

most prominent service is the BBB AUTO LINE for care manufacturers operating in the United States; and

The Council's Foundation, supporting the Council's mission by providing as a member service information, training and technical assistance to small businesses to promote voluntary compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which affects virtually all members.

President George Bush in his message to the delegates at the 1990 Annual Assembly of the Council stated: "One of the greatest strengths of our free enterprise system lies in the willingness of American businessmen and women to respect the rights of consumers while advancing their companies' interests. Over the years, Better Business Bureaus have effectively promoted truth and fairness in the marketplace and, in so doing, have earned the confidence and gratitude of the American public."

From a business perspective, W.R. Howell, Chairman and CEO of J.C. Penney Company, Inc., wrote recently, "The Council of Better Business Bureaus enhances public trust and confidence in responsible businesses. Through a commitment to self-regulation, the BBB system promotes an ethical marketplace, enabling those companies that conduct business fairly, in the best interests of their customers, to prosper."

The Bureau system is moving into the twenty-first century carrying its message of ethics, self-regulation and consumer confidence into the information age. Last year, the Council and Bureau system completed a structural reorganization and adopted a banner for growth and leadership for the next century. It is printed below.

THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU SYSTEM OUR VISION

Our vision is to be the preeminent source of information relating to ethical business and advertising practices and to be a major provider of marketplace dispute resolution services.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote and foster the highest ethical relationship between businesses and the public through voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education, and service excellence.

OUR GOALS

Our goals include the following strategic directions for the Better Business Bureau System as a team of professionals and volunteers, united by our commitment to our common vision, mission and values:

We will be the most widely recognized and highly visible promoter of ethical business practices.

We will be a widely recognized and highly visible provider of alternative dispute resolution services.

We will be customer-driven, with uniformly high standards of performance for core national, local and entrepreneurial programs in the marketplace.

We will have a significant percentage of large and small business firms as certified members of the BBB system, who proudly display their commitment to our mission and values.

We will offer a fully integrated, accessible national information and services delivery system, utilizing leading-edge technology and committed people to respond fully and quickly to all inquiries and resolve all complaints.

OUR VALUES

To accomplish our mission, we commit to the values of Excellence, Integrity, Teamwork, Trust and Respect to guide all of our decisions and behavior with each other and with all those we serve.

TERM LIMITS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives this week is considering proposed amendments to the Constitution which would establish term limits for Members of Congress. I rise today in opposition to such a constitutional amendment.

The question of term limits for Members of Congress is not a new one. In fact, the issue has been debated since the time of the Continental Congress in 1777.

I do not support term limits for Members of Congress for a variety of reasons. First, the Constitution already provides for a limit on Members of Congress, by requiring that Members of the House be elected anew every 2 years and Senators every 6 years. Term limits laws only serve to disenfranchise voters, by removing their ability to choose an incumbent legislator. This represents an arbitrary restriction on a fundamental right of our political system—the right to vote.

Second, term limits laws can have anti-democratic effects. Term limits would arbitrarily force many competent and experienced Members out of office prematurely, regardless of the wishes of their constituents. This reduces the power of officials elected by the people, transferring power to appointed officials and other elected parties. Professional lobbyists, executive branch bureaucrats, and legislative staffs would all gain power if the tenure and experience of elected legislators was restricted by a term limits amendment. This would be a perversion of representative democracy.

Third, there is simply no need for artificial term limits. The amount of turnover in the House and Senate demonstrates that voters are fully capable of making this decision for themselves. More than half of the Members of the House of Representatives have served less than three terms. More than 40 percent have been in Washington for less than 3 years. Instead of debating term limits, Congress should be passing a meaningful legislation on the subject of campaign finance reform. I welcome and look forward to such a bill, which is conspicuously absent in the vaunted Contract With America.

The 1994 elections provided ample evidence once again that the ballot is the most useful form of term limitation in our American democracy. Voters, as they should, have the final say on whether their elected officials can provide their districts the most effective representation in Congress amongst the various candidates. Accordingly, I oppose the term limits amendments that are before us this week.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM PETERS

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Peters, a remarkable man who has dedicated almost 30 years of his life to the teaching of young people in the city of Boston.

On June 26, 1994, Mr. Peters was involved in a boating accident on Long Pond in Plymouth, which sadly left him with a severe head injury and other trauma. His friends, students, and staff from the Blackstone Elementary School in Boston, MA, have kept a silent vigil throughout the summer and into the fall. Progress has been slow and halting at best. This has been a genuinely heart-breaking course of events for Mr. Peters, his family, and all those who are close to him.

According to his colleagues and his students, Mr. Peters is one of the truly outstanding people in the teaching profession. Mr. Peters teaches fifth grade. To an impressionable 11-year-old, he is the kind of teacher that a young person is likely to remember as one who made a significant impact on his or her life. An unusual combination of booming authority, gentle grace, and street savvy, Mr. Peters has left his indelible mark on many students.

To the staff at the Blackstone, particularly the inexperienced and anxious newcomers to teaching, Mr. Peters has been a wealth of experience and a benchmark of excellence. For his friends and colleagues and many others he has come to epitomize what a good teacher is, a person of intelligence, gentle spirit, and refreshing humor who has made a lasting and deep mark on their lives.

Mr. Peters, by his hard work and presence has made the educational process at the Blackstone Elementary richer in a most substantial way. Mr. Peters was responsible for the coordination of the Blackstone Choir, organized the fifth grade graduation, composed and performed music at school functions, ran after-school computer activities in conjunction with the juvenile court, and helped coordinate the DARE Program at the Blackstone. Mr. Peters has also taken the time to give back to his profession by hosting many student teachers in his years of service and I am certain that they benefited greatly from his leadership and example. Mr. Peters' classes have consistently tested among the highest in the school, year in and year out. In celebration of his dedication and skill, Mr. Peters was presented a Golden Apple Award for teaching excellence in 1992 from the City-Wide Education Coalition of Boston. Mr. Peters has also worked for many years at the South Boston Boys Club. He remains in contact with many of his former students.

Mr. Peters was a Golden Glove Boxer, who fought under the name of Henry Strickland, because his father would not permit him to box, was scouted by the Detroit Tigers and is an avid fisherman who has fished both fresh and salt water.

Mr. Peters and his wife, the former Alice Parker of Watertown, MA, have been blessed with six children, Susan, Kelly, Billy, Greg, Julie, and Clifford.

In this time when teachers are seldom given their proper respect and recognition, it is my honor and privilege to take time to speak from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor Mr. William Peters, a fifth grade teacher at the Blackstone Elementary School in Boston, MA. His dedication to his students must be recognized and held out as an example for others to follow.

Mr. Peters, you are in the thoughts and prayers of your many friends and colleagues and I am proud to join with them in wishing you a speedy recovery.

In closing, I am reminded of a quote, I believe it goes like this:

A Teacher affects eternity, for it is never known when their influence ends . . .

BOB KORTKAMP RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Bob Kortkamp on his retirement, April 1. In 1957 Bob began his career at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation in St. Louis as a machinist. In 1964 he was elected business representative of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 9. Since 1978 he has served as secretary-treasurer of the St. Louis Labor Council.

Bob's interest and concern for working people has transcended his profession. He has consistently been involved with the larger community. The United Way, Mary Ryder Home, Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Blue Cross Corporate Assembly, Economic Planning Committee of St. Louis County, the Better Business Bureau and the St. Louis World Trade Center have been some of the beneficiaries of Bob's time and talents.

On a personal level, the most important thing that I can say about Bob is that he is a good man. He is caring about his world and the people who live in it. He is an exemplary citizen, one who sees a need and involves himself in fulfilling that need. Bob is a role-model for the younger members of the labor community in St. Louis—always ready to share his knowledge and eager to help.

I want to wish Bob and his lovely wife Betty a long and fulfilling retirement.

THE KOSOVA PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1995

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce H.R. 1360, the Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995, along with Representative BEN GILMAN, chairman of the International Relations Committee, and Representative SUSAN MOLINARI.

For too long, ethnic Albanian citizens of Kosova, who comprise 90 percent of the province's population, have been dominated and repressed by Serbia. Kosovars voted overwhelmingly for the independence of their State in September 1990. They have chosen Ibrahim Rugova to be the first President of the

newly declared Republic of Kosova and Bujar Bukoshi to be its first Prime Minister. Serbia, however, has not seen fit to recognize these valid and legitimate acts of self-determination. Belgrade has prevented the new government from meeting in the Kosovar capital of Prishtina and strictly controls all media and public expressions of political views.

Today, the human rights situation in Kosova is grave and has worsened with the July 1993 expulsion by the Serbian authorities of international monitors. Ethnic Albanians are denied access to education, health care, and legal process solely on the basis of their ethnicity. More are dismissed from their jobs due to their Albanian heritage. Human rights groups from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to the OSCE and others document worsening humanitarian conditions, especially since the departure of international monitors. I strongly believe that the United States must demand the return of international observers and speak out more vociferously against the silent extension of ethnic cleansing to Kosova.

The security situation in Kosova is also very troubling. If Serbia escalates its aggressive behavior in Kosova, the Balkan conflict may expand into Macedonia, drawing in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and possibly Turkey. I support statements by the United States Government threatening a stern American response in the event of conflict in Kosova caused by Serbian action and believe that the administration should reiterate these warnings.

On the other hand, I deeply reject more recently policy changes by the administration. Last month, President Clinton offered to drop all sanctions against Serbia if it meets a specified list of conditions. Kosova was not among those conditions, even though the President specifically pledged to me in a January 4, 1995 letter that Belgrade would not be freed of sanctions until the situation in Kosova improves. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of that letter be printed at this point in the RECORD:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, DC, January 4, 1995.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ELIOT: Thank you for your December 2 letter regarding U.S. policy toward Kosova. I am pleased Dr. Rugova had a useful visit to the United States and know that his meetings with senior Administration officials were fruitful for both sides. While the United States does not support independence for Kosova, we are committed to restoring human and political rights to the people of Kosova, where Dr. Rugova plays an important and admirable role. His rejection of violence and his patience in the face of continued Serb repression demonstrate courage and foresight.

There are a large number of issues, including Kosova, that I believe must be addressed before Belgrade should be freed of UN sanctions and able to return to the international community. At the same time, we have clearly seen the utility of using limited sanctions suspension in return for helpful steps, such as closure of the Serbian border with Bosnia. Should Milosevic make further positive steps, we will need the flexibility of being able to consider the suspension of additional sanctions. As before, our decision of whether to support suspension of any sanctions will be made in close consultation with Congress.

Belgrade knows the seriousness of our resolve in Kosova, which I reaffirmed soon

after taking office and subsequently. With Congressional support, we have been able to maintain a steady flow of humanitarian assistance to Kosova. Our Embassy in Belgrade pursues an active schedule of visits there. We are working to bring the CSCE long-duration missions back and have welcomed Dr. Rugova's plan to open an LDK party office in Washington. I am aware of the strong arguments in favor of opening a USIS center in Prishtina, but believe that we should not do so unless our safety and security concerns are resolved.

I am grateful to know to your deep interest in this important issue, and hope to work together with you and your colleagues to restore the rights of Kosova's ethnic Albanians.

Sincerely,

BILL.

With the President's recent policy changes, the bill we introduce today is even more important. The bill contains several sections. In the findings section, the abuses of civil and human rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosova are specified. Next, a section detailing United States policy toward the Kosova issue is presented. Third, and most importantly, the bill conditions the lifting of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro upon specific improvements in Kosova, including:

Substantial progress toward the realization of a separate identity for Kosova and the right of the people of Kosova to govern themselves, or the creation of an international protectorate for Kosova;

Substantial improvement in the human rights situation in Kosova;

International human rights observers return to Kosova; and

The elected government of Kosova is permitted to meet and carry out its legitimate mandate as elected representatives of the people of Kosova.

Finally, the bill directs the administration to study policy options on Kosova, including the opening of a U.S.I.A. office in Prishtina.

Last year, Representative MOLINARI and I, as coauthors of the Albanian Issues Caucus, introduced a virtually identical piece of legislation. This year, I am proud to stand, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 1360, the Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995, with the chairman of the International Relations Committee who is the prime sponsor of the bill and a member of the Albanian Issues Caucus. H.R. 1360 is good for Kosova and the right policy for the United States. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTES TO TWO YOUNG PILOTS; ANTHONY W. SHANKS AND VINCENT R. BREDING

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two young pilots who recently gave their lives in a mission of mercy. Anthony Warner Shanks, 36, and Vincent Randall Breding, 31, were shuttling two Orange County doctors to Mexico March 3, 1995, when their plane went down in a rugged area of Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in San Diego County.