

GED program to the community and to members of the church. Through his conviction that "children are the church of today", he started one of the most successful Royal Ranger and Missionette programs. Other programs started by Pastor Correa include the AIDS Ministry to Broadway House in Newark and Jersey City Medical Center which gives guidance and counseling to patients and families.

Rev. Daniel Correa, Jr. deserves our highest praise for his dedication to his God and his community. I am proud to have him serving the residents of my congressional district and I salute him for his endless giving and years of service.

NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to draw the attention of the Congress to an event which I am very proud of that happened this past weekend in my region of California.

At the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans' Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA, a pow wow was held on October 14 and 15 to honor native Americans who have served in defense of our Nation. The pow wow was entitled "A Celebration of Northern and Southern Traditional Values: In Harmony With the Land."

Over 180,000 native American men and women have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War I, defending our Nation with honor. Some of these men and women were in Loma Linda this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago in Washington, a special joint session of the House and Senate was held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. I am particularly honored to mention that in Loma Linda were several of the famous Navajo Code Talkers who are widely credited with helping to win the war in the Pacific during World War II. I feel strongly that theirs is a story that needs to be told more broadly so that all Americans—young and old—are thoroughly familiar with one of the many important contributions that native Americans have made to the continuing freedom and evolution of our Nation. I, for one, am very proud to know that these honored veterans and other native Americans gathered and celebrated in the inland empire region of California this past weekend.

I hope all Members of Congress will join me in congratulating all participants in the October 14 and 15 Loma Linda, CA, native American Pow Wow.

WILLIAM J. HAWKINS—A MAN OF GREAT PURPOSE AND INTEGRITY

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to a distinguished Rhode Islander who is being honored for his outstanding contributions as the Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation in the State Department of Environmental Management.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, William J. Hawkins, Jr., has contributed greatly to the quality of life in our State. Rhode Island is proud to boast of many natural resources and public facilities which afford residents and visitors wonderful recreational opportunities. Bill Hawkins has been with the division for more than two decades. Under his leadership and vision, those resources have been protected, promoted, and enhanced for the benefit of all.

Bill Hawkins is a Marine Corps veteran and has been a volunteer fireman in his hometown of Smithfield for over 25 years. In addition to his professional contributions, Bill and his wife, Anne, are the proud parents of six children, and their lives have been blessed with six wonderful grandchildren. He is a man whose family is truly his pride and joy.

He is a man of great purpose and integrity who has earned the admiration, affection, and respect of many. I would ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an individual who has made a significant difference to the enhancement of our Nation's recreational resources.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Michael's Church as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Throughout its existence, St. Michael's Church has continuously demonstrated its commitment to its parishioners and its surrounding community. Under the stewardship of Father Michael Brennan and the distinguished leaders before him, the church has not only been a place of worship, but it has also been a place of comfort for the weary, a place of guidance for the lost, and a place of hope for those who despair. In essence, St. Michael's has been a center of inspiration for our community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I salute St. Michael's Church and Father Brennan on this momentous 125th anniversary and offer them my best wishes for the future.

220TH BIRTHDAY OF THE U.S. NAVY

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, Friday, October 13, marked a very special occasion in the history of our Nation. On October 13, 220 years ago, the Continental Congress authorized the two ships which were the foundation of the first U.S. Navy.

In honor of this very special birthday, I would like to say "Thank You" to the men and women of the U.S. Navy who work so tirelessly in the service of their country. Like all of our men and women in uniform, they endure a great deal of personal hardship because of their commitment to serve, and it is all too

easy for those of us at home to take them for granted.

Right this moment, over 4,500 sailors from Mayport Naval Station in my district are at sea—far from home and months away from seeing their friends and loved ones. Mayport sailors are in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the Persian Gulf, the Caribbean and elsewhere. And thousands of other naval personnel are maintaining a forward presence and representing U.S. interests around the globe.

I would like to urge my colleagues to take a moment from their busy schedules to say a little prayer of thanks for the commitment, the patriotism and the devotion to duty shown by the men and women of the U.S. Navy. They deserve our thanks, our prayers and our complete support as they do the difficult and important work they do so well. Happy Birthday, Navy, and many happy returns of the day.

SUPPORT FOR CELEBRATING 3000TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERUSALEM

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. Con. Res. 29, sponsored by the majority leader of the other body, which reserves our Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony celebrating the 3000th anniversary of King David's establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. I wish to thank Representative THOMAS for his assistance in bringing this legislation to the floor.

S. Con. Res. 29 further notes that Jerusalem has been the focal point of Jewish life for millenia, and has held a unique place and exerted a unique influence on the moral development of Western Civilization. No other city on Earth is today the capital of the same country, inhabited by the same people, speaking the same language, and worshipping the same God as it was 3000 years ago. Yet Jerusalem's special character, and its importance to Israel and the Jewish people, knows no bounds.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to hosting Prime Minister Rabin and Mayor Olmert soon in the Capitol Rotunda for this celebration of eternal Jerusalem. This commemoration is only one component of the thousands of events scheduled to celebrate Jerusalem's 3000 years as the City of David. Yet it will be an especially memorable event, which I am certain will be cherished by all those in attendance.

STATE OF CHIAPAS

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, at the request of my constituents in Taos, NM, I would like to take this opportunity to express my views to my colleagues about the 22-month-old uprising in the southern State of Chiapas, Mexico.

The state of Chiapas, where a large indigenous population of various tribes of Mayans

lives, is one of the poorest in Mexico. Only 67 percent of the households in Chiapas have electricity, only 41 percent have access to sewers, and only 58 percent have access to running water. The level of illiteracy is also astonishingly high. Only 71 percent of children under the age of 14 attend school and only 70 percent of the people over 14 can read. In addition, Chiapas has a history of human rights abuses which includes summary executions and torture.

To bring attention to the precarious situation of the Indians in Chiapas, armed guerrillas of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation [EZLN] seized several towns on January 1, 1994. They killed policeman, ransacked stores, freed prisoners, kidnapped the governor of Chiapas, and stole dynamite. Accompanying the armed uprising in Chiapas was a car bombing in Mexico City and the destruction of electricity pylons in two other Mexican States, the EZLN claimed responsibility for both of these actions as well.

The Zapatistas stated that they were declaring war on the "illegitimate" Government of Carlos Salinas de Gortari; denounced human rights abuses, lack of opportunities and discrimination against the Mayan Indians in Mexico, and called for the building of socialism in the country.

The Mexican Government quickly responded to the unrest by sending in the army. They strafed suspected guerrilla strongholds, engaged in house to house combat with the Zapatistas, and seized many Chiapan villages. Violations of human rights, particularly against the indigenous communities, were reported during the fight.

The guerrilla leaders demanded the recognition of the EZLN as a belligerent force; a cease-fire by both parties; the army's withdrawal from all communities; the creation of a national commission to deal with indigenous issues; and the suspension of indiscriminate bombing. They also asked for land distribution, justice for the indigenous population and major democratic and social reforms on a national level.

On January 10, President Salinas agreed to the cease fire and sought a political, negotiated settlement of the crisis. The Mexican authorities created a Commission for Peace and Reconciliation to begin negotiations for a lasting peace. In addition, on January 27, the Government and eight political parties agreed on a Pact for Peace, Justice, and Democracy, which included a far-reaching electoral reform.

During the peace talks that took place from February 21 to March 2, the Government agreed to address the land, health, education and other material needs of the State's poor indigenous communities. Among the tentative agreements announced to the public on March 3, 1994, the Government proposed to give limited autonomy to indigenous communities; legislation forbidding discrimination against Indians; redrawing electoral boundaries to permit more indigenous representation; distribution of land from large ranches; and major public works to construct roads, schools and health clinics.

By this time, EZLN's demands had gained relative support throughout Mexican society and guerrilla's leaders announced that they would consult the local indigenous communities to see if the tentative agreements were acceptable. Tensions mounted after the assassination of the PRI's presidential candidate,

Luis Donaldo Colosio on March 23, 1994. On March 26, the Zapatistas suspended peace negotiations, accused the Salinas government of complicity in the murder of Colosio and stated that the murder was being used as a pretext for a military offensive against guerrilla strongholds.

Meanwhile, peasant groups in Chiapas were seizing thousands of acres of land, and landowners started to press for action claiming that they would take matters into their own hands if the Government did not take action to prevent seizures of the land in the area. In April, the EZLN claimed a local leader had been shot by a landowner, and a military roadblock in Chiapas was attacked by an unidentified group.

On June 11, the EZLN leadership announced that they were rejecting the Government's March peace plan. After the election of President Zedillo, the EZLN claimed that the gubernatorial elections were fraudulent, objected to the election of PRI candidate Eduardo Robledo as Governor of Chiapas, and threatened to renew the armed rebellion unless Robledo resigned.

Robledo offered to resign if the guerrillas leaders laid down their arms, and agreed to form a non-partisan State government. He appointed a PRD member as his interior minister and a PAN leader as his health minister to show his good intentions. Robledo also pledged to develop a pluralistic government, to address the serious needs of Chiapas, and to revise the State constitution and electoral law to make future elections more credible.

In February 1995, President Zedillo instructed the Attorney General to arrest the Zapatistas leaders on the basis of evidence that they were preparing for further violence in Chiapas and other States in Mexico. President Zedillo also stressed the importance of full observance of the law and affirmed that channels for the peaceful resolution of the conflict remained open.

Following the results of a national referendum the EZLN called in last August, which suggested that the Mexican people wanted the Zapatistas to lay down its arms and become a political force, President Zedillo called on the rebel army to take part in a national dialog for political reform. In September 1995, the negotiators reached a modest agreement that set an agenda for discussions of social issues that contributed to the conflict.

The United States-Mexico relationship has greatly matured over the last decade. Our mutual interests have expanded from strategic concerns to economic and social matters that are vital to each nation's domestic stability. Our commitment to a strong relationship with Mexico was embodied in the NAFTA agreement which acknowledged Mexico's eligibility to take advantage of free trade and the global economic marketplace. The American commitment to Mexico was reinforced by President Clinton's courageous move to open a \$20 billion line of credit to Mexico to rescue the troubled peso.

The financial package designed to hasten the stabilization of Mexico's economy will benefit all Mexicans by lessening the impacts of the crisis. As all Mexicans work to resolve the Chiapas problem, the United States should continue to urge restraint, respect for human rights and full compliance with the legal process. We should encourage Mexico to determine the best way to re-establish law and

order, to address social problems, and to work toward a new political order in Chiapas. We should support all efforts underway to provide amnesty for EZLN members who give up their weapons and agree to channel their demands peacefully within the political process.

The promotion of democratic values in Mexico increases stability and legitimacy in our valued southern neighbor. Domestic violence and insurgencies are among Mexico's greatest threats, and the United States should play a constructive role in encouraging peaceful democratic solutions to address these concerns. Despite rumors to the contrary, the State Department insists that the United States did not pressure the Mexican Government to take a harder line in Chiapas as part of the financial assistance package for Mexico. Nor does the United States Government provide military assistance to Mexico beyond some low-level training programs. United States State Department personnel have travelled to Chiapas to assess the situation there, but have never accompanied or advised Mexican military troops stationed there. I am comfortable that the above claims are correct.

I support the willingness of President Zedillo's administration to solve the conflict through dialog and peaceful negotiations and every effort of the Government to solve not only the crisis in Chiapas, but also similar social problems that affect other parts of the country.

BURIAL BENEFITS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN VETERANS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to expand eligibility for burial benefits to include certain veterans who die in State nursing homes. My distinguished colleagues, SONNY MONTGOMERY, TERRY EVERETT, and LANE EVANS, join me in introducing this bill.

Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs pays burial benefits for veterans who were either compensation or pension recipients, or who died in a VA medical center. About 2,500 veterans die in State veterans homes in a given year. About 12 percent of those—or 300 veterans—do not qualify for priority care in Veterans Health Administration facilities, are not service connected, or are not pension recipients.

This bill would provide, at an insignificant cost, more equitable and consistent coverage for our Nation's veterans receiving domiciliary, nursing home and hospital care at VA expense in State nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join Mr. MONTGOMERY and me as cosponsors of this bill.