

gang problem continues to grow, the need for additional resources is evident. I am thankful that the recently enacted crime bill is bringing more cops on the beat into our Nation's cities and towns. I commend the Attorney General and the Department of Justice for their work in ensuring the rapid appropriation of funds for the Cops on the Beat Program.

However, it is not enough to just deploy more police officers on the street. A Federal Rapid Response team would bring with it resources and expertise that State and local governments cannot be expected to supply. I believe that a Rapid Deployment Force is essential in investigating and combating crime in towns and cities when drug and gang related activities escalate. And I urge my colleagues to support this important crime fighting legislation.

#### THE STUTTGART FISH FARMING EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY

**HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to transfer the Stuttgart Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory to the Department of Agriculture.

The lab was established in 1958 under the Interior Department and charged with conducting research and experimentation to solve problems relating to the commercial production of warmwater fish. Located in the heart of the Nation's catfish and baitfish production region, the lab and its staff have become nationally renowned for their work on behalf of the aquaculture industry.

In the years since the laboratory was established aquaculture has progressed rapidly, becoming the fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture, accounting for nearly 300,000 domestic jobs. My home State is the largest producer of commercial baitfish and the second largest producer of catfish—accounting for nearly \$100 billion in annual revenue.

Mr. Speaker this simple bill will transfer the laboratory from the Interior Department to USDA. I believe that this move makes sense because the people who do business with this laboratory are farmers, and are best served by USDA. The bill also changes the laboratory's name to the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center to better reflect the excellent work that the lab produces. I look forward to passage of this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO SADIE HARVEY ODOM

**HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, every so often in life, if we are fortunate enough, someone comes along whose grace and wisdom enriches our own experience. Someone whose capacity to serve others inspires us to move beyond the limits we impose on ourselves, even as we wonder if we can ever match such a gift for giving.

Sadie Harvey Odom, a 41-year resident of Akron, OH, was such a human being. Every

person whose life she touched—from her family, to her friends, to the broader community in which she lived—marveled at her generosity of spirit, force of intellect, and strength of character.

Born in Atlanta in 1924, Sadie Harvey completed high school at the age of 15. She went on to graduate cum laude 4 years later from Morris Brown College, where she was a founding member of the school's Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority chapter. She had hoped to study medicine at the University of Georgia, but was denied admission because the school would not educate African-Americans. Always determined to forge ahead, Sadie Harvey worked in the aeronautical engineering lab at a U.S. Air Force base in Hampton, VA, during World War II. Upon returning to Atlanta after the war, she met and married Vernon Odom, with whom she would share the next 47 years of her life. The Odoms moved to Akron in 1953, intending to stay only for 3 years. Instead, they spent the rest of their lives together in Akron, raising a family and devoting themselves to community service and the betterment of African-Americans.

Vernon Odom headed the Akron Urban League and the Akron Community Service Center for nearly three decades. His beloved wife, Sadie, was beside him every step of the way. She was a guiding force behind local Urban League programs and volunteered with many other civic organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the United Negro College Fund, and the NAACP.

Even as she gave selflessly of her time and herself in support of her community, Mrs. Odom raised a superb family of her own and worked as a medical technologist at St. Thomas Hospital. She applied her biology training to her volunteer work, as well, helping to test Akron's schoolchildren for sickle cell anemia and elderly residents for diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, there are many people in this world who live full, honest, and caring lives. And then there are the Sadie Odoms, whose integrity and selflessness leave a mark that is indelible.

Sadie Harvey Odom passed away on October 20, 1994, after a long illness. An entire community mourns as it contemplates this loss. But we also share the gratitude that comes from knowing a person with a heart of grace and a soul of love—from knowing Sadie Odom.

#### THE DEFENSE BUDGET AND MILITARY READINESS

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 23, 1994, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### THE DEFENSE BUDGET AND MILITARY READINESS

The commitment of U.S. forces to Haiti and Kuwait has raised concerns about the "thinning out" of the U.S. military since the end of the Cold War. Defense spending has declined by 11% since the 1989 peak of \$303 billion, following a decade of massive increases. The defense budget edged up this year to \$264 billion, and is projected to stay

near current levels over the next four years. The question now is whether defense spending is sufficient to meet the new and emerging threats to our interests here and abroad.

#### NEW GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

There is no doubt that the United States is more secure today than it was when thousands of Soviet nuclear warheads targeted American cities. Today there is no comparable direct military threat to the United States. The U.S. is the strongest military power in the world today, and has the best trained and equipped fighting force.

Yet, the world remains a dangerous place. The collapse of the Soviet empire has resulted in increasing instability in many parts of the world. Despite the desire of Americans to pay more attention to solving our own problems, we continue to have global interests that we must defend. Much of the world is threatened with chaos—full of civil wars, escalating ethnic and religious conflicts, and massive surges of refugees. Such instability can hurt the U.S. economy, limit our access to vital resources, including oil, and produce an international environment hostile to our interests and values.

The post Cold-War world is not peaceful, but the U.S. cannot afford to intervene everywhere. The challenge today is to identify the interests we are prepared to defend by force and ensure that our armed forces have the tools they need to do the job we ask of them. This challenge becomes even more critical as we plan for an uncertain future, since defense budget decisions we make today will determine the kind of armed forces we will have several years down the road.

#### THREAT-BASED DEFENSE

Our defense spending should be based on threats to our national security. During the Cold War, the threat was the Soviet Union, and our spending on defense was designed to meet that threat. Our task is to reorient our defense to respond to new threats in the post-Cold War world. Those threats include: the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; the threat of large-scale aggression by major regional powers such as Iraq; the threats to democracy and reform movements in the former Soviet Union, particularly Russia; and economic dangers to our security if we fail to build a competitive and growing economy here at home. The bottom line is that it will cost the U.S. less to respond to these new threats than it cost us to meet the Soviet threat.

The Pentagon has developed a defense plan that responds to the changed international environment. The so-called bottom-up review concludes that the U.S. must maintain a force capable of fighting and winning two nearly simultaneous regional wars, such as another Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and a North Korean invasion of South Korea. The Administration says that it has fully budgeted for its planned force structure, but that changes in inflation rates could change future funding needs. Others argue the budget crunch will be more severe as new procurement programs swell funding requirements. The Pentagon acknowledges it cannot fund all the new weapons programs now in development, and is assessing which programs to fund and which to cancel.

#### READINESS

After the end of the Vietnam War in the mid-1970s, rapid cuts in the defense budget and the loss of skilled personnel eroded the U.S. military's combat readiness. Some critics say that we are now facing a similar problem of a "hollow military." They say the costs of operations in Somalia, Rwanda and now in Haiti are placing an excessive

burden on the defense budget. They say these costs detract from our ability to respond effectively to more serious potential threats from Iraq and North Korea. Some even suggest the U.S. no longer has the capability to face down another Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

While I believe the combat readiness of our armed forces needs improvement, I think comments about a "hollow military" are overstated. Military operations abroad have led to low readiness ratings in three of the Army's 12 divisions and placed strains on other elements of the force, such as airlift. These trends must be promptly reversed. Even so, we still have by far the best-equipped and best-trained military in the world. The transition to a more mobile force is involving painful adjustments in personnel, base closings and cancellations of new weapons systems. Yet, a recent report authored by a former Army Chief of Staff concluded that readiness is acceptable in most areas.

Improving the readiness of U.S. forces should be the top budget priority for defense spending. Congress, with my support, has taken several steps this year toward this objective. These steps include: protecting military pay raises to ensure retention of high quality personnel; increasing overall spending on operations and maintenance, the key Pentagon account for readiness; increasing spending on airlift and sealift capabilities, which allow our forces to respond quickly to overseas threats in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere; boosting training support for battalion-sized units; promoting "interservice" cooperation in combat and other missions, as evidenced by the joint Army-Navy effort in Haiti; and enhancing battlefield weapons systems. I will continue to support efforts to maintain our readiness. I think the military's humanitarian and peacekeeping operations must not be permitted to bleed the Pentagon's budget.

#### CONCLUSION

The U.S. must be careful about picking and choosing its military missions, so that U.S. forces do not become overextended. We cannot and should not commit U.S. forces to every trouble spot in the world. The key test is whether U.S. interests are threatened. Maintaining the readiness and morale of our military requires that we identify the interests we are prepared to defend by force, while using other means, including coalitions with our friends and allies, to deal with lesser threats to the U.S. national interest. A combat ready American military is essential to our national security.

#### RETIREMENT DISABLED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' COUNSELING NETWORK

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce an important piece of legislation that I sponsored in the 103d Congress that would establish a national retired disabled law enforcement officers' counseling network, and I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors.

We call on police officers in emergencies. We trust them with our lives, families, and homes. Day in and day out most of us take them for granted to ensure our safety. Yet few of us truly appreciate the overwhelming stress, both mental and physical, that they endure in order to serve us. But there has never been

a national proposal to give disabled retired police officers the psychological counseling they may need. Until now.

Too often, retired disabled police officers suffer from depression, feelings of isolation, uncertainty of their futures, and worsening medical conditions. With appropriate counseling, many of these officers will learn to cope with their new lives and some will be able to obtain meaningful employment.

My legislation would establish up to eight officer counseling centers throughout the United States to provide counseling to retired disabled officers and members of their immediate families. Any retired disabled Federal, State, county, city law enforcement officer, or special agent would be eligible to participate in this innovative and necessary program.

I ask all Members to help those who have helped us. Please cosponsor this important legislative initiative.

#### THE RESCISSION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS USER FEES

**HON. BILL EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to prevent the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from collecting so-called user fees at certain facilities maintained and operated by the Corps. Specifically, this bill will repeal section 5001, Title V, of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 [OBRA] which authorized the Secretary of the Army to establish and collect fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities.

These fees have been part of budget fiction for years. The White House has always proposed these onerous taxes and Congress has always rejected them. Unfortunately, these fees became a reality with the passage of OBRA. Furthermore, there are no guarantees that the revenue from these fees will be used by the Corps of Engineers for the maintenance of its facilities. I believe that with these fees going into general revenue—not the Corps budget—people who want to enjoy the great outdoors actually will end up paying twice, once as a taxpayer and once as a user of Corps facilities.

While these fees, ranging from \$3 per vehicle to \$25 for a yearly pass, may not seem like a lot, the fact of the matter is that the American public has already paid once for these facilities and their continued upkeep. This, in my opinion, is double-dipping by the Federal Government. My legislation would seek to rescind the fee now required as outlined in OBRA for the use of public recreation areas at certain lakes and reservoirs under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

It's also important to note that the cost of installing boxes at the collection sites, in some instances, can exceed \$25,000 depending on the location of the facility. So we are using operating and maintenance funds from the Corps to build the collection boxes in order to hit up the public for more funds that won't necessarily go to the Corps. It's reprehensible that an agency like the Corps of Engineers will spend its own funds so that it can collect money for the general treasury.

This fee structure, as modest as it may be, sets a dire precedent. Americans who want to

go boating, camping, or swimming should not be singled out to foot the bill for more Federal spending. Tourism and other recreational activities throughout the country could be negatively impacted with these fees. Folks simply do not want to pay over and over again for something that is already paid for; nor should they.

#### REFORM OF THE MINING LAW OF 1872

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 4, 1995*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing into the 104th Congress legislation to reform the mining law of 1872. Joining me in sponsoring this measure are GEORGE MILLER of California, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut, BRUCE VENTO of Minnesota, NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii, PETER DEFAZIO of Oregon and JERRY KLECZKA of Wisconsin.

This bill, the Mineral Exploration and Development Act of 1995, is identical to the version of H.R. 322 which passed the House during the last Congress on November 18, 1993, by a bipartisan vote of 316 to 108. In fact, our new Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia [NEWT GINGRICH], voted for this bill at that time. Unfortunately, last year the House-Senate conference committee on mining law reform was unable to reach an agreement.

Today, with the introduction of this measure, we begin where that historical debate left off. In my view, the advent of a new Congress with a Republican majority does not change the fundamental and bipartisan support that continues to be displayed for reforming the mining law of 1872. Indeed, the fiscal austerity being advanced by the Republican leadership may very well enhance our prospects for gaining enactment of this legislation, which has enjoyed the support of the National Taxpayers Union, during this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues, many of whom may be new to this issue, in order to explain this measure perhaps it is best to briefly go back to the year 1872. At the time, Ulysses S. Grant resided in the White House. Union troops still occupied the South. The invention of the telephone and Custer's stand at the Little Bighorn were still 4 years away. And in 1872 Congress passed a law that allowed people to go onto public lands in the West, stake mining claims, and, if any gold or silver were found, produce it for free.

In an effort to promote the settlement of the West, Congress said that these folks could also buy the land from the Federal Government for \$2.50 an acre.

That was 1872. This is 1995. Yet, today, the mining law of 1872 is still in force.

In 1995, however, for the most part it is not the lone prospector of old, pick in hand, accompanied by his trusty pack mule, who is staking those mining claims. It is large corporations, many of them foreign controlled, who are mining gold owned by the people of the United States for free, and snapping up valuable Federal land at fast-food hamburger prices.