

through their making emergency landings on Iwo Jima or Okinawa.

It was from Tinian, a short distance from our base that the Enola Gay made its flight into history. This date just 50 years ago this past August 14 will be known forever as V-J day to all veterans of the China-Burma-India and Asiatic theaters.

For us old veteran, historians cannot change the events as etched permanently in our memory.

LETTER TO MARCY KAPTUR

VETERANS MEMORIAL,
Toledo, Ohio, August 26, 1995.

As a Nation, and as a people, we are always available to celebrate war. Flesh against flesh—blood against blood—and—steel against steel. We mark with pride the winning of war, but without ego centered on victory. Equally we turn out collective back on war, if there is no winner.

Turn back to the end of the war in Korea. Remember . . . that February day when Vietnam released and returned prisoners. Was it victory when Gerry Denton stepped off the plane and held Jane in his arms for the first time in over seven years? It was for Denton, but not for America. We celebrate victory, perhaps, because we have never learned to celebrate peace.

When I came home to Tucson after my time in the service of my country, my road was—perhaps, different from yours, and yours, not because I am a woman, because no sooner was the ink on my separation papers dry—then I was, along with so many other women, lost in the bright light of victory in Asia and in Europe.

My return raised more eyebrows than salutes. The question of patriotism lost in the questions. A widow at 20, a reason, perhaps. A call to do what was needed to be done, a need to compete, anything you can do—I can do better. Or was it a legacy of generations of soldiers and sailors, a bloodline an Uncle in South Africa and winning the Victoria Cross, dead in the battle of the Marne in France. Cousins in the battle of Normandy and in the landings in the Pacific. A brother in the North Atlantic on the run to Murmansk (sp) in Russia. Are my genes less willing? Wiling to take the oath. Any less willing to work for victory? Parades? Celebrations! And perhaps—thanks for the peace.

But no parades, no thanks, only the challenge that comes from the feeling—as soon as I took off that uniform, put my wings in a drawer and visited my mother's grave, that I was overcome by the feelings, my service had stepped into the glare of challenge, and somehow, never cast a shadow.

Like many other women who answered the call, heard the challenge, we marched home to the sound of muffled drums, and vanished. Over the past few years the drums have picked up the beat, was it Desert Storm? Or was it the women, in gun ships, on bomb runs, or was it the shadow of the women in the 1940s who hit the flight lines running, who heard the call.

Was it my cousin who—as a nurse—lead the children into safe haven from the bombing in Liverpool, or was my cousin who commanded an ack ack battery near Dover and who met the ragged convoy coming from France and to find her badly burned brother in those wounded.

My challenge to myself, and to you, today, will be to pledge to volunteer for peace. To extend that hand that covers your heart and reach out to help. Help the fallen and the falling. To steady the step of those who have lost the way. Take the time to share—time—with those who have only the memory of other times. To wage a war for peace!

Hear again the call to volunteer, when you raise your right hand to pledge your life,

your energy, your compassion to win the peace.

As veterans we share a common thread of willingness to be counted. Our Nation is calling on you again to be counted. Get out of the back row and step up front. Into the front lines—get the facts. Get the ammo of involvement, and get off your fences and fight for the right to be an American. A nation that shows the way with people, not with the gold of treasury, the strength of industry, but a people who are celebrating peace; hearing and healing.

I am proud of my American birth, I must also thank the warriors my family gave me in my heritage. A heritage I pledged for war and continue to pledge—again—for peace.

My husband, of only four weeks, name is on this monument. I honor his name and will not forget his sacrifice.

LOIS M. NELSON,
Women Airforce Service Pilot, WWII.

DEDUCTIBILITY FOR THE COST OF PROVIDING MEALS TO EMPLOYEES OF SEAFOOD PROCESSORS OPERATING IN REMOTE LOCATIONS OF ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to restore 100 percent deductibility for meals which seafood processing companies are compelled to provide to their employees at processing operations located in remote areas of Alaska. This legislation is necessary because the limitations on the deductibility of business meals and entertainment enacted in 1986 and 1993 have inadvertently reduced the deductibility of these employer provided meals to only 50 percent. The consequence has been that these companies, most of which are small businesses, are forced to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional taxes simply because they must provide meals to their employees at remote locales where there are no other meal options.

This legislation would conform the treatment of seafood processors under the Internal Revenue Code with the treatment of other employers—such as operators of commercial vessels and oil and gas rigs—who must provide meals to their employees because the employees do not have another practical alternative to obtaining their meals. Under current law, these employers, because they must provide meals to their employees, are permitted to deduct the full cost of such meals as an ordinary and necessary business expense. The bill I am introducing would provide the same treatment for seafood processors in Alaska.

The seafood processing industry in Alaska is primarily located in remote coastal areas of the State, almost all along the Aleutian chain of islands. Most of these facilities operate on a seasonal basis from spring through fall, and must fly their workers in for temporary periods. The processing plants are located near very small towns and native villages. In some cases the processing plant is the only human activity in the area. Because of this isolation and lack of infrastructure the firms which operate in the areas have no choice but to provide all meals consumed by their employees. In fact, these operations are so isolated that the

employers must also provide all housing, recreation, transportation and medical services.

There would be only about 40 firms which fall into the category covered by our legislation. Most employ under 100 people, although some are larger operations with hundreds of workers. But in all cases it must be emphasized that the employer is the only source of food and shelter for the employees and that the plants are located in very remote areas. In many cases there are no other settlements, and, indeed, no other human activity for many miles around. A final significant impact of the industry on our Nation comes from its role as a source of export revenue. Over 50 percent of the export earnings generated by the seafood industry nationwide originates in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. After years of suffering from huge trade deficits it is encouraging to see that our region of the country is making a positive contribution to our balance of payments.

The changes to the tax laws in 1986 and 1993 which reduced the deductibility of business meal and entertainment expenses from 100 percent to 80 percent and then to 50 percent were justified as an appropriate limitation on a discretionary business expense with a significant personal consumption element. The decision was made that good public policy required changing the tax code so that the public was no longer helping defray the cost for business organizations to entertain clients and other business associates.

However, Congress recognized that where the employer must as a practical or legal matter provide meals to employees—that is, where the employees do not really have the option of providing meals for themselves—that such a mandatory cost of business should continue to be fully deductible to the business. Under current law, employers of crew members on certain commercial vessels and employers of certain oil and gas workers, who provide meals to their employees when those employees have no real alternative means of obtaining food are permitted to deduct the full cost of providing the meals. The same precise situation applies to seafood processors in Alaska and they should be governed by the same rule. Their workers cannot go to a restaurant, they cannot go home and they cannot bring meals with them to work since they live in bunkhouses and do not have access to grocery stores.

The companies which are covered by this amendment have paid the Federal treasury millions of dollars in taxes since 1986. These tax payments are both unintended and unfair. In attempting to correct the abuse of the three martini lunch Congress certainly did not intend to burden legitimate businesses which are providing meals to their employees in cases where those employees have no other source of food.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Columbus Day and in celebration of Italian-American heritage.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus, a brave and noble explorer landed in a vast and foreign

land full of promise. His courage and desire for success made him a hero to his people and a leader among men.

Today, centuries later, we recognize this historic day to pay tribute to Christopher Columbus and all Americans who boldly strive for success in their communities. By making the most out of Columbus's discovery every day the American people have distinguished themselves as an exceptional Nation.

Columbus Day celebrates our proud and united people and recognizes in particular the unique Italian-American experience. With strong leadership and eternal pride, Italian-American communities distinguish themselves through a strong sense of family and dedication to their youth.

Through the work of such groups as UNICO National, an organization committed to support youth programs, community development and other charitable societies, children and adults in the Italian-American community view the achievements of past leaders and understand what actions epitomize role models. Without the unceasing efforts of an exceptional staff, UNICO National would not enjoy the success and prestige that have come to characterize the organization.

In honor of their dedication to the growth and development of their communities and the United States as a whole, one day a year is devoted to acknowledging the contributions and achievements of Italian-Americans. Happy Columbus Day to my fellow Italian-Americans as they celebrate our patriotic heritage.

OTA: DEFENSE AGAINST THE DUMB

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, today marks the last day of existence for the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment [OTA]. For 23 years OTA has served the American public by giving invaluable guidance and analysis on the dizzying array of technological advances we face in modern society. In its ignorance, Congress has voted to end this institution. It will be missed.

In recent months, I have seen a lot of mindless things being done in the American public's name. First we saw science-based regulatory decisionmaking being used as a slogan for the process of gutting Federal health and safety regulations. Then we have witnessed the slashing of research budgets designed to provide the science upon which these decisions were to be based. Across government, research and development budgets have been cut in order to pay for tax cuts that we don't need.

This mindless approach to government substitutes public relations gimmicks for policy, trying to palm off as reforms simplistic proposals to sell House office buildings, dissolve cabinet agencies, and end daily ice deliveries to House offices. The unfortunate irony of this process is that the victim of this irrationality has been an agency set up to make the legislative process more rational: OTA.

I was serving in Congress in the mid-1960's when we first discussed the need for OTA. In what seems like the dark ages, before e-mail,

genetic engineering, flip phones, and dozens of other technologies that have changed our lives, we were concerned that the rush of technological advance would overwhelm our ability to make rational political judgments. We looked over the various congressional support agencies and did not find the kind of scientific and technological expertise needed to address the challenge. So, we created OTA, an agency that has served Congress well in the intervening years.

In recent months we have heard many criticisms of OTA, as those intent upon issuing press releases on the downsizing of government focused upon that agency's elimination. Some said that OTA studies took too long. But the OTA was established to provide comprehensive, balanced analysis of complex questions. It looked at the technology, at its social and economic impacts, and then made a range of recommendations for congressional action. That process takes a long time. For those with short attention spans, those who fear factual information because their minds are already made up, and those who never get past the executive summary of "shake and bake" boiler-plate policy reviews, OTA probably takes too long. For those of us who take our elective responsibilities seriously, careful analysis is a necessity.

Some critics have maintained that other congressional support agencies could accomplish the same task. That was not the case in 1972 and is even less true today. None of the support agencies have the expertise that OTA had on science and technology issues. None of these agencies employ the use of a balanced panel of outside experts and stakeholders to review the issue under examination. None of these agencies have a bipartisan, bicameral governing body to insure neutrality and independence. None of these agencies have a science advisory panel composed of world-class science and technology leaders. Each of these agencies have expertise and produce competent studies, but none can produce the high-quality in-depth studies for which OTA has become internationally known.

And I disagree with those who say that the executive branch, or the National Academy of Sciences, or some department of science could provide this information. These are not congressional agencies. They cannot tailor information to the unique needs of the legislative branch. And, as we determined when we first looked at this issue in the 1960's, we did not want the legislative held captive to information produced by the executive branch, without regard to which party is in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who was around at the birth of this agency, it saddens me to be present at its death. It saddens me to see dedicated public servants turned out of jobs that they performed with outstanding competence, even up until the final hours today. Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to those people and each of us has a responsibility to help them make the transition to another position. For those of my colleagues who are unaware, these people cannot use the Ramspeck provisions to move into civil service jobs. In fact they do not even have active civil service status. We have treated these people poorly and they deserve much better.

Let me conclude with an observation made by a former OTA employee who stated OTA's task as being to create for Congress a "de-

fense against the dumb." It is shameful that in the end, OTA was defenseless against a very dumb decision by Congress.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF CLEVELAND L. ROBINSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cleveland L. Robinson, distinguished leader of the trade union movement and fighter for economic and civil rights. Indeed, he spent his life working for the poor and for those who have the least. Mr. Robinson's life is a great example of leadership for the new generation. Mr. Robinson passed away on August 23, 1995, and was buried in New York. In honor of Mr. Robinson and for the edification of my colleagues, I introduce the following statement:

CLEVELAND L. ROBINSON

Cleveland Lowellyn Robinson was born December 12, 1914, in Swaby Hope, a rural parish of Manchester, in Jamaica. He worked as an assistant teacher and then as a police officer until he emigrated to the United States in 1914.

Cleve, as he was known to all, began his union career in the United States in 1946, when he successfully led an effort to unionize the Manhattan dry goods company, where he worked. He joined the staff of District 65 as an organizer in 1947, was elected vice-president of the union in 1950 and secretary-treasury in 1952, a post he held until his retirement in 1992. During the 1950s and 1960s, Cleve led the Negro Affairs Committee, supervised the union's work in the south, and led its adult literacy and vocational education programs.

During the fifties, he worked with A. Philip Randolph to found the Negro American Labor Council and become the council's president upon Randolph's retirement in 1966. Cleve was a charter member of the organization's successor, the National Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and served as CBTU's executive vice-president until his death.

Cleve was a close friend and advisor to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963, Cleve served as the administrative chair for the great March on Washington. Cleve's work epitomized the union's philosophical and organizational commitment to civil rights that led King to describe District 65 as "the conscience of the labor movement." Cleve also served as a commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights under Mayors Wagner and Lindsay. He was a life member of the NAACP since 1953, and a member of the boards of directors of the southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-Violent Social Change. He was a founding member of the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo as the commission's vice-chairman in 1985 and the chairman in 1993.

Cleve was also a staunch supporter of the African National Congress since the early 1960s and a close friend of the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions [COSATU]. He was a founder of the Labor Committee Against Apartheid Coordinating Council, and co-chair of the official visit of Nelson Mandela to New York in 1990.

Cleve continually maintained close ties to his native Jamaica, organizing relief efforts