

tighter restrictions than the product in which they are included. This bill stipulates that no part will face tighter restrictions than the device for which it is manufactured.

Mr. Speaker, our export control system needs direction and vision. It is my hope that the legislation I have introduced today will go a long way toward reforming this system, and end the current practice of tying the hands of America's best competitors.

FAIRNESS FOR THE WIDOWS OF OUR MILITARY RETIREES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Military Survivors Equity Act of 1995.

I would like to tell you a story, a story with an unhappy ending. A resident of my congressional district, when he retired from his service in the Armed Forces of our country, decided to have a portion of his monthly retired pay withheld in order to pay for benefits for his wife in case he died.

Unfortunately, he died an untimely death, and his wife began to receive a monthly death benefit. The amount she received was 55 percent of her husband's retired pay.

Imagine her astonishment when she turned 62 and found that the amount of her benefit was reduced to 35 percent of her husband's retired pay. When she inquired as to the reason, she was told that because she was eligible to get Social Security, her survivor benefits were reduced.

"But my Social Security payment is based on my own work," she said. "Why is the pension that my husband paid for in any way connected to my Social Security?" The answer: because that's the law!

Well, I think it's time to change this law—a law which simply doesn't make sense. The Military Survivor Benefit Plan, called the SBP plan, is a good idea—but it is very complicated.

For some, SBP benefits are reduced or offset by the amount of the military retiree's Social Security when the survivor reaches age 62—regardless of when she actually begins to draw Social Security benefits.

For others, under the newer two-tier SBP plan, like the widow in my congressional district, the benefit is automatically reduced at age 62 to 35 percent of her husband's retired military pay—a reduction of over 1/3 from her previous benefits.

I believe it is time to get rid of these offsets. It is time to live up to the expectations of our military retirees, when they choose to provide for their widows after their deaths. It is time to simplify this incredibly complicated SBP system.

My bill will provide an SBP death benefit equal to 55 percent of the military retiree pay. Period. No offsets. No reductions. That is what our military retirees expected. That is what their widows expected. That is what we should deliver.

It is time to live up to our commitment to those who have served our Nation so honorably. It is time to correct the wrongs inflicted on their widows. It is time to restore honor to the Military Survivor Benefit Plan.

TRADE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1995

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on July 27, 1995 I was joined by seven of my colleagues in introducing the Trade Reorganization Act of 1995, HR. 2124. The purpose of this bill is to consolidate the functions of the U.S. Trade Representative's Office with the trade functions of the Commerce Department into one U.S. Trade Office. The cosponsors of the bill realize that all of these trade functions are critical to enhancing U.S. exports and creating jobs. A legislative drafting error resulted in the appearance that our bill only transferred the foreign component of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service. I want the record to reflect that it was the intent of all the sponsors of the bill to preserve the domestic offices and include those operations in the U.S. Trade Office.

ELIZABETH ADKINS AMONG VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY NA- TIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a remarkable member of my district, Elizabeth Adkins, the Illinois winner of the 1995 Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest. Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsors the competition, choosing winners from over 126,000 scripts submitted by high school students around the nation. Elizabeth, a recent graduate of Wheaton North High School, received top honors in Illinois for her speech entitled "My Vision for America". I am proud to recognize this bright young author as well as the thousands of patriotic students who participated in the contest.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

America has, since its conception, been the embodiment of democratic and moralistic ideals. As a nation we defend again and again the principles that we are built upon. Freedom, equality, justice, and opportunity. We struggle together over where the line is crossed between national morals and narrow-minded policies, between equality and reverse-discrimination, between personal choice and the rights of an unborn child. But only in America could these struggles strengthen a country. Only in America could citizens dare to disagree with their government. Only in America could political leaders and parties change every four or eight years and not cause a complete collapse of the nation. And so, in asking what my vision for America is, I cannot say a New America or a different America. For I do not want to abandon the America of today or forget the America of yesterday.

I do believe, however, that this nation can and will be improved. I see a need in America. And I believe that this need has been growing for the last thirty years. Each American citizen must begin to take some responsibility. Responsibility for his or her own actions, mistakes, and well-being. Re-

sponsibility for those less fortunate who do not have the ability to care for themselves. And responsibility for what this nation does. A devoted citizen would not disown their country every time it made a mistake, or didn't have enough money, or lost one battle or another. As devoted citizens, we Americans must stand behind this country, improving it when we can and fighting for it when we must.

The major problems of the United States would be alleviated if citizens took initiative and were willing to bear the burdens that citizens of a powerful democratic nation must bear. In the America of tomorrow, each citizen will have rediscovered their moral basis and built a motivational basis. A strong moral basis will help to alleviate the crime problem. Children who are taught simply what is right and wrong and who are challenged and encouraged to do what is right will be more equipped to lead lives void of crime. Perhaps what this country needs are a few reminders from the America of yesterday. Maybe we need to hear a few more stories where good battles evil and the good guy wins. In the America of tomorrow there is only one winner in the fight between right and wrong. Americans must begin to develop moral responsibility.

And it isn't just about doing what is right anymore. America needs to advance beyond doing what is right to doing what is best. Is it enough to simply take care of your family? What about helping your neighbors or your community? American citizens need to be responsible for fellow American citizens. My vision for America returns to neighborhood groups and local organizations that are trying to make some improvements. When citizens begin to take actions to assist their neighbors as well as themselves, vivid changes will take place. When citizens learn to give of themselves for someone else, materialism and special interests will vanish. When Americans develop a responsibility for their neighbors and their communities, they will be able to look forward as a unified nation to improving this country as a whole.

My vision of America is that each man and woman will understand the need to pull together as a nation and to pull oneself together as an individual citizen. In this America, the word duty will have the resonance that it once did. Each American has a duty, and that duty is what makes a democracy work. In order for America to maintain those freedoms and liberties which we all cherish, we must fulfill our duties and responsibilities to ourselves, our neighbors, and our nation.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO- GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED HEINEMAN

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the debate and studies the details in this bill. The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill reduces spending by \$9 billion from last year and reduces or eliminates many effective, wasteful or duplicative programs. This

bill prioritizes spending in areas that are proven and effective.

And it is with great reservation that I must rise in opposition to the bill at this time. This was a very difficult decision, Mr. Chairman.

During my years in law enforcement I learned what really causes crime. During my campaign I promised to fight crime. I have seen first hand that crime prevention begins in two places—the home and the class room. This bill unfortunately reduces funding in some areas which are important to our children, and important in deterring crime as these youngsters become adults.

Mr. Chairman, these were programs I supported during my campaign; and I am a man of my word. In the past I have voiced my strong support for vocational education programs and other education assistance. I will not turn my back on the very people who elected me.

In addition, as a senior citizen I was also concerned about the funding level in the bill for senior citizens programs. Mr. Chairman, I this year I voted for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and in turn voted for the Republican budget which will balance in seven years. Those are two of the most important votes I have cast as freshman Member of Congress. Those two votes carried with them a responsibility to the American people, and to my constituents in North Carolina. That responsibility was to reduce wasteful spending, make the government smaller, and get our fiscal house in order. I take that responsibility very seriously. I would have like to support this bill but I could not.

As the House passes this bill, it will do so without my support this time. However, I want to work with our leadership and our colleagues in the Senate to find ways to make this a better bill. I am hopeful as we move forward in the budget and appropriations process that we will make this a better bill for our seniors and children—and that it can 1 day earn my support.

CONGRATULATIONS PIONEER CITY RODEO

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pioneer City Rodeo of Palestine, IL, on being named the best small outdoor rodeo in America. The Pioneer City Rodeo was selected from a field of over 700 small outdoor rodeos by a distinguished panel of livestock contractors, top cowboys, and specialty rodeo acts. The chairman of the rodeo committee, Roy Shaner, is credited with the continued success of the rodeo, which is now in its 29th year.

Recently in Las Vegas, NV, The Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association awarded the Pioneer City Rodeo a commemorative flag, ceremonial belt buckle, and a check for \$1,000. Continuing an annual tradition, the Pioneer City Rodeo donated their winnings to the cowboys crisis fund to help families of injured cowboys. This is a true showing of cowboy honor and while the rodeo's selection as the best in America is a grand achievement the example these fine people set is an even greater accomplishment.

Being voted the best small outdoor rodeo in America is a great achievement and I am honored to represent these award winning cowboys in Congress. Congratulations Pioneer City Rodeo, you are the best in America.

WORKING TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to inform my constituents about the House of Representatives' plan to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare.

Unfortunately, some individuals and groups are misrepresenting the facts, thus causing unnecessary anguish and apprehension among our nation's seniors. In my district in Western New York, I have seen firsthand the anxiety which such statements have caused.

According to the Presidential Medicare Board of Trustees, the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund (part A) will begin running out of money as early as next year—spending \$1 billion dollars more than it takes in—and will be completely bankrupt by the year 2002.

By law, Medicare is prohibited from making payments for hospital or other health services if its reserves are depleted. That means if nothing is done now to preserve Medicare, 34 million seniors will be in jeopardy of losing their vital health care coverage.

I am committed to saving the program for all Americans, that includes my mother, who currently is on the program, and my daughter, who will be on it someday. If Congress does not act to save Medicare, the consequences 7 years from now will be catastrophic for all Americans.

Preserving Medicare will not require cuts in the program. Rather, Medicare spending will continue to increase, more than private-sector health care spending increases and general inflation rate.

The reason Medicare is in such financial difficulty is that it has been growing at a rate of 10 and 11 percent a year. If we can slow the growth to between 5 and 7 percent annually we can save Medicare from bankruptcy. Right now, the Federal Government spends \$4,800 per person per year in Medicare. If we do not make the changes necessary to save the program now, there will be zero dollars available in the year 2002.

The plan makes Medicare financially safe and secure both now and in the future by simplifying the system and making it easier for seniors to use and understand it. In addition, it gives seniors the same right that Members of Congress have to choose their health care plan.

In our efforts to preserve, protect and strengthen the Medicare Program, we must eliminate fraud and abuse. We are working with doctors and hospitals to make this happen.

I urge all of my constituents, and all Americans to play a part in the effort to strengthen Medicare. I welcome all comments and suggestions regarding my effort to save this important program.

TRIBUTE TO FT. ZUMWALT MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIRS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fort Zumwalt North Middle School seventh and eighth grade concert choirs from O'Fallon, MO.

Over the past 2 years, under the skilled guidance of their director, Mr. Gregory S. LeSan, the North Middle School choirs have been honored with 20 trophies and plaques in national-level competitions. They have also been distinguished with three community proclamations, a State proclamation from Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan, and a coveted invitation to perform for the 1995 Missouri Music Educators Association State Convention.

The choirs have also been invited to compete July 9 through the 14, 1996, in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales. This is the first time in the 50-year history of this world-renowned competition that a public middle school from the United States of America has ever been accepted to sing in this audition-selected international event. This is a rare opportunity to represent their community, the State of Missouri, and the United States of America in a competition that represents over 50 countries.

Mr. Speaker, these young people are to be commended for their continued hard work and dedication to excellence, which has brought not only their school nationwide recognition, but is also a source of great pride to the residents of O'Fallon, MO. It is with great pride that I congratulate these students and recognize the contributions they have made while at Fort Zumwalt North Middle School.

CATHERINE FILENE SHOUSE CELEBRATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer, at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Mr. DAVIS and I celebrated the life of Catherine Filene Shouse.

It was a grand event for a grand lady on the 99th anniversary of her birth—June 9, 1995. On December 14, 1994, Mrs. Shouse "moved to a grander stage," as one person noted, but the vision she had for America's first national park for the performing arts lives on as her gift to America at Wolf Trap Farm Park. Her life was celebrated that evening at a gala so befitting her style, elegance, dignity, respect, wit, humor and love.

There were many remembrances of Mrs. Shouse. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sent a message. Many felt that the remarks of the Honorable G. William Miller that evening eloquently captured the spirit and achievements of Mrs. Shouse. Mr. Speaker, we are honored to represent the northern Virginia area which is home to Wolf Trap and we would like to share with our colleagues the message from