary servant to his community and to the State of Colorado, and it is with great pride that I recognize his career before this body of Congress and this nation. Judge Ogburn's presence will be greatly missed in the courtrooms of the 12th Judicial District, and I would like to extend to him my congratulations on his retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY,
ANASTACIO A. CISNEROZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my constituent, Anastacio A. Cisneroz, who celebrates his 100th birthday on April 15, 2003 at Pico Adobe Historical Park in Mission Hills.

Born in Purandido, Michoacan, Mexico, Anastacio and his family fled to the United States in 1918 to avoid the hardships caused by the Mexican Revolution and to find a better life. Anastacio was 15 years old, and the hunger and suffering endured by his family remains fresh in his mind.

During their journey to the San Fernando Valley, Anastacio's mother, Refujio Armenta, and youngest brother, Perfidio, died of a particularly virulent strain of influenza which also killed millions of others. His father, brother, sister and he continued by train through Ciudad Juarez to El Paso on December 25, 1918.

In 1932 he married Jessie Menjares and purchased a home in San Fernando where he lives to this day. He has nine children, 31 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren—5 wonderful generations.

Because of his determination, work ethic, and spirit, Anastacio thrived in the United States even though things were not always easy. In 1942, he began working for Lockheed. The hours were long and the work was hard, but Anastacio took pride in his efforts and was extremely successful. He retired with the respect and admiration of his peers and supervisors after 27 years of service.

Today, Anastacio likes to travel, work in his vegetable garden, shop in supermarkets and walk to the barbershop. He attributes his longevity to hard work, good food, sleeping well and never smoking or drinking. He says that the secret of his long life is "living with common sense."

We respect and honor Anastacio and hopefully, we will all learn from his wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Anastacio Cisneroz on his 100th Birthday.

HONORING SERGEANT GAYLE D.
MILLER COOPER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Sergeant Gayle D. Miller Cooper, Officer in Charge of Communications, on the occasion of her retirement from the Cleveland Police Department that spans twenty-five years of service to the Cleveland community.

Raised in Cleveland, Sergeant Cooper graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1969. She attended Cuyahoga Community College and Case Western Reserve University, then joined the Cleveland Police Department in 1977. Sergeant Cooper was one of the first female officers assigned to work in zone cars—a pioneering and courageous achievement in a formerly male dominated profession. Her determination and ability to make a difference as a police officer opened many doors for women who followed in her path.

Sergeant Cooper's outstanding work and personal dedication to helping others was clearly reflected throughout her tenure of service. In 1980, she was promoted to Detective in the Vice Unit of the 5th District. Her varied professional experience also included positions as Police Academy recruiter, instructor, and background investigator. Officer Cooper focused her commitment, courage and intellect on issues involving women and children. She became the Domestic Violence expert for the Cleveland Police Academy, and in 1993, was appointed as Detective in the Youth Gang Unit. Later, Officer Cooper became the Juvenile Liaison Officer for the City of Cleveland. Promoted to Sergeant in 2001, she was also appointed to the position of Officer in Charge of Communications that same year.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Sergeant Gayle D. Miller Cooper upon her retirement from the Cleveland Police Department. Sergeant Cooper's exceptional and courageous service on behalf of the citizens of Cleveland, have served to lift the spirits and the lives of countless individuals, families—and the entire Cleveland community.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO ASSIST OWNERS OF CERTAIN FAMILY BUSINESSES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make it easier for people who share ownership of an unincorporated business with a spouse to comply with the tax laws and also receive Social Security and Medicare benefits they have earned. The problems the bill addresses arise from the fact that under current law an unincorporated business owned by a married couple is classified as a partnership for purposes of the federal income tax. That means the business is subject to complex record-keeping requirements and

the owners are supposed to file a partnership income-tax return.

However, the Internal Revenue Service estimates that it can take a partnership as much as 200 hours to complete and file that kind of tax return—enough work to keep a person who works a 40-hour week busy for more than a month. And this has to be done every year. When we think of everything else they have to do to keep their businesses running, it is not surprising that many of these couples take what looks like an attractive shortcut. They do that by filing as if their businesses were sole proprietorship—a kind of filing that the IRS estimates can take as little as 2 hours. But, attractive as that shortcut seems, it can lead to serious trouble.

First, of course, it is a technical violation of the tax laws, which means a couple taking that shortcut could be subject to penalties for failing to file as a partnership. But that's not the worst part. Because spouses who own and run a business are self-employed, they need to complete self-employment tax forms to report and pay their Social Security and Medicare taxes. But to file as if their business were a sole proprietorship, they must report all income from the business under the name of just one spouse—and, if they do that, only that named spouse can receive credit for paying into Social Security and Medicare. That means the other spouse—the one not named as the "sole proprietor"—should become disabled, he or she would not qualify for Social Security disability benefits. It also means that if the "unnamed" spouse dies, the named spouse and his or her children would not qualify for Social Security survivor benefits. And it means that the "unnamed" spouse would not qualify for Medicare.

Further, in the event of a divorce, it can be very difficult for an "unnamed" spouse to prove that he or she owns a share of the business for purposes of dividing the assets.

My bill will help couples like these to avoid these problems by enacting several recommendations outlined by Nina E. Olsen, the National Taxpayers Advocate, in her most recent annual report to Congress.

Under the bill, if a married couple filing a joint tax return are the only owners of an unincorporated business, they could decide what part of the business's profits or losses each spouse would claim, and that share would be taken into account in determining their self-employment earnings. That way, each spouse could receive some credit for Social Security and Medicare. And, depending on state law, this also could facilitate more equitable divisions of property in the event of divorce.

The Taxpayer Advocate's report indicates that while this change in the law would mean a major reduction in the record-keeping requirements applicable to many people, it would have little or no effect on federal revenues.

I am not sure how many people in Colorado stand to benefit from this bill. However, according to the IRS, it appears that more than 2,000 Colorado couples who operate ranching or farming businesses would be covered by its provisions, and that it could also assist thousands of other Colorado couples who operate other kinds of unincorporated businesses.

So, considering that Colorado is far from the most-populous State, I am not surprised that the Taxpayer Advocate's report indicates there could be as many as 2 million couples across

the country who could benefit from enactment of this legislation.

In short, while my bill would make only a relatively simple change in the tax laws, it has the potential to help many people and cut a lot of red tape at the same time. I greatly appreciate the Taxpayer Advocate's bringing it to our attention, and I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the benefit of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an excerpt from the report of the Taxpayer Advocate that explains the recommendation upon which my bill is based.

EXPLANATION OF RECOMMENDATION

The National Taxpayer Advocate recommends that Internal Revenue Code section 761(a) be amended to allow husband and wife co-owned businesses to elect out of Subchapter K—Partners and Partnerships. At this time, we recommend that the election be made available only to married couples who file joint income tax returns. By making the election, the business would be exempt from the application of the complex rules of subchapter K and the husband and wife would be entitled to file a Schedule C instead of a Form 1065, (U.S. Return of Partnership Income). Internal Revenue Code section 761(a) already allows certain categories of taxpayers to opt out of subchapter K, so there is precedent for this approach.

Amending IRC §761(a) to allow a husband and wife co-owned business to elect out of subchapter K would not require an additional amendment to Internal Revenue Code section 6031 regarding filing partnership returns. Treasury Regulations currently state that a taxpayer who has made an election to be exempt from subchapter K is not required to file a partnership return except in the year of the election. In the election year, the taxpayers would only need to file a partnership return with the election statement. All income and deductions would then be reported on a Schedule C in the election year and for all subsequent years.

If this proposal is enacted into law, we recommend that the IRS design a form to supplement Schedule C for married co-owners who make the election to opt out of subchapter K. It could be called Schedule C-MC (for "Married Couple"). The business entity's income and expenses would be reported on Schedule C. The net profit (or loss) would then be allocated between the husband and wife on Schedule C-MC.

The supplemental form would serve three important purposes. First, the amount of income allocated to each spouse—and thus carried to separate Schedules SE—would be shown on the form.

Second, the form could be used to record each spouse's respective interest in the business. This could become important if, for example, one spouse dies and the value of his or her interest must be determined for purposes of computing the estate tax.

Third, the form could be designed to allow the business to make certain tax elections that are only available at the entity level. This issue arises because even if a business co-owned by a husband and wife is excluded from the definition of a partnership for purposes of subchapter K, the business generally remains a partnership for all other purposes of the Code.⁶² The principal significance of partnership classification outside the context of subchapter K is that a partnership may make certain tax elections available only to an entity and not to individuals. For example, a partnership may make an election under IRC §179 to expense depreciable business assets. We see no reason to prohibit husband-and-wife-owned partnerships that

elect out of subchapter K from making tax elections of this nature.

In sum, our legislative proposal would reduce the tax compliance burden on many husband-and-wife-owned businesses, would facilitate the coverage of both spouses under the Social Security and Medicare systems and, depending on state law, could facilitate more equitable divisions of property in the event of divorce. The revenue impact of the proposal should be negligible. Regardless of how the net earnings from the business are reported—either as a flow-through item from the partnership return or as net earnings from Schedule C—the income tax liability of the husband and wife generally will be the same. Social Security and Medicare receipts generally will also be the same.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOE COORS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Joe Coors—a man of unmatched dedication to his family, his community, and his beliefs. Joe died recently at the age of 85, and as his family mourns this loss, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge his life before this body of Congress and this nation.

Joe is a legend in my home state of Colorado and indeed across America. His grandfather, Adolph Coors, founded the Coors brewery in 1873. Joe began his career as a chemical engineer when his grandfather's company in Golden, Colorado was a small operation producing 300,000 barrels a year. He returned to Golden to begin working at the brewery in 1946, helping to develop the signature Coors cold-filtration process and eventually pioneering use of the aluminum can and the nation's first large-scale recycling program. When Joe retired from his job as chief operating officer in 1988 after 41 years of service, Coors had grown into the nation's third-largest brewer.

In addition to his role as a business leader, Joe was an active American citizen. In the 1970s he helped to found the Heritage Foundation, an influential think-tank and actively worked for other conservative groups and causes. Among the organizations he supported were the Independence Institute in Golden, Colorado and the Mountain States Legal Foundation, a public interest law firm. In the late 1960s, Joe served for 6 years on the Board of Regents for the University of Colorado. Throughout his life, Joe boldly fought for what he believed in; never for recognition but simply because he thought it was right.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Joe Coors though we take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed by his legacy of success and accomplishment. His life is the very embodiment of the American dream, and I am deeply honored to be able to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize Joe's life and many accomplishments.

RECOGNITION TO MR. LUIS RODRIGUEZ MAYORAL FOR HIS LONG TIME DEDICATION TO THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, in 1973, the National Baseball Hall of Fame held a special election for Roberto Clemente, who had died on New Year's Eve while attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. He was the first Latino elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame. In celebrating this milestone, my dear friend Mr. Luis Rodriguez Mayoral wrote a very fitting tribute to Clemente that is posted on the National Baseball Hall of Fame's website. Mr. Rodriguez Mayoral has written, and continues to write extensively, on the long and distinguished career of Mr. Clemente.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame gave special thanks to Luis Rodriguez Mayoral for his account of Roberto Clemente. After 9 years as a Texas Rangers and Detroit Tigers official, Luis is in his 34th year in baseball. He is the author of five baseball books and he coordinated Major League Baseball's Latin American Baseball Players' Days for 25 years. A veteran of over 2,000 MLB radio broadcasts, he has been honored by the Puerto Rican, Mexican and Laredo-Texas Halls of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD the latest tribute to Roberto Clemente by Mr. Rodriguez Mayoral, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Roberto Clemente and congratulating Luis Rodriguez Mayoral for a well written piece.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE

(By Luis R. Mayoral)

Early one December 1987 morning, while chatting over breakfast at a golf course in Dorado, Puerto Rico, golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez said of Roberto Clemente, "If I were half of the man that he was, I would say I was a very fortunate man."

Those words impacted me so profoundly that since then I began thinking of the Pittsburgh Pirates Hall of Famer, more than ever, as an inspirational icon rather than as a superbly gifted player.

Clemente's death on December 31, 1972, provoked bereavement, for I faced the reality of no longer sharing precious time with a dear friend trying to "fix" the world, while knowing that the international world of baseball had forever lost a figure that personified excellence.

Many thought of him as Latin America's Jackie Robinson in search of equality for Hispanic players...but I also saw him as our Joe DiMaggio, for he gave us hope with his touch of a perfect hero.

Roberto was a man of simple, yet profound words who had a genuine interest in humanity.

The last time I saw him was several days prior to his untimely death while at Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan. He directed the collection of goods destined to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

That afternoon, in his eyes I saw the seriousness and dedication I had seen so many times while he wore a baseball uniform.

Moments before leaving the stadium, he invited me to his home on New Year's Eve.

That never came to be; as the second 1973 arrived he had been dead for some two hours

and forty-five minutes in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean a mile north of Puerto Rico. Roberto lived 38 years, 4 months and 13 days. That's how long it took him to become a Hall of Famer, a better person and a legend.

IN HONOR OF SAINT WENDELIN
PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the parish community of Saint Wendelin Church, as they celebrate one hundred years of healing and hope in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood. Throughout the past century, Saint Wendelin's has served as a spiritual refuge, opening its doors to any soul in search of guidance and peace.

The ministry of Saint Wendelin's began in 1903, originally serving the Slovak community of Cleveland's near west side. On May 3rd of that same year, the community received permission to found Saint Wendelin Parish. A small church was soon constructed and on December 6, 1903, Father Koudelka celebrated Saint Wendelin's first mass. Not long after, the Sisters of Notre Dame established Saint Wendelin's School. The order would continue to provide quality Catholic education for the next seventy years.

In 1925, the current church and school complex was dedicated. Always reaching outward, Saint Wendelin's welcomes all believers to join in worship. It is a testament to the Saint Wendelin ministry that Catholics from all corners of the city heed the call to celebrate at the little church on Columbus Avenue.

Cleveland's vital tradition of Catholic education is reflected at Saint Wendelin's with their active participation in the Urban Community School. Saint Wendelin's facilities serve as a second home to over three hundred students of Urban Community School.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every member of Saint Wendelin Church, and its leaders—Pastor Jerome Lajack and Deacon James J. Armstrong, as they celebrate mass with Bishop Anthony Pilla in commemoration of one hundred years of service to God and community. Saint Wendelin parish continues its dedication to social justice and spiritual healing—within the neighborhoods of Ohio City, and the world community beyond.

PASSENGER VAN SAFETY ACT OF
2003

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Passenger Van Safety Act of 2003, legislation to enhance the safety of large passenger vans, which are highly susceptible to rollovers and have been associated with more than 500 fatalities since 1990.

In the last Congress, I introduced the School Bus Safety Act which had been designed to prevent schools from taking advan-

tage of a loophole that allowed them to purchase used 15-passenger vans even though it was illegal for them to purchase new 15-passenger vans because of safety issues. The bill I am introducing today goes farther and addresses the safety of these vehicles.

I became alarmingly aware of the safety problems of these vehicles when a church group from Westminster, Colorado rolled the 15-passenger van they were driving 2½ times en route to a religious retreat. This tragedy resulted in four people dying. I found out later that these vans were notorious for getting out of the drivers control and were highly susceptible to rolling. These kinds of accidents seem to be symptomatic to these kinds of vehicles. Early last summer another one of these vans, full of firefighters, rolled over numerous times killing four of the passengers in western Colorado. Accidents will happen, but I believe if these people had been in different vehicles their deaths may have been avoided.

When these vans are fully loaded they become highly prone to rollovers. In 2001, the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) conducted a study that demonstrated the dramatic increase in rollovers when these vehicles carry increasingly larger loads. A fully loaded van has a rollover risk that is six times higher than if there are only five people in the van.

The bill I am introducing today would require NHTSA to include 15-passenger vans in their Dynamic Rollover Testing Program required by the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, which currently does not include these vehicles. It does not make a lot of sense to me to exempt them from the same safety standards that NHTSA will apply to other passenger cars and sport utility vehicles. This information will give drivers information they need in order to safely operate certain vehicles under different conditions.

This legislation would also require 15-passenger vans to be included in NHTSA's New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). NCAP provides consumers information on how different vehicles withstand crashes, and was recently expanded to include the risk of rollover. Currently, NCAP does not do rollover testing for vehicles that carry more than 10 people.

In addition, the bill requires NHTSA to work with van manufacturers to evaluate and test the potential of new technologies to help drivers maintain control of their vans. Specifically, NHTSA would look at Electronic Stability Control (ESC) systems that some SUVs are already equipped with and rear-view mirror-based rollover warning systems. These kinds of innovative technologies could significantly reduce rollovers and save lives.

"Fifteen-passenger" vans were initially designed to carry cargo, not people. But now these vans are widely used by airports, hotels, and other commercial interests to transport customers from one location to another. People using these vans may not realize that the Federal Motor Carrier Administration (FMCA) has not completed rulemaking on Federal motor carrier safety regulations for 15-passenger vans that are used for commercial purposes. This bill would require the FMCA to complete their rulemaking, which began in 1999, to ensure that commercial passengers get to their destinations safely.

This bill was built on the foundation of my School Bus Safety Act of 2001 and it still ad-

resses the van loophole created in 1974 when organizations were banned from purchasing new 15-passenger vans to transport school age children but were allowed to purchase the vans used.

This legislation removes this nearly 30-year-old loophole in the Federal regulations and extends the ban to include leasing, renting, and buying of these vans, thereby making the buyers accountable, as well as the seller. These changes will insure that the intent of the 1974 law is finally realized. The bill would also strengthen the penalties on those who violate this important safety provision.

The legislation raises the prescribed penalty for breaking this law from "not more than \$1000" to "not more than \$25,000," thereby giving the enforcement agencies something to make it worth their while to pursue. This provision is important because from 1974 until 1997, NHTSA, which had responsibility for administering the law, did not initiate a single enforcement proceeding in the entire country.

Safety transcends party lines. Senator SNOWE and I have had tragic events take place in our states that have unfortunately made us very aware of the dangers of 15-passenger vans. Last year there was a tragic accident in the State of Maine that cost the lives of 14 forestry workers who were killed when their 15-passenger van rolled off of a bridge, killing all but one. This was the single worst motor vehicle accident in Maine's history. So we are introducing identical bills in the House and the Senate. With bipartisan support we hope to end these kinds of needlessly tragic accidents.

Mr. Speaker, one of the government's roles is to ensure the safety of its citizens. This legislation gives consumers the information they need to know about the safety of these vans and it eliminates a loophole that allows people to get around a child safety law. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this common sense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN FERNANDO
CATHEDRAL

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week the San Fernando Cathedral celebrated the completion of its renovation. Today I am introducing a resolution honoring the San Fernando Cathedral—the oldest cathedral in the United States and the oldest standing structure in my district of San Antonio, Texas. I and my fellow colleague from San Antonio, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, want to pay tribute to this exquisite building, and the great history and culture that it embodies.

San Fernando Cathedral is both literally and figuratively the geographic centerpoint of San Antonio. This cathedral is not only revered by the people of San Antonio, but by all the people of this Nation, who remember the strength and sacrifice of those who built this country. As I mentioned before, just last week, the renovation of this magnificent building was completed. I stand here today to mark this achievement.

The San Fernando Cathedral is a grand structure, rich in its history and meaning. Like

many of America's greatest institutions, it was built by the worn hands of the very poor. Fifteen Spanish families, sent by the King of Spain to establish a mission in Texas, laid the cornerstone of the church in 1731. They called it "La Villa de San Fernando." Like most of us, they were immigrants, looking towards a new future, looking to build a new home. What they ultimately built was a nation. A nation of many people, of many backgrounds.

They united under the cathedral's roof. As a symbol of their unity, the congregation joined Old World and New World saints—Our Lady of Candlemas and Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe—as patrons in addition to the town's official patron, King Fernando III of Spain. San Fernando Cathedral is a place where all people still come together each week, by the thousands, to meet and pray. Like the generations before them, they also come to the cathedral to seek refuge from a world too often ravaged by hunger and violence, as soldiers died during the Battle of the Alamo.

I honor the San Fernando Cathedral today because I believe that, like the immigrants that built it, this building has an honored place in our history and most certainly has an honored place in our future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CORPORAL PATRICK NIXON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corporal Patrick Nixon, who gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country while serving in the United States Marine Corps. Patrick died in fighting near Nasiriyah, Iraq.

Patrick's parents, Debra and David Nixon, live in Gallatin, Tennessee, where I have the honor of representing them in this most esteemed body. My thoughts and prayers are with Debra and David and the rest of Patrick's family and friends. Full of hope and promise and sense of duty to his country, Patrick joined the Marine Corps after graduating high school in 2000.

Like his grandfather Joseph and his two brothers, Bill Hudson and Joe Nixon, before him, Patrick chose to serve his country by joining the Armed Forces. Patrick was a dedicated and courageous Marine. He understood the risks of serving in the military and did so with honor. This nation owes Patrick and all of the young men and women serving in our Armed Forces a huge debt of gratitude.

Our brave fighting men and women go in harm's way so the rest of us can enjoy the liberties of this great democracy. We should never take their service to this country for granted. Patrick was a young man who dreamed of teaching history one day. Our children will miss the opportunity to learn from such a courageous man.

I have deep admiration for Patrick, who has touched the lives of so many. His family, friends and community will never forget him and the sacrifice he made to protect the United States of America. God bless Patrick and all the men and women who sacrifice so much to protect this nation from harm.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a critical and comprehensive initiative—the United States International Leadership Act of 2003—aimed at strengthening American leadership at the United Nations and at other international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, let me first express my sincere gratitude to the bill's cosponsor, the distinguished Chairman of the Rules Committee, and a dear friend from my home state of California, Congressman DAVID DREIER.

Many of the ideas for our bill came from a Council on Foreign Relations report that Chairman DREIER co-authored last year with our former International Relations Committee Chairman, Lee Hamilton.

The report, "Enhancing U.S. Leadership at the United Nations," focused attention on a critical problem in American foreign policy—our inability consistently to promote our interests and values in multilateral fora such as the UN. It also offered concrete steps to rebuild our influence.

The United States International Leadership Act builds on the Dreier-Hamilton report and is designed to give our diplomats the tools they need to ensure that America once again punches at its weight in the UN.

Specifically the bill:

Creates a Democracy Caucus at the UN to encourage other democracies to join us in promoting positions at the UN that support freedom and oppose tyranny and hatred.

Requires the State Department to pay high level visits each year to key countries to make sure that their leaders understand that support for our positions at the UN is critical to their overall relationship with us.

Directs the President to use U.S. influence to reform the criteria for leadership and membership at the UN bodies to ensure that rogue regimes and authoritarian governments cannot continue to thwart the noble purposes that each body was created to advance.

Provides increased training to our Foreign Service Officers to help them develop the skills they need to conduct effective diplomacy at the UN and other multilateral organizations.

Affords Foreign Service Officers—for the first time ever—an opportunity to advance their careers by undertaking assignments to represent the U.S. to the UN and to other multilateral institutions.

Creates a new Office on Multilateral Negotiations to be headed by a Special Representative with the rank of ambassador who has the responsibility to make sure that we have the resources and the strategies needed to prevail in each critical negotiation and decision we face at the UN and in other multilateral negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an undeniable fact of life that our participation in the UN and other international organizations is critical to achieving our foreign policy goals. Right now the UN is helping us to advance our war against terrorism by obligating all countries to freeze the assets of terrorist groups. UN treaties and inspectors are also an important part of our ef-

fort to prevent the proliferation of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. UN agencies are also critical in spearheading the fight to combat the ravages of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and now the terrifying new sickness, SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).

Despite these and many other examples of critical benefits we obtain from our engagement at the UN, the U.S. has often been blocked in its attempts to take action in these institutions to advance its goals and objective. A recent example is the United Nations Human Rights Commission, where Libya—a gross human rights violator—was elected chairman, and the United States temporarily lost a seat. Another was the UN's World Conference Against Racism, where rogue regimes successfully hijacked a critical forum on race and turned it into an ugly anti-Israeli and anti-American circus.

A big part of the problem is that decisions at many international organizations, including membership and leadership, are made by regional groups where there is intensive cooperation by repressive regimes. The International Leadership Act, by building a Democracy Caucus and by developing expertise in the United States Government in the area of multilateral diplomacy, represents the beginning of what will be a long effort to rationalize and strengthen the UN, and other international organizations, by systematically reducing the leverage of repressive regimes and ensure that these organizations serve rather than thwart U.S. national interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that this measure will be quickly enacted and signed by the President, so that we can begin this critical project.

HONORING MARINE CORPORAL
RANDAL ROSACKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor a young man tragically taken from us while in the service of his country. Last Monday, Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker, a native of Alamosa, Colorado, was killed while serving in the conflict in Iraq. I am truly humbled to honor him before this body of Congress and this Nation. The sacrifice of Randy and his fellow Marines will be long remembered by our grateful Nation.

Randy was the oldest of three children and was known as a born leader. In High School, his teammates voted him captain of the baseball team. Randy had always wanted to become a marine and joined when he turned 18, despite scholarship offers to play college football. By doing so, Randy was upholding the finest military traditions of both his family and this Nation and I know Randy's family and friends take pride in the uniform he wore and the ideals for which he fought. Our Nation will long endure due to the strength and character of men and women like Randy who serve our country.

Each generation must renew its commitment to defend our liberties. Today in Iraq, a new generation of young Americans is fighting

bravely for freedom's cause. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of this young Marine and his family. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom against a new and emerging threat. Marines like Randy embody America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and Marine Corporal Rosacker's devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. Randy has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

SMALLPOX, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4613.

It is imperative as we prepare our communities for biological and chemical warfare that we do all that we can to encourage health professionals to be vaccinated for smallpox and ensure that they are taken care of if they fall ill or die due to the vaccination. That is the least we can do for those who may be called upon to protect us at home.

I support a smallpox vaccination compensation policy—but it has to be done right the first time. The bill before us does not provide for adequate education, prescreening, and surveillance for nurses, first responders and other health care professionals who take the vaccine. For example, members of the armed services who received the smallpox vaccine were entitled to personalized education and free and confidential prescreening prior to the administration of the vaccine. This important process properly screened out one-third of the potential recipients. The recent deaths of vaccine recipients with heart disease only underscore the need for a strong education, prescreening, and surveillance effort—the CDC and government agencies need to be given the tools to track and eventually screen out individuals who are at risk.

As the husband of a nurse, I understand the commitment that health care professionals have to their patients and their communities. I know that most of them are eager to provide their expertise to help protect their neighbors should the unthinkable occur. It is unreasonable and unfair, however, to ask them to risk their lives and health, and that of their families, without guaranteeing that the federal government will take care of them in the event of an adverse event. Health care professionals are anxious about taking the vaccine—and for good cause. The smallpox vaccine has a long record of negative side effects to both vaccinated individuals and secondary contacts. It is absolutely essential those individuals who are vaccinated understand the risks of the vaccine and have confidence in their govern-

ment to care for them should they become ill or die—this is the least we can offer them.

H.R. 1463 includes an unacceptable lifetime cap on wage replacement and fails to ensure that funds will be available in the future for the compensation fund. It does not guarantee that states will have the money to implement the program or that compensation benefits will be paid—instead, this legislation forces these health care workers to fight for funds each year in the appropriations process. It is unfair and insulting to ask them to compete each year with other national spending priorities and our ever-growing national debt.

I support a substitute that would provide guaranteed funding to individuals injured by the smallpox vaccine. It would also implement a strong screening and follow-up regime, and includes language that will alert workers to the most likely side effects and speed up the qualification process. This proposal provides greater security, both psychological and financial, for health care workers and other first responders who are being asked to take this vaccine to help their communities.

It is a shame that the House leadership would not allow this substitute to be debated on the floor. I believe that bringing up such important legislation on the suspension calendar, which is ordinarily reserved for non-controversial legislation, is a thinly-veiled partisan ploy. This important issue deserves a robust debate. Nurses, first responders, and other health care professionals who volunteer to take the smallpox vaccine, at great risk to themselves and their families, deserve more than lip service and empty promises.

LESBIAN AND GAY IMMIGRATION RIGHTS TASK FORCE ANNUAL MEETING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, which holds its Annual Meeting this weekend in Washington, DC. The LGIRTF advocates for the rights of HIV positive immigrants, persons seeking asylum because of sexual orientation, and bi-national couples.

The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force grew out of a small group of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorneys, who, in 1993, held a meeting at the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Over 50 persons attended and expressed interest in forming a group to address immigration issues affecting lesbians and gays.

In December 1994, the LGIRTF was incorporated in New York City. The LGIRTF began publishing *The Status Report* the following year. Implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 in 1997 increased the need for Gay and Lesbian specific immigration services. By 1998 the LGIRTF ceased being an all-volunteer organization and in 1999 the LGIRTF hired its first attorney. The LGIRTF has grown from one chapter to an international organization with 19 chapters in the United States, including Washington, DC and Europe.

We, who live in our Nation's Capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that is denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States citizens enjoy. While any straight married couple may petition for permanent residence for a spouse and his or her children, Lesbians and Gays cannot petition for permanent residence for their life-partners.

I remind the House that we have the ability to correct these inequities: passage of the "No Taxation Without Representation Act" and the "Permanent Partners Immigration Act."

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming the members of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force to Washington, DC.

SAN JACINTO, CA CELEBRATES 115 YEARS AS A CITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the citizens and community leaders of the city of San Jacinto, CA, who on April 9, 2003 will celebrate 115 years of cityhood. I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that the friendly folks in San Jacinto have managed to preserve their past while preparing for a future as one of the fastest growing cities in California.

The San Jacinto Valley is in Riverside County, California, about 90 miles southeast of Los Angeles, in the shadow of 10,804-foot Mt. San Jacinto and the beautiful surrounding mountains. For thousands of years it has welcomed human habitation, including the ancestors of the Soboba Indians, whose reservation is adjacent to the current city of San Jacinto.

When Spanish explorers moved into California, they soon discovered the valley and by the 1770s it was a stop on Anza Trail, one of the oldest serving the Spanish colonies in California. The padres of the Spanish missions named the valley in honor of St. Hyacinth (San Jacinto in Spanish), one of the early Dominican apostles, and established an outpost there in 1820.

In 1842, Jose Antonio Estudillo received a land grant to the entire valley from the Mexican government. They built the Estudillo Mansion in downtown San Jacinto, which is today considered one of the most important historic structures in inland Southern California. In the 1860s, the Estudillo family began selling off portions of the rancho, and a small American community began to form. In 1868, local residents petitioned to form a school district, and by 1870 a store and post office had been established. In 1883, the San Jacinto Land Association laid out the modern city of San Jacinto at Five Points. The Santa Fe railroad arrived in 1888, and the city was incorporated that same year, making it the oldest incorporated community in Riverside County.

The community has primarily been an agricultural town for much of its history, and is still home to several large dairy operations. It has also worked closely with the neighboring city of Hemet to sponsor the famous Ramona Pageant, an outdoor play on early California history that is now in its 80th year. Most recently, the city has seen the beginnings of

rapid growth because it is at the edge of the Southern California urban area. Community leaders are working hard to maintain their small-town community even as they plan for growth that is expected to nearly double the population of 26,000 by 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the citizens and leaders of San Jacinto will help their town continue to be a warm and welcoming place that combines a respect for the history of California with an eye to the state's booming future. Please join me in congratulating them on their 115th birthday, and wish them well in the years to come.

HONORING LULAC

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of United and Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and in particular the local Monterey County LULAC Council 2055. LULAC is the largest and oldest Hispanic community organization in the United States. LULAC Council 2055 reflects that tradition and has enjoyed a distinguished 25-year history of community service.

LULAC Council 2055 has worked cooperatively and collaboratively with a wide array of people, organizations, and businesses to promote and advance the economic, educational, political and civil rights of the Latino population of my Central California district. Mr. Speaker, as many people from my district and in this body are aware, I am a firm believer in the power of collaboration to achieve great ends. I believe that LULAC Council 2055's continuous activism and partnership with other neighboring organizations is one example of the power of teamwork.

For the past 5 years LULAC Council 2055 has raised more than \$100,000 in scholarship money for deserving high school students. In November 2002, the League worked to pass several important local school bond measures that will bring \$30 million to middle schools in Salinas, California. In the upcoming years, middle students will learn in new, renovated, and modernized classrooms. This will mean great progress in relieving student overcrowding. Along the same lines, LULAC Council 2055 helped pass a bond measure to renovate Hartnell Community College, which serves the people of the Salinas Valley.

LULAC Council 2055 continues to work with various civil rights organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Rights Coalition; Coalition of Minority Organizations; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Salinas Action League; and the United Farm Workers of America to achieve equality, justice and peace for all people.

Furthermore, LULAC embraces diversity by organizing social and cultural events for the Latino community such as the Orgullo Latino Dance, Cinco de Mayo, 16-de septiembre, and Teatro Campesino night.

I applaud the efforts of LULAC and those who support their mission to advance and maintain the rights of the Latino community as well as others. Mr. Speaker, I hope that all my colleagues will join me today in applauding the

25 years of public service that LULAC Council 2055 has brought to the community.

FCC TRIENNIAL REVIEW DECISION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to express my concern over the Federal Communications Commission recent Triennial Review decision. The revival of the telecommunications industry is critically important to revival of the overall U.S. economy. The FCC proceeding was an opportunity to restore regulatory certainty in the telecommunications industry.

The Triennial Review deals with rules for when competitors can share facilities of incumbent local phone companies. The courts had directed the FCC to review its regulations so that competitors could compete and so that incumbents would not be burdened with unnecessary, costly regulations when competitors no longer need to share those facilities.

Instead of carrying out its responsibilities, the FCC passed the buck to the 50 states. Now, these issues will be argued in 50 states and, no doubt, appealed in 50 state courts. Meanwhile, incumbents and competitors will have to wait to learn under what rules they must operate and what their costs will be. Incumbents understandably will hesitate to spend on maintaining and improving their facilities because of this uncertainty. In addition, generation of new services and manufacturing jobs will be delayed.

Because the FCC has forced the rulemaking job onto the states, incumbent phone companies, competitors and the states will have to pay for endless public utility commission and court proceedings. Of course, in the end, consumers in California and across the Nation will foot the bill. In the days following the FCC's decision, the telecommunications industry lost 15 billion dollars of capital value. A shudder went through the manufacturing sector, which has been waiting anxiously and desperately for incumbent telephone companies to increase their purchasing of equipment. Wall Street analysts downgraded the outlook for telecommunications service and manufacturing companies.

In its Triennial Review decision, the FCC indicated that it may impose less regulation on broadband deployment than it has done on the traditional, copper, local telephone network. I would expect nothing less with the vigorous broadband competition that currently exists between phone companies and cable companies, and because broadband services are the future for the telecommunications industry.

It is time for the FCC to remove the unnecessary burdensome regulations—actions that should have taken place with the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. LYUSHUN SHEN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to a great man who has dedicated much of his life to improving relations between Taiwan and the United States. Dr. Lyushun Shen has served as Deputy Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) for the past four years and will be leaving Washington soon to accept a new challenge as Director General of TECRO in Geneva. At his new post, he will be working on, among other things, finally bringing Taiwan into its rightful place as a member of the World Health Organization, a development I strongly support.

As the Deputy Representative of TECRO, Dr. Shen has carried out many responsibilities ranging from interacting with Members of Congress to serving as a senior liaison with the large and vibrant Taiwanese community in the United States. As almost all of our colleagues know, TECRO—Taiwan's unofficial embassy here in Washington—and its employees are devoted to making certain the United States and Taiwan work closely on matters of mutual concern and importance in the areas of trade, investment, commerce, culture and security.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shen is an old Washington hand. He is presently serving his third tour of duty in Washington, where he previously was Director of TECRO's Public Affairs Division from 1994 to 1996, as well as a Staff Consultant for Congressional Liaison from 1982 to 1986. In between his postings in Washington, Dr. Shen remained focused on U.S.-Taiwan relations. From 1996 to 1999 he was Director General, Department of North American Affairs at Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from 1991 to 1993 he headed the Kansas City office of the Coordination Council for North American Affairs, TECRO's predecessor organization. This important position gave Dr. Shen a firsthand perspective on America's heartland, which oftentimes offers a different perspective than Washington.

Dr. Shen's professional experience has been built on a strong academic foundation. Dr. Shen received both his master's degree in international relations and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. While working in Kansas City, he was a visiting professor of international relations at the University of Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shen has developed many friendships and a wealth of goodwill on Capitol Hill. He has served as a trusted resource of information regarding Taiwan and Cross Strait relations. Many fellow members of this body have been fortunate to have traveled to Taiwan with Dr. Shen.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that our colleagues will join me in extending our best wishes to my good friend Lyushun as he takes up his new assignment. We also hope that he will be able to make his way back to Washington in the future. In the meantime, we expect many great things from this tireless advocate for Taiwan's interests. He is indeed an important asset for the 22 million people on Taiwan.

THE GREATEST AMERICANS WANT
PEACE

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the shock of the hot war now raging in Iraq has traumatized many Americans who oppose this war and are ready to fight harder for peace. The dogs of war are growling louder as they seek to intimidate all peace seekers with charges of treason. The warmongers charge that those of us who oppose the war are abandoning our troops in the field. On the contrary those of us who oppose the war value all human life greatly including the life of each American soldier. We support the troops and we want to see them return home as soon as possible not in body bags but smiling on their own two feet. Although we are presently in the minority, the advocates for peace are the Americans with the correct vision and the right blueprint for the future. Despite the world outcry against it, the U.S. has launched the war in Iraq. Peace at this moment is not possible; nevertheless, the struggle to return to a state of peace as soon as possible must continue. Without a doubt, the U.S. military will overwhelm the Iraqi military and the long occupation will begin. The challenge for peace advocates is to make the occupation not a continuation of the evils of the war. A strong peace movement in America has the potential to turn the occupation of Iraq into a major component of a larger world peace blueprint. Instead of allowing the oil resources of Iraq to be plundered and divided among the oil barons of the world, peace advocates must build a multilateral alternative governing structure to confront the U.S. master plan for looting. In the long term war for a world peace Iraq will be only a starting point. There will be no rest for those who dare to stand up to the architects of a new world order which camouflages dominance by a new world elite of the greediest. Peace advocates must conjure up the same fervor and determination as our adversaries. We must plan, work and act with relentless vigilance. This is a call for an army of "fanatics for peace". The following Rap poem sets forth the credo of the Fanatics for Peace.

WE ARE FANATICS FOR PEACE

We citizens volunteer to do our part—
Never mind the military purple heart,
We are fanatics for peace!
Our holy assault must never cease;
Forward to the civil liberty lines,
Blast the voting fraud mines,
The constitution light still shines,
Launch spit into the fascist face
Our maneuvers will save the human race.
Against warmongering lies
A truth revolution will rise;
Deep wells of anger
Pump bitter tears into our eyes;
Fervor for the future,
Democratic civilization fanatics
Wrestle with partisan acrobatics,
Smothered in its star spangled bed
Voter apathy is now real dead.
We are fanatics for peace!
For perpetual war
Dig wide trenches deep
Victims come fight with us
Before you weep.
Contempt is heaped upon the humble,
Wise men merely sit and grumble,

Only we thugs for freedom
March to the never ending front lines.
Pledge Allegiance
To the human race,
Military machines
Are an obsolete disgrace.
Commanders of abuses
Must face the Nurenberg nooses.
We are fanatics for peace!
Pledge allegiance
To the civilization
Our children deserve,
This is the cause
We swear to serve.
Victory without blood
In Gandhi's name,
Celebrate Mandela's fame,
The spirit of Martin King,
Again will reign,
Resist a government
Now gone insane.
Commanders of abuses
Must face the Nurenberg nooses.
We are fanatics for peace!
Run and broadcast the brave news,
Divine mobilization we choose,
Surrender we unconditionally refuse,
Our vision will not decrease
Our passion will never cease
We are fanatics for peace!

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY SHANNON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dorothy Shannon, one of Wisconsin's most passionate progressive leaders and a model of civic activism. For over 50 years, Dorothy Shannon was on the front line of every Federal and State election in Wisconsin. She was a tireless supporter of progressive causes. Everyone who knew her remembers her fondly and she will be greatly missed.

Dorothy Shannon was born in Toledo, OH in 1918. Her father worked for the National Supply Company in charge of the shipping department. But when the great depression hit, he was among the millions of Americans who found themselves without a job. After enduring many hard years, Dorothy was given hope with the election of President Roosevelt. Her father found work with Roosevelt's Public Works Administration turning a landfill into a public park. As the nation listened to Roosevelt's "fireside chats," Dorothy's political fire was kindled.

In 1936, Dorothy went to college on another of Roosevelt's creations, a National Youth Administration Scholarship. During World War II she volunteered for the Navy's Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service. After serving our country, she attended graduate school at Yale, where she met Ted Shannon, who would later become her husband.

The Shannons moved to Madison in 1950 when Ted found a job with the University of Wisconsin. They played a key role in shaping the modern day Democratic Party of Wisconsin. Even while raising three children, Dorothy never stopped volunteering. Whether marching at a peace rally or attending a League of Women Voters event, she was recognized everywhere as a passionate voice for progressive Democrats. In 2000, she was honored as the oldest delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

When I close my eyes, I can see Dorothy Shannon sitting in the front row of nearly every political debate, every community forum, and every Democratic Party event. She cared so deeply about public affairs—whether they involved local or global issues. If ever there was an embodiment of civic participation, it was Dorothy Shannon.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENT OF A RENOWNED
EDUCATOR: RAJA ROY-SINGH

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the House of Representatives to express my respects to a renowned international educator, Mr. Raja Roy-Singh, on the occasion of his 85th birthday. As a member of the House Committee on International Relations and as a former Co-Chairman of the United States Commission on Improving the Effectiveness of the United Nations, I can attest that improving the quality of education in the world is a prerequisite to the establishment of effective cooperation and mutual understanding in the international community. In this context, the career-long dedication of Mr. Roy-Singh to international education deserves the attention of Congress.

Raja Roy-Singh was born on April 5, 1918 in Pithoragarh, a remote town in the Himalayan foothills near India's frontier with Nepal and Tibet. One imagines that the young Roy-Singh was inspired by panoramic views of snow-topped mountains that framed the beautiful valley of his birthplace. These same mountains were the source of many streams and rivers that flowed southward onto the plains of India. Perhaps as he walked the long mountainous paths to school he wondered where those rivulets and mountain streams flowed and dreamed about following them one day.

His father was a Methodist preacher who worked in a number of mission assignments along the Himalaya territory almost 250 miles from end to end. His mother's Rajput forbears had lived in the Pithoragarh district for generations. His father died early leaving Raja and his mother alone in Pithoragarh while his older sisters were away at boarding school.

As a boy Raja Roy-Singh attended the district school by day and read by kerosene lamp at night. Under the watchful eye of his mother and Mary Reed, a dedicated Methodist missionary from California, he won a series of district scholarships that sent him off to college at Agra and finally to Allahabad—a sacred place for Hindus and Buddhists at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna and the Saraswati Rivers.

Achieving distinction in philosophy and English, with a particular interest in T.S. Eliot, Mr. Roy-Singh took his bachelor's and master's degrees as the convulsions of the Second World War began. Placing high on the civil service exams, he entered the Indian Administrative Service in 1942 and was assigned to Agra where he met his wife Zorine Bonifacius. In the vibrant period immediately following Indian independence his civil service postings took him to Kanpur, Bombay,

Mathura and Lucknow. These assignments afforded him valuable experience at various levels of government. In 1954, he was appointed state director of education in Uttar Pradesh. Thus, he entered the educational service, initially as a "posting," but soon his dedication to his profession took on the dimension more of mission than occupation.

Mr. Roy-Singh was appointed education adviser at the Federal Ministry of Education where he served from 1957–1964. In a period of changing demands on education in India, Mr. Roy-Singh focused his energies on developing new ways to harmonize educational activities between the Federal and the state governments. This effort led to the establishment of the Counsel of Educational Research and Training, a network of educational institutions for research, training and service. Several prominent U.S. educators were closely associated with its planning in the founding years, notably the Teacher's College formed under the direction of Columbia University. In the last four decades, the India Council of Educational Research and Training, which Mr. Roy-Singh provided such visionary leadership, has played an innovative role in advancing education and educational opportunity in India.

Another significant program he helped to found was the Science Talent Search begun in 1959, Boys and girls ages 15–17 with high science aptitudes were identified through specially devised tests and awarded full scholarships through their entire schooling, including higher education. In its early years, there was close technical collaboration between this India program and similar ones in the United States sponsored by the Ford Foundation. From a modest but promising beginning the program greatly expanded in subsequent years and substantially increased the number of science teachers and the quality of science education in India.

Mr. Roy-Singh was invited to join UNESCO in 1964. For the next 20 years, he served as UNESCO's Regional Director of Education in Asia and later as Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Asia and the Pacific. In 1985, after completing his service with UNESCO, he retired to the United States, taking up permanent residence in Evanston, Illinois.

At UNESCO Mr. Roy-Singh's principal responsibility was to coordinate the educational agenda in member Asian countries. The Asian and the Pacific region is extensive and diverse. It comprises 30 countries extending from Iran and Afghanistan in the west to Korea and Japan in the east, to Mongolia in the north and Australia and New Zealand in the south. Mr. Roy-Singh's strategy was to manage this far-flung region by focusing on common educational problems and fostering inter-country cooperation. He carried out this strategy by recognizing the unique cultural differences within and between countries yet encouraging each to share educational experiences and expertise. This approach found its full expression in the Asian and Pacific Program of Educational Innovation for Development which continues to make significant contributions to educational development in the Asian region.

Mr. Roy-Singh will be remembered as a pioneer in the educational field in Asia having encouraged cooperation between national and local governments and education ministries and with international organizations. His life to date has spanned two major wars and several

continents. His career has brought him into contact with heads of government as well as with educators throughout the world.

In the course of his career Mr. Roy-Singh has authored numerous publications including *Education in Asia and the Pacific* (UNESCO/Bangkok, 1966), *Adult Literacy as an Educational Process* (Internal Bureau of Education, Geneva, 1990), *Educational Planning in Asia* (UNESCO—Internal Institute for Educational Planning, Paris, 1990).

Of particular interest to this body is his educational philosophy. In "Changing Education for a Changing World" (1992), Mr. Roy-Singh outlined how we might prepare young people for life in an ever-changing world:

There are two universes of change. One is change in the world of objects, externality. Science and technology and socio-economic organizations are examples of externality. The truths of the external world are non-cumulative; a new discovery may wipe the slate clean of all that went before. Continuity in this kind of "universe" is fortuitous and certainly minimal. The other kind of change is pivoted on the human being, individual or group. Change in the interior 'universe' of human existence is cumulative; it is expressed in culture, in the quest for knowledge, and in the striving for heightened moral awareness.

What could change and what has to continue and what continues even in change are issues of judgment and discernment. This is where education has a role.

The Asian societies in transition have to find for themselves a path which does not traverse the wasteland of rootless modernism on the one hand and mindless conservatism on the other. The best in the living tradition of the Asian cultures, their moral loftiness, their universality and their profound insights into human nature, may provide the continuity in the flux of change that must necessarily come in the wake of science and technology and the liberating human spirit.

Change is a dominating force in the world. Some welcome it and see it as an opportunity. Others fear change because it threatens the established order. Like a powerful rush of water crashing down a mountainside, the force of change can wash away all living things in its path. To survive we all need strong roots with which to cling. Education is a life preserver. It allows us to harness the creative energy of change by instructing us what to keep from the past, what to undertake in the present, and what to seek in the future.

All societies have strengths and weaknesses in their education systems. The need for self-examination and improvement is a constant. But as the anarchy of terrorism has demonstrated, no country is an island, invulnerable to the frustration and despair of those who are not provided the ability that education provides to lead their own societies in progressive directions and manage or at least cope with the discombobulating challenges of modernity.

One of the many lessons of the international traumas of the past few years is that Americans cannot be concerned solely with the education of our young. If we ignore the educational inadequacies of other cultures, we jeopardize our own security.

There is no simple or single methodology, but there must be a singular commitment to advance the most powerful force for constructive change in the world: a decent and universal concern for educating every generation in every society.

For his dedication to international education and for his wisdom of purpose we thank Mr. Roy-Singh and congratulate him as well on reaching the ripe age of 85.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 522) to reform the Federal deposit insurance system, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 522, the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2003. I appreciate the efforts of Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK to bring this important bill to the floor, and I thank them for their continued support for this legislation. I would also like to thank Chairman BACHUS and Ranking Member WATERS of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee for their leadership on this bill.

In my East Texas district, deposit insurance aids community bankers in attracting and maintaining core deposits, which are often used locally to fund mortgages, development projects, student loans and small businesses.

H.R. 522 will increase deposit insurance coverage from \$100,000 to \$130,000 and will index this limit for inflation in future years. With a declining rural population and customer base in many areas of the country, including my district, raising the coverage limit will help small-town bankers keep up their core deposits. The current \$100,000 coverage ceiling can force bank customers in rural areas to move deposits over that amount outside of their region or state. This should not have to be the case, particularly for our older citizens.

As the AARP noted in its recent letter of support for this legislation, existing coverage limits have unfortunately created a situation where "the alternative is to bank at more distant institutions or invest in the more volatile securities markets." To help remedy this problem, H.R. 522 will increase coverage for certain retirement accounts to \$260,000, which will help keep customer deposits, especially seniors' funds, in local institutions.

The bipartisan Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act is reasonable, necessary legislation that will promote growth and stability in rural communities while maintaining consumers' confidence in the banking system at the same time. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on final passage of this legislation.

THE EVEN START QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer a bill today designed to assure that literacy training is available to those who work with some of our youngest and most

vulnerable children, those who are part of the Even Start program.

These children's families qualify for Even Start because they are low socioeconomic families who may also be English learners. Program liaisons work with the families from the children's infancy until they are in school. Even Start funds approximately 1,400 programs and serves approximately 50,000 families across the Nation.

Without this existing William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program, these children would arrive for their first day of school without the literacy skills to compete at that starting line. They are unlikely ever to catch up, even if they are able to be served in the Head Start program before actually entering school, unless the adults who work with them in these critical early years learn literacy teaching skills and learn to value the role of education.

Over 86 percent of parents in the Even Start program have not completed high school upon entering the program (compared with about 27 percent of Head Start parents). Eighty percent of participants have a family income below \$15,000 and over 40 percent have income below \$6,000. This is clearly a high-needs population.

What the program offers is both literacy-training classes for the children and family literacy programs for the parents. Children participating in Even Start are provided with age-appropriate educational services to ensure that they will achieve at a level similar to that of their age peers who come from socio-economically enriched backgrounds.

Liaison advisors work with each family to promote strong literacy support experiences, to help parents learn ways they can develop their own English literacy skills, and to provide support groups for parents to share the challenges and skills of parenting.

In developing their own literacy, adults in these family literacy programs tend to participate longer than those in regular adult education programs because they can link their literacy growth to that of their children. They not only see benefits in improved literacy skills but also reduced dependency on federal/state assistance programs and enhanced employment opportunities. Most importantly, they are empowered to be successful as their child's first and most important teacher.

This bill will set aside funding to establish nationwide programs to assist in the training of program directors and facilitators in recently developed, research-based literacy training skills.

President Bush has declared his support for helping parents, day-care centers, and preschools teach more learning skills to children before they get to kindergarten. Even Start provides just such a program for parents to develop the literacy skills that enable them to perform this task. Because of new legislation, particularly the new qualifications for personnel, performance objectives, and "scientifically-based reading research" requirements for instructional programs, local Even Start programs also need to benefit from this type of high-quality training.

I have requested an evaluation to provide a longitudinal look at the achievement of children assisted by the program because I believe that evaluation must be embedded in all such programs.

It is overwhelming to bear heart-felt expressions of appreciation for the program and its

leaders when I have visited Even Start programs. Adults marveled at the change in their children's feeling about reading and learning when they were able to make reading together a daily activity. One mother told me how she thought she couldn't help her 5 year old with reading, but, thanks to the program, she realized that reading together enabled them to help each other with the words each didn't know.

All children deserve an even start. This bill will assure that Even Start facilitators will be well-trained to help parents learn the skills that enable their children to be competitive at the starting line.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SWIM TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, last week the Auburn University swim team dominated the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships by winning the men's national title.

The Tigers routed their nearest competitors by 196.5 points and qualified 11 swimmers for the championship finals and four more for the consolation finals. This was the men's team third national title ever.

But the men were diving on the heels of the Auburn women's swim team, who during the previous week, won their first-ever National Championship.

Mr. Speaker, these young men and women symbolize the strength of the human spirit and the joy of achievement. Let us congratulate them for their victories by acclaiming together in the House: "WAR EAGLE!"

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration of these Americans. As a tribute for the families of these proud young men and women, please enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Auburn University Men's Swim Team: Lyle Babcock, Chad Barlow, Seth Barry, George Bovell, Fred Bousquet, Will Brandt, Matt Bricker, Kurt Cady, Patrick Calhoun, Justin Caron, James Galloway, Mark Gangloff, Caesar Garcia, Derek Gibb, Joseph Gonzales, Andy Haidinyak.

Auburn University Women's Swim Team: Jenni Anderson, Maggie Bowen, Sally Brown, Demerae Christianson, Eileen Coparropa, Kirsty Coventry, Lauren Duerk, Magda Dyszkiewicz, Erin Gayle, Margaret Hoelzer, Kelly Jones, Heather Kemp, Jana Kulkanova, Rachel Korth, Alessandra Lawless, Leslie Lunsmann, Cassidy Maxwell, Jeri Moss, Kelsey Patterson, Ashley Rubenstein, Becky Short, Laura Swander, Erin Volcan, Amy Wheatley.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN TENO RONCALIO

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to note the passing of one of Wyoming's most prominent and able public serv-

ants—former Congressman Teno Roncalio. Congressman Roncalio died on March 30 at the age of 87. He will be forever remembered for a body of legislative accomplishments that truly benefitted the state he loved so well.

Known to all in Wyoming as simply Teno, the Congressman was born in 1916 in Rock Springs, WY, the eighth of nine children of an immigrant Italian family. He attended the University of Wyoming, graduated in 1939, and then went to Washington to work for Wyoming Senator Joe Mahoney. He enrolled in Catholic University Law School, only to have his studies interrupted by World War II. He served with distinction in the 18th infantry, and saw combat in seven campaigns including Africa, Italy, France and Germany. He earned a Silver Star for gallantry during the D-Day Invasion at Normandy.

After World War II, he returned to his beloved state and earned a law degree at the University of Wyoming. After practicing law and serving a stint as a deputy county attorney, he was elected to Congress first in 1964 and then, after losing a Senate race, won our House seat again in 1970. He served another four terms with distinction, retiring in 1978.

During his time in Congress, Teno worked diligently on critically important issues to Wyoming. He helped boost Wyoming's share of mineral royalties, a driving force in our state's economy to this day. He wrote legislation to create a number of recreational areas in the state, including Flaming Gorge, Big Horn Canyon and Fossil Butte. After he left Congress, he continued to serve Wyoming, acting as Special Master in the adjudication of water rights on the Big-Horn-Big Wind River. His commitment to environmental concerns and preserving the beauty and history of Wyoming constitute a lasting contribution to the state.

Only last year, the Wyoming congressional delegation was successful in securing approval of legislation to name the United States Post Office in Rock Springs in Teno's honor. It was a privilege to have a part in recognizing a man with such a distinguished career of devoted public service to our state.

My thoughts and prayers are with Teno's family. He was a man of great heart and compassion who will truly be missed. Though he is gone, his legacy in Wyoming will live forever.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1104) to prevent child abductions, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. I support H.R. 1104 reluctantly because while the resolution improves upon the AMBER Alert system, it is not a clean AMBER Alert Bill.

The provisions of H.R. 1104 that improve the AMBER Alert system are critical steps in making America safer for children. The AMBER Alert provisions of H.R. 1104 direct

the Attorney General to assign a National Amber Alert Coordinator. The Coordinator will establish minimum standards for the issuance of AMBER Alerts, including the extent of dissemination of alerts. The minimum standards will require vital information relating to the special needs of the child, including the child's health care needs, to be provided to the appropriate law enforcement and public health officials. Also, the dissemination of the AMBER Alert will be limited to the geographic area most likely to facilitate the recovery of the abducted child.

H.R. 1104 also requires the Secretary of Transportation to provide grants to states for the development or improvement of AMBER Alert communication or notification systems along America's highways. It requires the Attorney General to provide grants to States for the development or enhancement of programs and activities for support of the AMBER Alert communications plans.

I wholeheartedly support all of the AMBER Alert provisions of H.R. 1104. These provisions improve the AMBER Alert system and help to reduce the likelihood that children who are kidnapped will also be physically abused, sexually abused, or murdered. These provisions also improve the chances that abducted children will be returned to their families.

I have reservations about supporting H.R. 1104 because it is not a clean AMBER Alert bill. I believe that the Amendments to the bill dealing with prison sentence guidelines, pre-trial release, and law enforcement investigation powers should be dealt with in separate legislation.

More importantly, the extraneous provisions will delay the ultimate passage of the AMBER Alert Bill. Every day that goes by without a national AMBER Alert system in place puts the lives of children at risk. According to an October 2002 U.S. Department of Justice Report titled the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART Report), 12,222 children were the victims of traditional kidnappings in the year 1999 alone. That amounts to approximately 33 children kidnapped nationwide per day.

While the members of the House debate extraneous amendments, hundreds of children are being kidnapped and murdered. As the Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I strongly believe that the best way to save children's lives is to vote in support of H.R. 1104, even if I do so reluctantly.

That is why, Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly vote in favor of H.R. 1104.

HONORING PAUL BETANCOURT

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Betancourt, who is being honored as the outgoing president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, FCFB. Paul Betancourt has spent more than a decade serving my district through his activities with the Fresno County Farm Bureau, which represents over 6,000 members, produces more than 300 crops and grosses more than \$3.2 billion annually. Paul Betancourt has set an example

through his dedicated commitment to our community.

Since completing his 2-year role as president of the FCFB, Mr. Betancourt continues to serve on the FCFB Executive Committee and he was recently appointed to serve as the Industry Representative on the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's Citizens Advisory Committee. Before serving as FCFB President, Betancourt also served as the FCFB secretary-treasurer and second and first vice presidents.

In addition to all of his work with the FCFB, Mr. Betancourt has served in a number of various community activities. Through his Farm Bureau activities, Mr. Betancourt served on the board of directors of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, and represented FCFB at many industry and community forums and events. Mr. Betancourt currently serves on the Kerman Unified School Board of Trustees, and is involved in the Fresno Area Collaborative Regional Initiative. Additionally, Mr. Betancourt is a noted columnist for a local business publication and he teaches Sunday school at the Kerman Covenant Church.

Mr. Betancourt currently farms more than 750 acres of cotton and almonds in Fresno County, where he has also grown crops such as tomatoes, sugar beets, cantaloupes, barley, and cattle. Paul Betancourt's intimate knowledge of farming issues and his dedicated commitment to farmers and Fresno County residents as a whole should serve as an example of leadership and dedication in the Central Valley of California.

Mr. Betancourt has contributed to the improvement of the community through his work in and out of the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Paul Betancourt on his retirement as president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HARRY B. NISSLEY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harry B. Nissley, a local hero in my community who has dedicated over 50 years of his life to educating and inspiring our students.

Mr. Nissley worked as a tennis coach for the El Monte Union High School District from 1946 until his retirement in 2001. Over the course of his career, he has received numerous honors, including the San Gabriel Valley Administration Association's Service Award and the California Interscholastic Federation Award. But most enduring is the imprint he has left on the lives of hundreds of students, athletes and peers. Mr. Nissley's enthusiasm, caring and dedication is exemplary of a great educator.

Mr. Nissley went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that students were given every opportunity to excel. Every spring, he hosted the Keeley Tennis tournament to help pay for student competition entry fees and often used his own money to help those students with financial hardships. Mr. Nissley's enthusiasm was only surpassed by his desire

to enhance each student's life. He strived to instill in his students a strong and positive sense of self worth.

Earlier this year, a former student and professional tennis player, honored Mr. Nissley by organizing an event commemorating his contributions. During the event, numerous former students and athletes praised him with kind words and fond memories.

Mr. Nissley is now 90 years old. At the request of his students, colleagues, friends and family who wanted to recognize his numerous contributions, the community of El Monte recently nominated him for induction into the California Interscholastic Federation Hall of Fame. Not only is the number of years he taught at the El Monte Union School District already a state record, but his commitment and selflessness is immeasurable.

I would also like to join the community of El Monte in showing my appreciation for Mr. Nissley by asking Congress to recognize his vast contributions to our youth, and outstanding dedication to service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ST. CROIX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to direct the Secretary of Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the St. Croix National Heritage Area.

According to the National Park Service, National Heritage Areas are places that are federally designated to preserve an important aspect of America's past and share it with visitors. They are generally started at the grassroots by community members who envision places where the best of the past becomes part of a sustainable future.

National Heritage Areas are not living theme parks seeking to freeze places in time. They seek instead to conserve their special natural spaces and historic places as part of their communities' social and economic futures. The successful melding of past and future is the National Heritage Area challenge.

The unique natural, historic and cultural resources of the island of St. Croix represent distinctive aspects of American heritage that are in my view, worthy of recognition and provide outstanding opportunities for recreational and educational opportunities.

In introducing this bill I hope to utilize our spectacular natural and historic resources to spur economic development on my home island which badly needs it. As Interior Secretary Gail Norton noted during her visit to St. Croix: "We certainly want to protect the wonderful environment here and to match that great environment with a thriving economy. Heritage tourism might be one option for St. Croix".

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 23 existing national heritage areas across 17 states. As the Ranking Democrat on the House National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, I can confirm that heritage areas are just one of a growing number of collaborative, community-based conservation strategies that have developed in recent years to identify, preserve, and interpret resources.

I urge my colleagues to support enactment of this legislation to provide for a study to determine the sustainability and feasibility of the island St. Croix becoming the 24th National Heritage Area.

GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS
ISSUES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking Democrat on the Europe Subcommittee, I believe my colleagues in Congress will be interested in the following letter sent by the Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktas to the Greek Cypriot Leader Tassas Papadopoulos on April 2, 2003. I am hopeful that Mr. Denktas's letter and its content will be a catalyst for renewed dialogue between Greek and Turkish Cypriots and a positive step toward a comprehensive resolution to their long-standing issues.

In this letter, Mr. Denktas provides a detailed proposal to lift all overseas trade, transport, travel and cultural activities from both parts of Cyprus. He calls for freedom of movement to be facilitated between the two sides and restrictions on the movement of tourists to be lifted as well. His measures also include allowing Greek Cypriot refugees to return to the Greek Cypriot sector of Famagusta. Finally, Mr. Denktas expressed his willingness to meet with Mr. Papadopoulos to discuss the core issues of a comprehensive settlement with the objective of reaching an agreement between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

While I understand that the long-standing Cyprus issue cannot be solved without great sacrifice by both sides, it is incredibly important that the United States and the international community work together to resolve this issue. Please know, I remain firmly committed to helping both Greek and Turkish Cypriots overcome obstacles and bring about a lasting peace for future generations.

APRIL 2, 2003.

DEAR MR. PAPADOPOULOS: Since our return from the Netherlands on 11 March 2003, I have been trying to reassess in depth the negotiating process resulting in the stalemate at The Hague.

Based on our re-evaluation and the responses given to the UN Secretary-General's proposals by both sides, I am now convinced more than ever that we have for too long overlooked the significance of the socio-psychological dimension of the problem, and especially the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides.

The Turkish Cypriot side sincerely wishes a lasting settlement to the forty year-old question of Cyprus. In achieving a sustainable and viable settlement that would be acceptable to both sides, the first meaningful step should, without doubt, be the improvement of the political environment within which we could allow for the evolution of a working relationship between the two sides through the building up of trust and confidence. This would enable us to resolve pending issues, thus preparing the ground for a comprehensive settlement. The island is, no doubt, the common home of the two co-owner peoples in Cyprus. In this context, I wish to share with you the following ideas and suggestions which I believe could initiate a process of dialogue and consultation leading to a working relationship between

us. This would greatly enhance the prospects for and paved the way to a mutually acceptable comprehensive settlement based on the political equality of the two sides and bring tangible benefits to both parties.

(i) As a first step, the fenced area of Varosha south of Dhimoktrathias street, including the area extending to the UN Buffer Zone, will be transferred to the Greek Cypriot control to be opened for resettlement.

(ii) Parallel to this, all restrictions on overseas trade, transport, travel and cultural and sportive activities from or to both parts of Cyprus will be lifted. I am convinced that Turkey and Greece will also positively respond to this by removing the restrictions which they apply to the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides respectively. We shall invite the UN and EU to acknowledge and give effect to these arrangements.

(iii) The freedom of movement will be facilitated between the two sides, subject only to minimal procedures. The restrictions on the movement of tourists will also be lifted.

(iv) Steps will be taken gradually for the normalization of the flow of goods between the two parties on the island. Cooperation shall be also encouraged between the institutions of both sides to identify and develop joint projects.

(v) The Turkish Cypriot side will lift the measures regarding the movement of UNFICYP of July 2000.

(vi) A bilateral Reconciliation Committee will be established with the objective of promoting understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between the two parties. This Committee will make specific recommendations for promoting bilateral contacts and projects. These ideas and suggestions constitute a package and should be regarded as an integrated whole. The acceptance and implementation of this package will neither prejudice our respective positions, nor will it be a substitute to a final settlement. I am prepared to discuss with you the above points and their modalities with the aim of initiating a cooperative relationship. In doing this, we could benefit from the assistance of the UN and the EU. These measures, I believe, would bring about a positive climate to the island and to our region. On the understanding of the above, I am also ready to talk with you the core issues of the comprehensive settlement and matters related to EU membership with the objective of reaching a mutually satisfactory conclusion. As we both supported the good-offices mission, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to the UN Secretary-General.

Sincerely,

RAUF R. DENKTAS.

SUPPORT AMERICAN-GROWN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I recently introduced a resolution supporting humanitarian assistance from the United States to Iraq. H. Con. Res. 127 reinforces the ideal that we should send American-grown and made products to Iraq—and on American ships!

The United States obviously has a deep and enduring interest in the welfare of the citizens of Iraq who have been living under the regime of Saddam Hussein for decades. Iraq is currently suffering a humanitarian crisis that could worsen during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

An estimated 4.5 million to 10 million people in Iraq, about 40 percent of the population, will require food assistance within a few weeks. Unfortunately, most of the warehouses in Iraq that store food under the "Oil-for-Food" program are empty. There are few food reserves in Iraq. If action is not taken to address this shortfall, people will die of starvation.

Now that Operation Iraqi Freedom has begun, it is our duty to recognize the need for, and prepare for, the delivery of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the people of Iraq. It is our obligation to provide American-grown commodities, such as wheat, to Iraq!

Food security will be significant in improving the quality of life the people of Iraq. Providing United States agricultural commodities to Iraq will help alleviate the humanitarian crisis there, as well as help strengthen our Nation's economy. Our Nation's farmers would certainly be proud to supply humanitarian assistance to a country in great need. Further, our United States maritime industry would be honored to ship supplies to Iraq in order to help with this critical effort.

In addition, the Department of Defense recently created the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance. This office is a coordinated effort between government agencies in order to plan and implement assistance programs in a post-war Iraq. The resolution I have introduced commends the Department of Defense for recognizing the need for, and taking an inter-agency approach to, the delivery of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, we can, and must, help to improve the living conditions of the civilian population of Iraq! The fact that we can do this with American products makes this humanitarian effort all the more beneficial, significant, and crucial!

HONORING McNEIL NUTRITIONALS,
SPLENDA PLANT, McINTOSH,
ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McNeil Nutritionals, Splenda Plant, a revolutionary manufacturer located in McIntosh, Alabama.

Each year the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama honors outstanding manufacturers with their Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards. This year, McNeil Nutritionals, Splenda plant, has received recognition as a Medium Manufacturer for excellence in leadership, performance, profitability and work force relations. McNeil was chosen based on its demonstration of superior performance in the areas of customer focus, employee commitment, operational excellence, continuous improvement, profitable growth and investment in training and retraining.

McNeil Nutritionals manufactures Splenda, the only no-calorie sweetener made from raw sugar which is from 650 to 750 times sweeter than sugar. This product was introduced in

2001 and within one year achieved the number two market share in low-calorie sweeteners in the world. As a result, Splenda saw more than 100 percent profit growth from 2001 to 2002. Also in that year, McNeil Nutritionals had a 110 percent sales growth from its base year and implemented "Six Sigma" quality projects that resulted in cost savings of \$15 million.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me, the Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama in honoring McNeil Nutritionals, Splenda Plant, for its outstanding accomplishments. I also want to recognize and thank McNeil Nutritionals for its contributions to the local economy and to the quality of life enjoyed in the State of Alabama.

PRESIDENTIAL GIFTS
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a revised version of my "Presidential Gifts Accountability Act." During the 107th Congress, I introduced an initial bill, H.R. 1081. Both versions of this good government bill establish responsibility in one agency for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts.

In January 2001, there were press accounts of President Clinton's last financial disclosure report, which covered calendar year 2000 and January 1–20, 2001. This report revealed that the Clintons chose to retain \$190,027 in gifts, each over \$260, during this period. In February 2001, there were press accounts of numerous furniture gifts to the White House residence, which the Clintons returned to the U.S. Government. These press stories led me to question how the current Presidential gifts system works and what legislative changes, if any, are needed to prevent future abuses.

I believe that the American people have the right to know what gifts were received and retained by their President. Additionally, I believe that donors should not receive an unfair advantage in the policymaking process or other governmental benefits.

To prevent future abuses, in March 2001, I introduced H.R. 1081, the "Accountability for Presidential Gifts Act," which had bi-partisan support during the 107th Congress. The Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, spent nearly a year gathering the empirical data to support and improve such a legislative effort.

The Subcommittee found that several laws, involving six Federal offices and agencies, govern the current system. In February 2002, the Subcommittee released a 55-page document summarizing the Subcommittee's findings. The Subcommittee identified a host of problems with the Presidential gifts system, such as consistently undervalued gifts and questionable White House Counsel rulings. Since the current system is subject to abuse and political interference, I believe that there is a need for centralized accountability in one agency staffed by career employees. My bill establishes responsibility in one agency—

staffed by career employees—for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts.

On October 28, 2002, my Subcommittee's analysis was presented in House Report 107–768, "Problems with the Presidential Gifts System." The Report summarized how the current system works, my Subcommittee's investigation and findings, and recommendations made in my Subcommittee's hearing and a second hearing by the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations. The Report's findings included: Non-Competitive Hiring of Political Appointee for Career Job, Some Gifts Over the Reporting Threshold Were Not Disclosed, Some Gifts Were Solicited, Many Gifts Were Undervalued, Some Gifts Were Not Included in the White House Database, Some Gifts Were Lost, Questionable White House Counsel Rulings, Some U.S. Property Was Taken, Most Furniture Gifts Were Coordinated, Some Gift Certificates Were Accepted, and Huge Gifts to the Presidential Library

The total value of gifts retained by the former First Family over an 8-year period creates at least an appearance problem. The fact that so many gifts were undervalued raises many questions. The fact that gifts were misplaced or lost show sloppy management and maybe more. The fact that U.S. government property was improperly taken is troubling. And, the fact that, after the former First Lady's election to the U.S. Senate and before she was subject to the Congress' very strict gift acceptance rules, the former First Family accepted nearly \$40,000 in furniture gifts and the First Lady solicited nearly \$40,000 in fine china and silver is disturbing at best. Public servants, including the President, should not be able to enrich themselves with lavish gifts.

The revised version of my bill, which I am introducing today, reflects several recommendations made by public witnesses at both hearings on the earlier version. These include the President of Common Cause and the Director for Public Service of The Brookings Institution, both of which expressed support for the bill. I believe that, if enacted, this bill will provide transparency for the public, establish discipline in the multi-agency system, and ensure accountability. A section-by-section analysis of the bill's provisions is attached to this introductory statement.

The current system is clearly broken and needs to be fixed.

To expedite progress, I am also sending a letter to the President today to recommend some changes in the current system, which he can make administratively to provide transparency, discipline, and accountability. These include interagency coordination, establishment of a unified database with a single numbering system, and annual public disclosure of all Presidential gifts over \$100 (except a gift from a foreign government or a relative). A copy of this letter is also attached to this introductory statement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Today, after a lengthy investigation and two hearings of Government Reform Subcommittees, I introduced an improved version of my "Presidential Gifts Accountability Act." This good government bill establishes responsibility in

one agency for the receipt, valuation, and disposition of Presidential gifts. In the meantime, I am writing you to recommend some changes in the current system, which can be made administratively.

Several laws, involving six Federal offices and agencies, govern the current system. The Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, identified a host of problems with the system in use during the prior Administration, such as consistently undervalued gifts and questionable White House Counsel rulings. These are presented in House Report 107–768, "Problems with the Presidential Gifts System." Since the system is subject to abuse and political interference, I believe that there is a need for centralized accountability in one agency staffed by career employees. My bill establishes responsibility in one agency for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts.

At the second hearing in June 2002, it was revealed that only minor changes were made by your Administration to address the problems revealed in the first hearing in February 22. In July 2002, my Subcommittee invited your staff and the six affected agencies to a meeting to identify changes, which could be made administratively. The attendees confirmed that, since the Subcommittee's investigation began: there has been no inter-agency meeting or other coordination between the six agencies; there is no unified database system in use by the six agencies for the receipt, valuation and disposition of Presidential gifts; and, there is no single numbering system for Presidential gifts. Please consider such coordination and establishment of a unified database with a single numbering system. In addition, I recommend annual public disclosure of all Presidential gifts over \$100 (except a gift from a foreign government or a relative).

As the Director for Public Service at the Brookings Institution stated, "In this moment of heightened public confidence in government, the presidential gift process offers the potential for staggering embarrassment and diminished accountability. The current fragmented process for logging, valuing, and manging gifts to the president defies bureaucratic logic, and appears designed more to frustrate accountability than enhance it. One could design a more unwieldy system if one started out do so." I agree with his assessment.

Sincerely,

DOUG OSE,
Member of Congress.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1104) to prevent child abduction, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1104 the Child Abduction Prevention Act. This legislation takes a significant step toward bringing child abductors to justice by aiding law enforcement agencies to effectively prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes against children. H.R. 1104 also provides families and communities with immediate and effective assistance to recover a

missing child through the AMBER Alert Network Plan. I believe it is important that the federal government send a clear message to child abductors that their actions will not go unpunished, and that we will take the appropriate measures to ensure the protection of our children.

I am disappointed, however, that the Republican majority chose to add a number of provisions to this legislation that I oppose, including an expansion of the death penalty, making it easier to authorize wiretaps against criminal suspects, and establishing mandatory life sentences for certain crimes. It is unfortunate that these failed, controversial provisions were added to such an important piece of legislation.

I will continue to support measures designed to keep child abductors off the street, and increase security for the children in our neighborhoods and communities. Furthermore, I remain opposed to the death penalty, expanded surveillance measures that violate our civil liberties, and mandatory sentencing guidelines that take away the discretion of a judge to decide a case fairly and justly. It's regrettable we could not pass a clean bill that reflects all of these ideas.

DENYING DEMOCRATS THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 1559

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule. The rule waives all points of order against the Majority's bill, while denying Democrats the opportunity to offer amendments.

Yesterday, during the meeting of the Rules Committee, my Democratic colleagues offered thoughtful amendments ranging from increasing funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to adding \$1.7 billion for health care, education, and infrastructure in the United States; yet none of my Democratic colleagues were granted waivers. I offered five amendments addressing our homeland security needs and mental health services. None of these amendments were granted waivers.

I believe that our domestic priorities and our first responders must not be overlooked as we consider this supplemental appropriations bill. The Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee offered an amendment to increase funding by \$2.5 billion to Homeland Security programs. This was not accepted for a waiver.

These increases would have provided an additional \$197 million to protect military facilities; \$241 million for nuclear security (nuclear cargo detection, nuclear detection equipment,

securing nuclear materials abroad and in the U.S.); \$722 million for port and infrastructure security (Coast Guard personnel, port security grants, dam and bridge security, water and chemical plant security, rail tunnel security); and \$1.2 billion for state and local first responders (state and local civil defense teams, first responder equipment, firefighter grants, state and local biotechnical response, military guard and reserves).

The Obey amendment, which I support, provides critical funding to Homeland Security programs. Under Article I, section 7, of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the power of the purse. We have an obligation to have an open and democratic debate on this supplemental.

With the United States now at war to disarm Saddam Hussein, some Republicans continue to question the patriotism of anyone who has the audacity to challenge the Bush administration's foreign policy. All of us pray for a quick, successful conclusion to this war and for our troops' safe return.

However, it is our duty as members of this august body of Congress to consider fully any funding that involves our military forces and funding that could help our domestic priorities.

With the Republicans denying essential debate on this bill, we will not have full consideration of the supplemental, and this is an abomination on what should be a fair and open process.

This is a process far from what our Founding Fathers envisioned when granting Congress spending authority. I regret that we cannot have a serious Open Rule process and waivers for amendments that address this nation's needs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 31, 2003, despite all my efforts, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote Nos. 93 and 94 I would have voted the following way:

Roll Call Vote No. 93,—“Aye”.
Roll Call Vote No. 94,—“Aye”.

OUR MILITARY SURVIVORS
DESERVE FAIRNESS AND EQUITY!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a bill to restore eq-

uity to the survivors of our nation's veterans, the Military Survivors' Equity Act (H.R. 1592).

It is hard to believe that we continue to condone a system that penalizes the aging survivors, mostly widows, of the veterans of our country, but that is exactly what the Military Survivors' Benefit Plan does! When a member of the military retires, he or she may join the Survivors' Benefits Plan, known as the SBP. After paying a premium for many, many years, the retiree expects that his or her spouse will receive 55 percent of the retired military pay if the veteran dies. But this is not the case!

As I said, most of the survivors who receive SBP benefits are military widows. You may not realize that when these widows who are receiving SBP benefits turn 62, a Social Security offset causes their benefits to be reduced from 55 percent to 35 percent of their husband's military retired pay. This occurs even when the Social Security comes from the wife's employment!

What does this reduction mean to our nation's military widows? I have received many, many letters on this topic. Let me read from two:

My husband, who served in the Army for 20 years, was on Social Security disability because of heart problems and could no longer work. He died when I was 61 years old. I was doing okay, paying my monthly bills and having enough left for groceries, but when I turned 62, I was notified that my SBP was reduced from \$476 to \$302. What a shock! This was my grocery money that they took away from me.

And a second—

While my husband was alive, we worked out a budget for me in case he died. I felt secure in the knowledge that he had provided for me by joining the Survivors Benefits Plan. I could not believe it when I learned that I was not going to get the amount we were promised. I cannot believe that our government would do this to the widow of a veteran.

It is past time to change this misleading and unfair law. We must provide equity to the surviving spouses of our military retirees. My bill would fix this problem by eliminating the callous and absurd reduction in benefits and give what is expected and what is deserved: 55 percent of the military retired pay. To put it simply, no offset. A simple solution to a difficult problem, as equitable solution to a mean-spirited practice.

Colleagues, please join me in co-sponsoring H.R. 1592, the Military Survivors' Equity Act. Let us do this for our veterans and for their surviving spouses. Let us stop the pain and anguish that we are causing them.