

The Unknown Soldier is silently speaking to us all, saying we must never forget those who had full lives ahead—and those whose lives were quickly shattered, perhaps by a bullet, a grenade, and other such weapons. He is saying, "Never let it happen again—never." He is a voice that shall never be silenced by anyone or anything.

And forget him no one does. The President of the United States and other such people pay their respects the unknown soldier. It is truly a great honor to lay a wreath at the unknown soldier's tomb. You are saying, "I honor and respect those who served for our country, who served for me. I will never forget those who died for our country, who died for me."

The unknown soldier—a common soldier whose identity is never known, but his presence and voice is always there.

CONGRATULATIONS DAVID
MCNEILL

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest inspirations for people is knowing that their friends and neighbors have been able to deal with unfortunate happenings in their lives. Even more inspiring is seeing how people can turn these unfortunate occurrences into new opportunities for greatness. I am pleased to tell our colleagues that one of my constituents, David McNeill, has done exactly that: He has taken what was a terrible moment in his life and turned it into an accomplishment for all to hail.

In 1992, David McNeill was the victim of a car accident that left him confined to a wheel chair and forced him to find new employment because his accident would not allow him to continue to his profession as a tool and die-maker. Instead of becoming overcome with anxiety, David accepted his challenge head-on. He and his wife, Deborah, refinanced their home, sold his motorcycle, and other prized possessions to use money for their expenses. At Deborah's urging, he entered Delta College at the age of 46 where he has excelled academically, maintaining a 3.8 average and being named to the 1996 Community College All-State Academic Second Team.

His tremendous effort earned for him a competitive 6-week internship from Phi Theta Kappa at the U.S. Department of Education, which he is currently serving. I have had the pleasure of meeting with David McNeill, and I must tell you that we would all do much better if we had his spirit and his determination.

Education is a never-ending process, and in our ever-changing world, we all need to keep learning new information and skills. David's efforts to expand his education is an inspiration to everyone. I am sure that it has been an exciting and challenging experience, and at times somewhat daunting. But to carry on in the outstanding fashion that he has at Delta is a clear demonstration of the value of focus and commitment.

His internship at the Department of Education will help develop the cutting edge of future education programs. If our Nation is to remain a world leader, it will be because we took the time to educate our people and to provide opportunities for continuing education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing David McNeill the very best as he continues to show each use that the only limit to hold us back is ourselves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker on June 5, 1996, I was unavoidably detained due to my daughters graduation. I missed rollcall votes: 210, 211, 212, and 213. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on all.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker on June 10, 1996 I was unavoidably detained due to illness. I missed rollcall votes: 222, 223, and 224. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on all.

CLINTON WON'T LET WELFARE
CHANGE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues this editorial which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald on June 24, 1996.

CLINTON WON'T LET WELFARE CHANGE

People keep trying to help President Clinton accomplish his stated goal of "end(ing) welfare as we know it," but he won't let them do it.

Congress presented him a welfare-reform bill in 1995 that seemed destined for presidential approval. But liberal groups criticized the legislation and persuaded Clinton to veto it.

In February this year, the National Governors' Association produced a bipartisan plan to reform welfare and Medicaid, a plan endorsed by Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson. Clinton, too, spoke favorably of the plan, but officials of his administration have been fighting it in congressional hearings.

Two months ago Gov. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin signed his state's welfare reform plan. It would end welfare as an entitlement program. People could be denied benefits without recourse to hearings. Welfare assistance would be conditioned on work. Jobs, child care and health care would not be guaranteed.

Three weeks after the Wisconsin plan was completed, the president called it "a solid, bold welfare reform plan" in his weekly radio address. Bob Dole was scheduled to give a major speech on welfare reform three days later. It was a preemptive political strike by a president who lately has talked, but not acted, like a Republican.

Now that the president has exploited the opportunity to upstage Dole by patting the Republican Thompson on the back and appearing to be the champion of welfare reform, his administration is challenging the Wisconsin plan.

For proof of its welfare-reform credentials, the Clinton administration cites waivers it has granted to 39 states to implement welfare programs that don't conform to federal requirements. But in this case the Washing-

ton penchant for centralized bureaucratic control may prevail. Wisconsin may not get the federal waiver it needs to proceed.

In 1993, first lady Hillary Clinton's proposal to reduce the growth of Medicare spending from 10 percent to 7 percent was touted by the administration as responsible reform. Two years later, when congressional Republicans proposed the same spending growth rate reduction, the president decried a 7 percent growth cap as an attempt to "cut" and "destroy" Medicare.

Governor Thompson's once "solid" and "bold" welfare plan may face the same fate that befell Mrs. Clinton's 7 percent growth cap once it was expropriated by Republicans.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICAN-ITALIAN PROFES-
SIONAL AND BUSINESS WOMEN'S
CLUB

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 21, the American Italian Professional and Business Women's Club will celebrate its 40th anniversary. AMIT, as it is known, was established in 1956 by Maria Lalli and Maria Giuliano to further cultural, charitable, and social functions, with an emphasis on Italian culture whenever the opportunity arises. The club derives its membership from women who are of Italian descent or are married to a man of Italian descent.

AMIT's list of beneficiaries includes a broad range of organizations around the world. Missions and health care institutions in Burma, India, and Detroit, MI, children and orphans in the United States and Italy, Italian earthquake and flood relief efforts, public television, symphony orchestras, and Orchestra Hall in Detroit, all have been assisted by their interest and generosity. A special focus of their support is those places which celebrate Italian culture: The Italian American Cultural and Community Center, the Italian Heritage Room at Wayne State University, and the Church of San Francisco.

Social functions arranged around artistic and cultural presentations provide the funds for AMIT's charitable work. The club is proud to have presented lectures by the daughters of distinguished Italian scientists Guglielmo Marconi and Enrico Fermi. They have sponsored book and author luncheons featuring Italian-American authors or writers on Italian subjects, and have promoted events at the Detroit Institute of Arts when Italian artists were on special exhibition. Italian musicians, both established artists and prodigies, have been presented in recital.

Now at the close of its fourth decade of activity, AMIT boasts several families with multiple generations of membership and leadership. The Giuliano-Baker family takes great pride in its four successive generations of women who have served the club as president, beginning with the first president and co-founder, Maria Giuliano.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the American Italian Professional and Business Women's Club on achieving 40 years of outstanding service to the community, and I wish them many more years of successful endeavor. Our Nation's strength lies, in part, in groups such

as AMIT whose members take their place in American life while fostering appreciation for the future of their homeland.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3604, the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments. This bill includes an important provision: H.R. 3280, the Water Quality Right-To-Know Act of 1996, of which I am a cosponsor. I am pleased that the House will pass this bipartisan piece of legislation, which will continue to protect our Nation's drinking water. While I remain concerned about the last-minute inclusion of projects which threaten to diminish the State revolving fund [SRF], overall I believe this is a good bill. It is my hope that this issue will be resolved in the House-Senate conference.

This bill takes many important steps to improve the Safe Drinking Water Act. It authorizes the SRF, which is essential to our communities in providing safe drinking water; it gives the EPA more flexibility in issuing regulations; it requires that standards be set for arsenic and radon; and it requires the EPA to conduct studies on sulfates.

One of the most important provisions would require water systems to public information annually on the status of drinking water and notify consumers of any contaminants. While the United States has one of the safest drinking water supplies in the world, there have, unfortunately, been incidents of contamination. I have heard from many constituents who expressed support for this provision because Americans have a right to know what is in their drinking water. I agree with them, and that is why I am a cosponsor of this provision.

I commend my colleagues who kept negotiations on this bill open and involved all interested parties to produce a sound piece of legislation that will establish good public policy. It is a relief to support a commonsense, bipartisan bill that will ensure that Americans have clean, safe drinking water. This bill will allow our communities to meet the goals of the act cost effectively and responsibly without sacrificing the quality of our drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to work in the House-Senate conference to ensure that funding for the SRF is not cut, and I look forward to passage of this important piece of legislation.

DISAPPROVAL OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, a year ago I heard and heeded the arguments of those who claimed that by maintaining MFN we would have the leverage to force

change in China. In light of what has transpired over the last year, I find it difficult to reconcile the benefits of MFN with China, with China's refusal to obey international law regarding the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its continued abuses of human rights. My hopes for change as a result of engagement through MFN were dashed.

The record of China over the past year merits a strong and unequivocal message of protest from this body. On every issue that is central to United States-China relations we have witnessed a steady and serious deterioration over the past year. In the critical areas of human rights, weapons proliferation, trade, and military aggression we have seen retreat, not progress.

I fully recognize the benefits of trade with China, and have held out the hope that by maintaining that relationship we could achieve progress in these critical areas. Therefore, I supported renewal of MFN last year. My hopes proved elusive, however, and the price of our forbearance has been an escalation in the threats to the security of the United States, both economic and strategic. I cannot stand by and watch China engage in practices that threaten the security of our Nation. If we are going to create a more secure place for the United States in the future, we must take the right actions today which will ensure that goal tomorrow.

The greatest threat to the United States and world security is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the hands of rogue nations, in the hands of nations that support terrorism, in the arsenals of nations with simmering disputes that stand the risk of erupting any day, chemical and nuclear weapons are a threat, not just to the United States but to the world.

In recent years, contrary to the promises made by the Chinese, China has increased both the quantity and the quality of its arms transfers. Not only has China transferred missile technology, but now China has transferred nuclear and chemical weapons technology to nonsafeguarded nations. Protests have produced promises, but what we have gotten in return for our indulgence and patience is continued defiance of international law. A record of broken promises is not strong enough to support renewal of MFN.

The human rights abuses of China are almost too numerous to mention. Time and time again, we have been promised that reforms would be enacted. But once again, there was not progress this year.

For these reasons, I cannot in good conscience support MFN renewal this year. I hope that in the future China reforms its practices, and demonstrates through meaningful, positive reforms its desire to join the international community. The door is open for a China that obeys treaties and respects the rule of law. There is no place for a China that behaves with the disrespect for international law which China has exhibited in the past year. There is a need to send a message to China when their behavior so endangers our national security. Therefore I will oppose MFN this year.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 193, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the cost of Government spending and regulatory programs should be reduced so that American families will be able to keep more of what they earn.

July 3, 1996, is Cost of Government Day, the date when the average American has earned enough in gross income to pay off all direct and hidden taxes—total Federal, State, and local government spending, plus the cost of regulation. In other words, July 3 is the day when Americans stop working for Uncle Sam and start working for themselves and their families.

This year, the total bill comes to \$3.38 trillion—\$13,000 for every man, woman, and child in America.

Mr. Speaker, the people that I represent live in the 12th most taxed congressional district in the Nation, and the 2d most taxed State in the Union. The cost of government has become too expensive, too burdensome, and they need relief. When working Americans are forced to take two jobs, work longer hours away from their families, simply to make ends meet, something is wrong.

Congress created new programs in the past, often with the best of intentions, but failed to consider how its decisions affect the people who must pay the bills. When you add to the Federal tax burden the taxes paid at the State and local level, and consider the hidden costs—costs associated with compliance with Federal regulations and mandates—it becomes clear that the American people can no longer afford the huge government bureaucracy that has been created over the years.

I am proud to say that this Congress recognizes the fiscal pressures facing working Americans today, and is working to ease the burdensome cost of government. We passed a balanced budget plan to stop the runaway spending that threatens our future and the future of our children and grandchildren; we've passed regulatory relief legislation to restore a degree of common sense to the manner in which Government regulations are drafted and carried out; we've passed legislation to give working Americans a modest degree of tax relief, and we have even attempted to roll back the tax increase that President Clinton pushed through Congress in 1993.

Unfortunately, the President has fought us at every turn. We owe it to working Americans to keep trying, Mr. Speaker, and enact policies that will allow them to keep more of what they earn. The cost of government is simply too high. We can do something about it, and I urge my colleagues to join me today in supporting this important resolution, and join me in working for a leaner—and better—government.