

Soo Yeun Kim. Jericho High School will receive a special \$5,000 grant in her name. The school's principal, Mathew Mandery, said the news of Soo's award was welcome, but it also brought back the sadness of her loss.

"I guess in moments like this, we are undeniably proud of her accomplishments, but just wish she were here for us," he said.

As the number of students entering the Westinghouse competition has mounted, teachers in both city and suburban schools have tried to encourage students to look upon research as an activity to be enjoyed for its own sake, rather than for winning prizes. Ward Melville High School's research program has adopted the motto, "To Be In It Is to Win It." The Bronx High School of Science takes a similar approach.

Some educators worry, nonetheless, that students who don't win at least semifinalist status might become discouraged, especially in light of the fact that many devote two or more years to their projects. "Kids who might have the potential to be wonderful researchers later on might come away from this experience with a bad taste in their mouth," said Carole Greene, an assistant principal at Bronx Science.

Others insist that most students involved in Westinghouse competitions have wide enough interests that they are unlikely to become unraveled over a single contest.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA VICTORIA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Ms. Maria Victoria, the newly selected Mr. Amigo.

Every year, members of the Mr. Amigo Association, who represent the city of Brownsville, TX, travel to Mexico City to select a new Mr. Amigo to serve as honored guest of the Mr. Amigo festivities in Brownsville, TX. The Mr. Amigo festivity is a 4-day international event in which the United States and Mexico are joined in celebration of the cultures of these neighboring countries. During the Mr. Amigo celebration, which originated as a pre-Lenten festival, Brownsville citizens participate in a series of parades, dances, and parties to demonstrate the goodwill of both countries. It is a well planned, major function which is enjoyed and eagerly anticipated by many south Texans as well as our winter visitors.

Ms. Maria Victoria is the 31st Mexican citizen to be honored by the Mr. Amigo Association. She has been a successful artist whose talent dates back to the Golden Cinema Era of Mexican music and films. At the tender age of 9, with the encouragement of her two sisters, Maria debuted in "La Carpa Mexico" for which she was paid 9 pesos. In 1949, however, she launched her enormously successful adult career at the Teatro Margo in Mexico City. Her first hit, "Soy Feliz", catapulted her to the top of the popularity charts. Then there followed an avalanche of musical hits, to name but a few: "Esta Sellado", "Eso", "Como un Perro", "Mi Ultimo Fracaso", "Mil Besos", "Sabes Que Te Tengo Ganas" . . . She has appeared in such classic Mexican films as: "Serenata de Acapulco", "Sí mi Vida", "Mujeres de Teatro", "No me Vuelvo a Enamorar", "Monte De Piedad". For 14 uninterrupted years, Maria Victoria has turned to comic roles such as TV series, "La Criada

Bien Criada". Maria Victoria has made 48 movies, turned out more than 100 albums, starred in numerous TV programs, and has made five theater performances on the stage of Mexico City.

Ms. Maria Victoria is the perfect recipient of the Mr. Amigo award, for she has, over the long period of her career, taken her unique song, screen, and stage performances to numerous countries, including sold-out performances in the United States. A true ambassador of her country and her culture, she has been praised by numerous organizations for her unconditional commitment to improve mutual understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States. Ms. Maria Victoria should be recognized for both her artistic ability, and for her contribution to the commitment of understanding between nations.

Mr. Amigo, Ms. Maria Victoria, will receive the red-carpet treatment when she visits Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During her stay on the border, she will make personal appearances in the parades and at other fiesta events. Official welcome receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, TX, and the cities of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Ms. Maria Victoria for being honored with this special award.

IN HONOR OF SGT. LEWIS J. PERRY, JR.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to honor a distinguished citizen from Hamden, CT, Sgt. Lewis J. Perry, Jr. After 25 years of exemplary service, Sergeant Perry will retire this week from the Hamden Police Department.

I have known Lew Perry for many years and have always found his dedication and compassion inspiring. Lew is well known to our community for his extraordinary commitment to his public responsibilities. An exemplary police officer and a caring individual, Lew finds the time to help at every level. During his long career, Sergeant Perry has received over 35 commendations and letters of recognition for exemplary performance.

In 1982, he was honored as the Police Officer of the Year and earned the respect of his superiors who promoted him in September 1992 to administrative assistant to the chief of police. Lew Perry stands out as a shining example of the positive effect that one person can have in his community.

Sergeant Perry is also a prominent leader in his hometown of Clinton, CT. He serves as a selectman and as chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. He has given of his time in the past as a member of the Board of Finance and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Lew Perry has compiled a remarkable public record and I know that his wife, Pamela, and his two sons, Michael and Lewis, take great pride in his many accomplishments. Sergeant Perry is admired by all who benefit from his work and his public commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute and honor Sgt. Lewis J. Perry, Jr. I commend him

on a lifetime of invaluable service to the citizens of our community and wish him well in his new position as associate director of public safety at Southern Connecticut State University.

GO AFTER THE CROOKS AND CHISELERS WHO ARE DEFRAUDING THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM; SUPPORT THE FOOD STAMP TRAFFICKING AND PENALTY ACT OF 1995

HON. RON WYDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Food Stamp Trafficking and Prevention Act of 1995, a measure which will step up the penalties levied on criminals intent on tearing large holes in this Nation's most valuable social safety net.

Each year, waste, fraud and abuse in the Food Stamp Program costs taxpayers as much as \$2 billion. Laundering for cash, or exchanging food stamps for contraband items such as guns or drugs, accounts for hundreds of millions of dollars of that total. Occasionally, this activity occurs through retailers who have been initially certified as bona fide grocery stores, but which are, in effect, no more than fronts for the processing of illegal stamp transactions.

This activity not only denies fundamental nutrition to some of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. It also destroys public confidence crucial to the continuation of a very valuable program.

I have long been a critic of our Government's lackluster efforts to investigate food stamp fraud, and bring to justice persons who are ripping off the system. Our investigative strength at the Food and Consumer Services Division, for example, is about half of what it was a dozen years ago—despite steady growth in food stamp use and fraud. These personnel cuts make no sense. We need more cops on the beat. Improvements in anti-fraud technology such as the electronic benefits transfer program will not produce maximum results until we have more people to make cases and bring the crooks to trial.

I have recently pressed my case on this subject with White House domestic advisors. I am hopeful that the administration's welfare reform efforts will improve our capacity to police fraud in this important program. I believe my position has strong, bi-partisan support in this House.

Beyond increasing our investigative effort, we must also look to establishing real penalties that will cause real pain for the chiselers who are, quite literally, taking food from the mouths of this Nation's poverty-stricken elderly, working poor and defenseless, destitute children.

The Food Stamp Trafficking Prevention and Penalty Act has three important elements.

First, we will strengthen current forfeiture provisions to allow the Government to take all assets resulting from, or involved in the commission of food stamp trafficking. I have devised this language in close cooperation with

the inspector general of the Department of Agriculture. We are both convinced that this toughened penalty is absolutely necessary to discourage trafficking, and close down what amounts to a nearly no-fault avenue to criminal success now present in the system.

Second, we allow the Secretary of Agriculture to require that owners of food stores certified to exchange food stamps submit a valid business license. The intent of this section is to verify that persons in the food stamp networks are actual retailers, and not criminal fronts set-up primarily to illegally launder the stamps.

Third, the bill requires periodic reporting by certified stores to ensure that they are indeed in a bona fide business, and are not merely fronts for laundering. This can be accomplished in a user-friendly way by requesting copies of Federal tax forms which delineate volume and scope of business activity.

Again, the inspector general has argued that this verification procedure is crucial to the program's sound and honest functioning, and I believe my bill creates a system that will be relatively easy and inexpensive for retailers certified for food stamp business.

Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward with the welfare reform debate, the holes in system integrity must be closed. Effective welfare reform must be built on a strong foundation in order to guarantee taxpayer support and ensure that resources go not to the crooks but to the people who are most in need.

NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today considering H.R. 872. This legislation responds to the concerns of the American people. We on this side of the aisle listen to the American people in many ways. We listen and we learn, and we are trying to respond to their concerns.

The American people want to restore and revitalize our national security. They are outraged when they find that we have no defense against ballistic missiles, which could do irreparable harm to them and their loved ones in our country.

They cannot understand why we do not have a national missile defense. They want to know who is responsible. We are trying to respond to those concerns and tell them who is responsible, and we will try to fix this. They do not want and do not deserve to be unprotected and naked to something that could destroy all their lives.

I understand that our liberal friends on the other side of the aisle have a real problem with what we are about. Because we are trying to protect the American people, it is difficult for them not to join in with us. So they have to resort to all kind of tactics.

I have always been amazed at the liberal mind, what it can conjure up with a limited vocabulary and fantasize, turn night into day and day into night, wrong into right, right into wrong by using words and smoke screens.

They would have you believe, for instance, that what we are doing is harmful to national security. People who have dedicated their lives to tearing down our national security are now telling us that what we are doing is harmful to national security.

A while ago, I went down in the well, I was sitting back in the back of the Chamber, because down home we have got a saying that "when people say outrageous things, don't stand too close to them because lightning might strike." I don't want to be too close when it strikes.

Mr. Chairman, we are about doing our duty to protect the American people and we are going to do it. We want our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, liberal as they might be, and how they play their game, I do not care. We want their help in protecting the American people. We want them to join us. If they do not want to do it, that is their problem. We are going to do it, anyway. And it is going to be done here on this floor.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT FLAGS OF THE STATES ACT

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to assist in the observation of the Washington Monument's 110th anniversary. My legislation would ring the Washington Monument with the flags of each of our 50 States. This was the original intent of the planners of the Mall and I believe an appropriate way of demonstrating our unique Federal and State partnership.

All Americans are rightfully proud of the beauty and symbolism of the Nation's Capital and its national monuments. The designers of our Capital City, from L'Enfant since, have sought not only to present our national monuments but also to present with them expression of American ideals. For example, as one stands in the Jefferson Memorial one has an unobstructed view of the White House. This symbolizes that Jefferson is considered to have given the Presidency the context it has held since his time. As one stands at the feet of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial, one can see the U.S. Capitol, as a symbol of the necessary linkage of the executive with the legislative branch of Government.

The Capitol grounds are rich with this type of symbolism, adding to each American's understanding.

I have noted that the flags of our 50 States are not exhibited together anywhere within the Capitol or monument grounds. Around the base of the Washington Monument, one finds 50 flag poles. However, the poles, not inappropriately, fly American flags. Flying State flags would provide the symbolism of the co-

operation between and among the various States and the Federal Government.

Americans owe our stability and strength to our system of government—a system that clearly established a constant dynamic between local and Federal jurisdiction. It is the defining and reexamining of these basic strengths which provides the appropriate tension to our system. The foundation of our Democracy is in the understanding that folks from Butte, MT to Charlottesville, VA, from Hillsboro, OR to Greenville, MS sustain a common bond: Through the orderliness of representative government they can truly determine their own destiny; and that of their country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Washington Monument by having the flags of their States flown at the base of the monument to America's first President.

MIDDLE-CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the cochairs of the Tourism Caucus, Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. ROTH, to introduce legislation based on a commitment to fairness for the working people of this Nation and a sense of the profound need for job creation. Specifically, this legislation would restore a 100-percent deduction for business meals and entertainment [M&E] and the spousal travel deduction.

The decision to cut the M&E deduction and the spousal travel deduction is one of those fair-sounding ideas that can have unintended and undesirable consequences.

Travel, tourism and entertainment constitute the third-largest industry in the United States. Its 1990 payroll was \$83 billion and it is an industry that employs 6 million people. This is an industry whose growth Washington should support and promote.

The next time you are eating lunch in a restaurant, take a look around at the business types. Here's what you probably won't see: the stereotype of obscenely rich tycoons sipping three-martini lunches. What you will see are sober, serious middle-class people doing business the American way: in face-to-face meetings.

Meetings are a legitimate cost of doing business. And until 1986, the cost was fully tax-deductible. At that time, the deduction was reduced to 80 percent. The effect that has on a business may be as simple as making phone calls instead of airline flights. Yet, the ramifications are enormous.

After all, when business takes its act on the road, there's a big supporting cast: airline pilots, mechanics, luggage handlers, flight attendants, waiters, waitresses, cooks and restaurant owners, food service companies and truck drivers, convention caterers and service employees, and hotel bell captains and reception clerks.

They're all middle-class working people. The people who have been victims of misguided economic policy since the 1980's.