

friends and colleagues on the committee to see this bill through the legislative process. I think it is important that we hold a hearing on this matter. When the Members of this body are able to hear firsthand the stories of these ordinary, hard-working people from east Texas, I know they will understand the injustice of what has happened to them. I urge my colleagues to take a look at this matter, read the bill, talk to me, talk to the people involved, and you will see that we must pass this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DR. YOUSSEF  
YOMTOOB

**HON. LYNN N. RIVERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a former school board member, a State legislator, and Member of Congress. It is a distinct pleasure for me to recognize and honor my friend Dr. Youssef Yomtoob today. Dr. Yomtoob will retire this year from his post as superintendent of the Willow Run School District after spending over 30 years of his life in the field of education. From his position as a mathematics teacher in the 1960's in Niles, MI, to his current post as superintendent, Dr. Yomtoob has continuously left a legacy of extreme competence and knowledge. He has co-authored 16 books, primarily dealing with mathematics and has served on dozens of educational advisory boards such as the Michigan Educational Research Association, the Michigan Department of Education variable task force, and the validation team for the Michigan Department of Education.

More importantly, over the past three decades, Dr. Yomtoob has left an indelible mark as a warm and kind-hearted man who values the students, teachers, and administrators with whom he works. Dr. Yomtoob has always taken pains to personally know the students in the schools in which he taught or administered.

While Dr. Yomtoob has accomplished an extraordinary amount in the academic field, he has dedicated much of his time to community activities and public service projects as well. Dr. Yomtoob has been involved in the United Way for well over a decade and currently serves as the Washtenaw County division chairman. He served as chairman for the Willow Run Christmas dinner for the homeless and served on the Ypsilanti Press Give-A-Christmas task force. Dr. Yomtoob has been active in his congregation as well. He served as president of the Men's Club at Temple Beth Israel in Jackson, MI, for 4 years and has been a member of Temple Brotherhood for 4 years. Dr. Yomtoob has been involved in countless other community projects that are simply too numerous to list.

In the past few years, Dr. Yomtoob has been recognized several times for his accomplishments. He was recognized as the recipient of the Minority Business Organization of Washtenaw County's Education and Community Award and in 1992 was selected by the Ypsilanti Press as their Person of the Year. It gives me great pride to recognize Dr. Yomtoob once again for his many years of service both in the education community and the community at large. Although he is leaving us in Michigan, I am certain that Dr. Youssef

Yomtoob will continue to enrich the educational community and to brighten many lives.

COMMENDATION TO STEVE  
MAISNER FOR RESCUE

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a hero—a young man from my district who should serve as an inspiration to us all. As you know, southern California has been reeling from the “storm of the century,” a storm that cascaded more than 8 inches of rain on area neighborhoods during the course of one afternoon. The storm produced extensive flooding, not just through the storm drains and along watercourses, but through neighborhoods and canyons.

In the community of San Pedro, a mother and her 5-year-old daughter were caught up in a flood current and swept beneath a car. A young man named Steve Maisner rushed to the scene and retrieved the little girl, quickly administering back blows and chest thrust to restore her breathing. Then, with assistance from the neighbors, Steve pulled the mother, Edith, from under the car. She was not breathing and had no pulse. He would not give up, however, beginning CPR immediately and continuing until the paramedics arrived. I am happy to say that both mother and daughter are home today, thanks to Steve's knowledge and skill.

I went to Steve Maisner's home several weeks ago—to thank him on behalf of the community. He was modest about what he had done, and said he hopes to make a career as a paramedic in the fire department. He has certainly proved his skill and courage, and I am proud to commend him for his heroism.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT  
OR BUST

**HON. STEVE GUNDERSON**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have been looking forward to this day since I was elected to the Congress 15 years ago. The first bill I ever introduced, and the first speech I ever gave on the floor of the House, called for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Back then the deficit was about \$74 billion, far less than what we face today. But a number of us thought that a \$74 billion deficit was a serious problem because it was a drag on the economy and it saddled future generations with obligations that are not of their own making. We felt that an amendment to the Constitution was necessary to impose some fiscal discipline and ensure that Congress would make the tough choices necessary to balance the budget. Unfortunately, we weren't successful then in persuading our colleagues.

Fifteen years later, with the deficit at \$202 billion and over \$3.5 trillion added to the national debt, it is time to get this done. The defi-

cit is an even greater weight slowing down our economy. Our national debt is so large that almost \$130 billion of the fiscal year 1994 budget must be devoted to interest payments on the debt. That is more than half of our current budget deficit. It is more than four times what we currently spend on all discretionary education, training, and social services programs. Similarly, the dollars that future generations will need to pay back our debt are funds that could otherwise be spent on improving roads, supporting programs for disadvantaged students, or reducing our tax burden. Instead, these dollars will go to investors that have lent the Federal Government money by purchasing Government securities. This must stop.

While I have argued that the best solution would be to pass a straightforward amendment requiring that Federal outlays not be permitted to exceed Federal revenues, many here in Congress support adding a three-fifths majority requirement for any future increase in taxes. While it is true that the Federal Government has become inefficient and we need to slim it down, I have concerns about tying the hands of future Congresses on how we should attain balanced budgets. Nevertheless, I think such concerns, while important, are outweighed by the urgent need to pass a balanced budget amendment. Further, a three-fifths majority requirement was included in the version described in the contract With America. While I voted for the three-fifths majority requirement, I urge all of my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget amendment, whether or not they vote for the three-fifths majority requirement. We cannot allow another decade or more of deficits to pass before we stop adding to the looming debt of this country. We must begin the process of restoring fiscal responsibility to the congressional budget process.

INDIA REPUBLIC DAY: A CELEBRATION  
OF 45 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today, January 26, is a date of enormous significance for all the people of India, and for the many sons and daughters of India living in the United States and around the world. Today marks the celebration of Republic Day, a national holiday that holds the same significance for Indians as the Fourth of July does for Americans.

On January 26, 1950, India became a Republic. The country adopted a Constitution which enshrined the principles of democracy and secularism. At that time, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the nation's first President. Since then, despite the challenges of sustaining economic development while reconciling her many ethnic, religious, and linguistic communities, India has stuck to the path of free and fair elections, a multi-party political system and the orderly transfer of power from one government to its successor.

I would like to draw particular attention to the similarities and shared values of the United States and India. The framers of the Constitution that Indians celebrate today drew on

our own Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Both of our countries are former British colonies that gained their freedom after a long and difficult struggle. English continues to be an important language of commerce in India. Many Americans almost instinctively saw in Mahatma Gandhi a reflection of values that our country holds dear. During this month when we celebrate the birthday of one of America's greatest heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King, we should remember that Dr. King derived many of his ideas of nonviolent resistance to injustice from the teachings, actions, and self-sacrifice of Gandhi.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that I have to mention this, but today's celebration of Republic Day in India was marred by a bombing at a crowded stadium in Jammu, India, where Republic Day celebrations were taking place, killing 7 people and injuring 47. Another terrorist attack was staged on a parade in Srinagar. These events remind us that there are still forces trying to destabilize India—some of them receiving support and encouragement from abroad. But it is impressive to keep in mind that despite being so severely tested by the forces of terrorism, India has preserved its democratic institutions, seeks to give opportunities to people from all religious and ethnic backgrounds and moves resolutely forward with market-based economic reforms.

There is, however, good news for us to talk about. United States-India relations are looking better than they have in a long time. Two of the President's Cabinet Secretaries have been in India this month—Defense Secretary Perry and Commerce Secretary Brown, who was accompanied by the top officials from some of our major corporations. The two Secretaries' visits to India resulted in significant accomplishments on issues relating to security and trade and investment. I hope we in Congress will make it a high priority to continue this momentum and move it forward. The Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, which I initiated two years ago, is reorganizing in the new Congress with strong bipartisan participation. We are dedicated to steady improvement in United States-India relations and in being a voice for the 1-million-strong Asian-Indian community here in America.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me, an elected Representative of the oldest continuous democratic republic on earth, to pay tribute to the world's most populous democracy on the occasion of their great national day.

#### AIRLIFT ENHANCEMENT ACT

### HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, the legislation I have introduced today with bipartisan support calls for ending the C-17 program after this year's buy is completed, providing the Air Force a total of 40. In addition, my bill calls for putting in place a serious program to use more affordable, already developed aircraft to fill the remaining airlift need.

Under DOD's current C-17 only plan, we will actually encounter an airlift deficit as the planned retirement of C-141's continues. The cost of the C-17 program has increased 41

percent—\$190 billion—from the original estimate of \$190 million per plane. Based on past experience, there is every reason to believe that the C-17's program cost will continue to rise. DOD's current estimate is \$22.5 billion for 40 planes, or \$563 million each.

The Rand Corp., GAO, CBO, and DOD's cost and operational effectiveness analysis have all recently presented airlift options that would enable savings of 8-10 billion dollars or more compared to a fleet of 120 C-17's.

GAO released its report today, "C-17 Aircraft: Cost and Performance Issues," responding to the fiscal year 1994 Defense Authorization Act request for its assessment of the C-17's original justification and the effect of technical problems and cost increases on its ability to achieve original program requirements.

The report states, "Changes in the C-17's intended role, the results of DOD's cost and operational effectiveness analysis, and continued program cost growth lead us to conclude that a 120-aircraft C-17 program is not the most cost-effective way to meet airlift requirements."

Secretary of Defense Perry said yesterday that if a balanced budget amendment is approved, the Pentagon will face very major budget cuts and have an even smaller force than it does now. He went on to say that a smaller force means the Pentagon would no longer be able to carry out its two-MRC strategy.

Requirements for the first 30 days of an MRC drives our airlift planning. If we will be forced for budgetary reasons to reconsider the two-MRC strategy, the overpriced C-17 sacred cow—for which reasonable alternatives exist—needs to be one of the first items re-examined.

Among those alternatives are commercial widebodies such as 747's or MD-11's, the existing C-5, and extending the service life of our C-141's.

The C-17 continues to experience technical problems. Today's GAO report details severe airflow problems that prevent the plane from executing one mission the Army has considered critical: simultaneous airdrops of paratroopers and equipment. The problem of turbulence inside the plane that occurs when the cargo door, ramp, and side troop doors are open persists. Even after the 18th plane was delivered to the Air Force earlier this month, those simultaneous drops continue to be suspended.

I am pleased that Senator BUMPERS has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

This bill could save taxpayers more than \$10 billion and meet our aircraft needs with more cost-effective alternatives. Throwing money at this plane that can not deliver what it promised is irresponsible in today's austere fiscal environment. We have cheaper alternatives that will keep our military strong. Every day we wait to implement them costs taxpayers millions of dollars.

#### TRIBUTE TO DON BLACKETER

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen

from the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, Don Blacketer of the Harmon-Dial community. Mr. Blacketer died December 14, 1994, at the age of 75 at the Sam Rayburn Memorial VA Center in Bonham. Funeral services were held at McKenzie United Methodist Church in Honey Grove, where he was a member, and burial was at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Ladonia.

Born on September 27, 1919, in Leonard, TX, Don Blacketer was the son of Marcus Anderson Blacketer and Julia Mae Mullins Blacketer. He was a World War II veteran, serving his country in the United States Army under General George S. Patton's command in Europe. Following the war he married Perry Lillianell McCowan in the Dial community and distinguished himself in farming and ranching. Mr. Blacketer was a member of the producers board of the American Soybean Association and was past president of the Texas Soybeans Association. He appeared before our congressional committees to share his knowledge and to give his testimony. I was always proud to introduce him to the Congress—and to claim him as a constituent and as a friend.

Mr. Blacketer also devoted himself to helping improve the quality of life in the Dial community. He was instrumental in efforts to find funding to upgrade the community's water supply system and took the time to contact my office and other government officials concerning possible grant and loan programs for this project. He was a concerned citizen and a man who cared enough about his community to act on his concerns.

Mr. Blacketer is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Pam Blacketer of Rockwall; a sister, Madyelene Pritchett of Sherman; and two granddaughters, Rachel and Sarah Blacketer of Rockwall. He will be missed by his family and by his many friends, and his contributions to the Harmon-Dial community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay a final tribute to this exemplary citizen, Don Blacketer, who distinguished himself in his service to his country, his community, and his family.

#### MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST LAND CONVEYANCE/ROLLA, MO

### HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing a measure that is vital to the rural economic development efforts of south-central Missouri—specifically Phelps County and surrounding areas. This legislation will authorize the U.S. Department of Agriculture to convey land within the Mark Twain National Forest to the city of Rolla, MO.

The city of Rolla has been diligent in its plan to utilize the U.S. Forest Service's district ranger office site in the development and construction of a regional tourist center. I feel it important to note that tourism is the second largest industry in Missouri and this tourist center has already attracted great interest along with needed dollars to the regional Rolla economy.