

Weston is an extremely attractive place for prolonged community development. As a municipality, residents will greatly benefit from a higher level of services including a democratically elected governing body, police and fire protection, and dramatic increase in funding levels which will help to maintain the parks and recreation facilities adjacent to the community. Furthermore, the residents' overwhelming approval to incorporate the city shows the community's dedication to the city of Weston and their excitement for new ventures. I wish the residents of the city of Weston the best and look forward to the extraordinary opportunities that lie ahead.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON  
H.R. 3666, DEPARTMENTS OF VET-  
ERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND  
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 1996*

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like the record to show my strong support for the Stokes' motion to instruct VA/HUD appropriation conferees. This motion instructed House conferees to accept the Senate amendments related to mental health parity and postpartum insurance coverage.

I was not present during voting on September 11, but had I been present, I would have voted for the motion. The motion passed with an overwhelming bi-partisan majority.

Both provisions provide for a healthy future for some of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. The first prevents insurers from limiting coverage through higher copayments, fewer visits or shorter hospital stays simply because the individual is treated for mental illness. Mental health parity is a matter of basic fairness.

The National Advisory Mental Health Council [NAMHC] reported to Congress in 1993 that parity coverage of treatment of severe mental illness would actually save the national economy \$2.2 billion a year in reduced absenteeism, increased productivity, and reduced general health care cost. The MIT Sloan School of Management reported in 1995 that clinical depression costs American employers \$28.8 billion a year.

The initial reports from the Medicaid Mental Health Project in my home State of Massachusetts find similar savings attributable to the implementation of a more competitive, flexible approach to the provision of mental illness treatment services: five percent increase in persons using services; 22 percent reduction in overall expenditures; and a more competitive array of services offered.

Our Nation pays a high price for ignoring mental illness. Severe mental disorders, such as schizophrenia, manic depressive illness, and severe depression, affect 2.8 percent of the adult population and account for approximately 25 percent of all Federal disability payments. This Congress has recognized and acted on the fact that mental illness is as severe as physical illness.

This motion also provides critical insurance protections for newborns and their mothers. I

am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 3226, the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act, which mandates hospital insurance coverage of 48 hours for a vaginal delivery and 96 hours for a caesarean section, the standards set by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics. It does not mandate how long mothers and babies should remain in the hospital; it does not dictate medical care—it simply enables it to be practiced.

Twenty-nine States have already enacted legislation to end the so-called drive-through deliveries, but Federal legislation is necessary to provide uniform standards for all States and extend protections to those covered under ERISA plans. The legislation would not, however, pre-empt State law.

By providing a healthy start for all newborns, we are insuring healthy future for our Nation.

HONORING UKRAINIAN  
INDEPENDENCE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate the people and the Government of Ukraine on the occasion of that nation's celebration earlier this month of 5 years of independence. Ukraine has made considerable progress in political reform during this time, and Ukrainians are to be congratulated for their conduct of free and fair elections for the presidency and parliament, and their adoption of a new, democratic constitution.

As a major European nation, Ukraine, with the continent's sixth largest population and second largest land mass, has an important role to play, both geopolitically and economically, in Central and Eastern Europe. This region is also important to the United States, so that a strong and stable Ukraine, by contributing to European peace and stability, enhances U.S. national security.

Ukraine has made a promising start in its effort to establish a just, democratic system with a free and open economy. It must build on these steps by implementing its constitution, assuring minority rights, guaranteeing private property, and constructing a reliable and fair system of justice in which all Ukrainians can have faith.

The United States should make every effort to support the people of Ukraine as they strive to live in peace and democracy. We should continue assistance with political and economic reform, nonproliferation, trade relations, and military training so that we may assist Ukrainians in achieving their aspirations as a people and as a nation.

HONORING TRUE VOLUNTEERISM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an effort being undertaken by a remarkable young man whom I have the privi-

lege of representing in Congress. I am talking about 16-year-old Steffan Legasse, of Walpole, NH, who has taken it upon himself to help raise money for churches in the South that have been burned and damaged due to the wave of recent arson attacks.

We all are shocked and dismayed by these terrible arson fires. Yet one young man from Western New Hampshire was so moved by what he heard and saw that he decided to do something to help those affected by the church burnings. Steffan undertook a 1,000 mile cycling project this summer in order to raise money for the churches and his own church, St. John's Episcopal Church, of Walpole. The name of his project is "BikeHikes '96." Steffan rode his bike from home to his summer job each day and has made excursions to Vermont and Georgia in conquest of his 1,000 mile goal.

Recently, while in Georgia, the Legasse family met with the Rev. Harry Baldwin, Pastor of the Gay's Baptist Church, of Millen, GA, one of many churches recently burned. Some of the funds raised through BikeHikes '96 will help Rev. Baldwin's church. Steffan recently wrote about his meeting: "Rev. Baldwin is a very kind and compassionate person. He helped me better understand the pain felt by the members of his church, yet he also spoke of their faith, hope and determination to rebuild. I have learned that even terrible deeds can result in a positive outcome."

Steffan has biked more than 900 miles as of today. He is taking pledges and donations to raise \$10,000 for these churches.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting young Steffan the other week and I must say I was very impressed. He is a very polite and delightful young man who is deeply committed to this project. I know that his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Legasse, are very proud of their son, as are Steffan's other family members and friends.

Steffan is still working on BikeHikes '96 and has set up a site on the World Wide Web where computer users can learn for themselves about this wonderful project. The website address is <http://www.legasse.com/bikehikes/update.html>. For more information on Steffan's effort, you may write to 14 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in saluting Steffan Legasse for his effort to help other citizens in need. He represents the true spirit of volunteerism in America.

TRIBUTE TO LISA ELIZABETH  
GIVENS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lisa Elizabeth Givens, a distinguished student from Chesterfield, MO. Ms. Givens recently was awarded a scholarship by the AMVETS to pursue a career in international business.

Ms. Givens competed against hundreds of applicants nationwide to win the scholarship. This is just one of the many ongoing youth programs AMVETS has developed to recognize the importance of scholarship and rewarding bright and industrious young people like Ms. Givens.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in congratulating Ms. Givens and wish her all the best in her pursuit of her goals.

# GLARING DEFICIENCIES IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, even as this administration points to successes in the area of foreign policy, we are watching those alleged successes unravel. The administration's policy toward Ireland has totally backfired and nearly precipitated a rupture of our relations with the United Kingdom. In Haiti, police who have been trained by this administration are now implicated in a series of political murders. The Middle East peace process has collapsed.

The administration's policy toward Bosnia is even more troubling. The Clinton administration repeatedly has assured this body that United States troops would not remain in Bosnia beyond the December 20, 1996 termination point. But our troops in Europe are now receiving orders to spend 1997 in Bosnia, and U.N. Ambassador Albright is backtracking as fast as she can on the administration's promises to the American people.

And the United States now finds itself standing up to Iraqi aggression by itself. The alliance put together by former President Bush is now in tatters, and the administration seems to lack the elementary competence to preserve our few remaining allies. One would assume the administration would first consult with Kuwait before announcing the deployment of thousands of troops to that country, but that seems beyond this administration's capability.

Mr. Speaker, this Member would ask to insert into the RECORD an editorial from the September 17, 1996 edition of the Omaha World Herald entitled "U.S. Involvement in Bosnia, Iraq Seems to Rely on Afterthoughts." As the editorial correctly notes, the current collapse of foreign policy is what happens when the voters elect a president who minimizes the importance of foreign policy expertise. This Member commends this insightful editorial to his colleagues.

## U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN BOSNIA, IRAQ SEEMS TO RELY ON AFTERTHOUGHTS

The foremost reasons that the Founders created the presidency was to give the country a head of state to command the armed forces and deal with other nations. The Clinton administration had not handled those responsibilities well, particularly in Bosnia and Iraq.

President Clinton is reaping the harvest from his 1992 campaign slogan. "It's the economy, stupid," which implied that George Bush's attention to foreign policy was a sign of detached elitism. The flaws in Clinton's approach are now showing.

Certainly Bosnia had elections that were relatively free of violence. But U.S. troops were originally scheduled to leave Bosnia by Dec. 10. On Sunday, reporters asked Madeleine Albright the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and Secretary of State Warren Christopher whether the schedule will be met. They said it was too early to say. The U.N. mission will end Dec. 20, they said, but an international police force will still be needed. Neither would respond to questions

about whether the United States would be part of that police force.

Serbs, Muslims and Croats seem as polarized as ever. The peace that emerged from the Dayton negotiations is artificial. From all appearances, the combatants are biding their time until international troops get out of the way. Then the violence and ethnic cleansing will resume. The risk and expense of U.S. involvement will have been for nothing.

Flaws are also evident in American policy in Iraq. It has now come to light that Americans running a Central Intelligence Agency operation in the northern Kurdish zone disappeared in the middle of the night when Saddam Hussein moved his forces into the region. Surprised Kurdish and Iraqi associates of the Americans were left to fend for themselves.

By some reports, 100 of those U.S. cooperators were captured and executed. Apparently as an afterthought, the administration persuaded Turkey to accept some of the others.

Afterthought—that seems to be the way the White House developed policy in the Persian Gulf. Hey, someone in the administration seems to have said late last week, let's send 5,000 troops to Kuwait to show that President Clinton means business. The plan was flashed around the world. But apparently no one bothered to inform Kuwait. The result was the spectacle of a tiny nation—one that depends on its friendship with the United States to protect itself against Saddam—keeping the secretary of defense waiting until Monday, when clearance for the troop buildup was finally granted.

Other allies in the region have demonstrated reluctance to support U.S. moves against Saddam. Sen. John McCain and other critics of the administration said the administration failed to lay the necessary groundwork among friendly nations for such a mission.

The administration also failed to inform Congress. Speaker Newt Gingrich has said that the situation in the Middle East is almost too muddled to help Clinton find a way out. Gingrich said the White House should back up, consult with the bipartisan leadership of Congress and meet with the gulf war allies in the Middle East to develop a coherent philosophy for dealing with Iraq. He said the United States must know before it acts that other nations will come to its support.

Of course it must know. Gingrich's view is self-evident. The fact that the White House does things differently shows what can happen when the voters elect a president who minimizes the importance of foreign policy expertise.

## TRIBUTE TO THE HISPANIC POLICE AND FIRE ASSOCIATION

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, Aristotle once wrote:

The good of man is the active exercise of his soul's faculties in conformity with excellence or virtue, or if there be several human excellences or virtues, in conformity with the best and most perfect among them.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to several members of the Hispanic Police and Fire Association who have established excellence by displaying outstanding success in their field.

Each year, Mr. Speaker, the Police and Fire Association honors their members who rise far

and above the call of duty. This year the Fireman of the Year Awards went to Chris Freeman and Chris Szczygiel. The Police of the Year Awards were accepted by Educado DeHais and Angel Casabona. Furthermore, Dr. Wayne Petermann and Lorenzo Hernandez were honored with the Humanitarian of the Year Award and the Civic Leader of the Year Award, respectively, for their exemplary service to the community. Finally, Luis Sanchez and Luis Guzman were presented with President of the Year Awards.

The Hispanic Police and Fire Association exemplifies the work ethic and pride so very important in every career and in our daily lives. It is their hard work and dedication, Mr. Speaker, that protects the entire community from the violence and catastrophe all too present in today's society.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I would like to acknowledge our appreciation for the hard work of these courageous individuals. They put their lives on the line every day, in order for all citizens in the community to feel secure in their own homes.

## TRIBUTE TO DICK AND EILEEN MERCER

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 1996*

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a family from the Third Congressional District of Nebraska before my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Dick and Eileen Mercer of Kearney, NE, recently received the 1996 Nebraska Cattlemen-Pfizer Animal Health Stewardship Award. In addition, they received the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Region VII Award. Although I've never had the opportunity to personally visit the Mercer's Double M farm, it's reputation is known far and wide. I've heard it said that if anyone deserves this award, it's Dick and Eileen.

The Mercers, along with their sons, operate a 3,000-head feedlot outside of Kearney. For more than 20 years, the Mercers have taken a hands-on approach to environmental stewardship. They have committed to water and soil testing. Organic matter in the soil has increased, which helps with water retention and erosion control, while nitrate levels have decreased. To control pests, parasitic wasps are employed, decreasing the need to use insecticides.

One of the most unique features of the Mercer's stewardship is their work with the city of Kearney to compost waste from the municipal sewage plant. Municipal waste is composted with manure from the feedlot and used as fertilizer on cropland. The feedlot was designed to utilize the natural characteristics of the land. Specifically, it's higher than adjacent fields allowing waste to flow downhill. From there, liquids are pumped onto the crops. To be sure, the soil is tested to ensure the proper amount is applied. In Dick's own words, as quoted by the Omaha World Herald, "The project is a perfect example of how urban and rural people can work together to improve and protect the environment."

In addition to local conservation work, the Mercers have been actively involved in the