

the State of Florida which met in 1838 to form the diocese of Florida; and it has always been an integral part of life in St. Augustine, America's oldest city.

Trinity has met the worship needs of many thousands of people over the last 175 years. In addition, the parish has shown a continuing commitment to serving the community at large. Trinity supports St. Gerard House, which cares for unmarried pregnant women; and provides meeting space for various groups, including alcoholics anonymous. The church also helped to create St. Francis House, a facility which provides assistance to the poor and to transients who pass through St. Augustine. In addition, Trinity's Early Learning Center provides a nurturing and educational environment for some of the community's youngest residents.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the members of Trinity Church on reaching this significant milestone, and in thanking them for their devotion to spreading the word of God and serving others.

RETIREMENT COMMENDATION OF RICKY N. RIGGINS

HON. DICK CHRYSLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chief Ricky N. Riggins.

Chief Ricky N. Riggins was born in Oxnard, CA, on June 29, 1954. He graduated from Nordhoff High School in June, 1972, and attended Ventura Junior College for one semester before joining the U.S. Navy on February 5, 1973. His illustrious 24-year career has led Chief Riggins to various assignments after completing signalman training in San Diego.

While on active duty, Chief Riggins attended Central Texas College. He graduated in August of 1994, receiving an associates degree in general studies. Signalman Chief Petty Officer Riggins plans to attend Michigan State University to complete his masters degree after he retires.

Chief Riggins has served his last 2 years as the leading chief signalman on board the U.S.S. *Germantown* (LSD-42), responsible for the welfare and training of all assigned personnel in the communications division as well as the operations department. Chief Riggins is married to Pantipa Hartke of Korat, Thailand. They have four children: First, Ricky, Jeremy, and Jamie, as well as two grandchildren, Ricky and Jeremy, Jr.

Chief Riggins has had significant community involvement. He was active in his church as a deacon, a lay leader, as a member of his church council youth ministries committee, and as church council secretary. Chief Riggins served as a Red Cross volunteer providing service to military families, and as a contact person for military service members and their families through the Red Cross Service to Military Families. With over 500 hours contributed in the State of Michigan and around the world, Rick was selected as the SMF Volunteer in the Spotlight for the month of October 1993.

Rick has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America in Lansing, MI, and abroad in Japan's Far East Council. During his reassignment to Sasebo, Japan, for the last 2 years, Chief Rig-

gins has served as the unit commissioner for Troop and Pack 76 as a member of the Far East Council. His accomplishments and awards are truly awe-inspiring, and I thank Chief Riggins for his contributions to our society not only as a Member of Congress, but as a citizen of Michigan, the United States, and the world.

HONORING CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AS 1996 TROPHY WIN- NER OF ROBERT W. CAREY QUALITY AWARD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Calverton National Cemetery of Calverton, NY, for being recognized as this year's Robert W. Carey Quality Award winner.

The Robert W. Carey Quality Award is an annual award presented by the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to recognize organizations within the Department which have implemented quality management in an exemplary manner, resulting in high quality products and services while promoting the effective use of taxpayer dollars. Named in memory of Robert W. Carey, Director of the Veterans Administration Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia, this award is the highest and most prestigious quality award presented to an organization by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It seeks to promote quality management awareness and implementation throughout the Department and to provide a model against which organizations can assess their quality transformation efforts and organizational effectiveness in delivering services. This award is used as an internal assessment tool and supports the Secretary's Performance Agreement with the President.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Calverton National Cemetery for their outstanding achievement and well-deserved honors.

THE RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Rural Law Enforcement Act of 1996. This bill recognizes that in spite of recent efforts to provide adequate funding and resources for law enforcement departments around our Nation, a significant segment within this population continues to be underserved. I am speaking about those departments that serve rural areas.

One-third of all Americans live in nonurban areas and 90 percent of all law enforcement agencies serve populations of fewer than 25,000 residents; 75 percent of all law enforcement agencies serve a population of fewer than 10,000 residents; 85 percent of police departments in America have 10 or less officers on the force. Yet statistics show that

fewer than 200 cities get the lion's share of Federal funding for combating crime. This would not be problematic but for the fact that while the national crime index for violent crime has been on a steady decline over the past 5 years, rural violent crime has increased over 35 percent from 1985 to 1995. It is in response to this trend along with the pleas for increased resources that I have heard from rural law enforcement agencies in my district that I introduce this legislation.

This bill seeks to enhance the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement and charges this Center to provide, among other things, the following resources for rural law enforcement agencies nationwide:

Training of law enforcement supervisors and personnel who serve in rural communities on how best to address those criminal issues that are unique to their rural areas, taking into consideration the limited resources available to these departments.

Funding for grants and contracts for Federal, State, and local units of government; as well as for public and private agencies, educational institutions, organizations, and individuals; to work together effectively in combating crime in rural areas.

The establishment of a clearinghouse and information center on criminal justice and law enforcement to provide a communications network to link rural agency heads to one another, around the country.

Consulting assistance to criminal justice agencies with respect to problem solving, training, and community outreach in rural law enforcement jurisdiction.

I have been in touch with law enforcement officials and community leaders in my home State of Maine regarding this legislation. From the community response coordinator for a domestic violence program in Bangor, to the U.S. marshal of Maine, to the sheriff of rural Aroostook County, to the former chief of police of Presque Isle, I have heard unanimous support for this legislation. The reasons for their support were unanimous as well—there are just not enough resources currently available for rural law enforcement to adequately address the needs of the populations they serve.

Providing public safety is a crucial part of the infrastructure that makes up our communities; allowing effective and impartial enforcement of the law is one of the most important functions of the Government. We look to law enforcement officials to adequately address issues of crime and violence in our communities, to know how to quickly assess situations and respond appropriately, and to reach out to other individuals and services in the community in efforts to learn about their concerns and about the resources available within their programs. I believe that this bill will make these goals into realities for our rural law enforcement agencies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PUERTO RICO

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Congress took dramatic action last month in the Small Business Job Protection Act

(Public Law 104-188) by eliminating the principal tax incentive for economic development in Puerto Rico, section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code. While I supported this measure, it was unfortunate that we could not use this opportunity to construct a long-term replacement incentive program, as urged by Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Rossello. I believe it is very important that we return to this subject in the next Congress to build a new long-term economic incentive for Puerto Rico using as its base the new section 30A of the Tax Code, which we established in the small business legislation.

There is consensus that the job creation incentives in section 30A, while a useful start, do not provide the dynamic incentives needed by the 3.7 million American citizens of Puerto Rico to become economically self sufficient, along with Ways and Means Committee Chairman BILL ARCHER, I would like to work with Governor Rossello and other elected leaders of Puerto Rico to develop a sound long-term economic program to achieve this goal.

Although section 936 has been eliminated because its benefits were deemed overly generous in the current budgetary climate, the last chapter for Puerto Rico economic incentives has not been written. I look forward to working in the next Congress toward long-term, effective incentives that foster new investment and create high-quality jobs in Puerto Rico.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BROWER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the recent retirement from the Blade newspaper of Toledoan, William Brower, a well-known veteran journalist of more than 50 years. He became one of the first African-Americans to work for a daily Ohio newspaper. He was officially recognized this year by the National Association of Black Journalists for its Lifetime Achievement Award.

A Wilberforce University graduate, Bill began his journalism career writing for African-American newspapers in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Richmond, VA. Hired by Toledo's newspaper, the Blade, in 1947, Bill began as a general assignment reporter. Throughout his years with the paper, he held positions covering the police, courthouse, and education beats, and served as an assistant city editor, news editor, and associate editor. His thrice weekly editorial columns covering politics, sports, and topics of interest to African-Americans became a staple of Toledo area news.

In 1951, he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize nomination for a series of stories written after a tour of 20 States on the conditions experienced by black Americans. In 1971, he followed that story with a series, "Black America—20 Years Later," which won him a Robert F. Kennedy Foundation Award.

The National Association of Black Journalists paid tribute to Bill for his "pioneering spirit" and "outstanding leadership in the media industry." The same can be said of his role in our community. Bill Brower and his wife Edna have been groundbreakers, trailblazers, and voices of strength and wisdom in Toledo. Their dedication to one another continues to

be a source of inspiration to us all. His writings have often required us to look at a reflection of ourselves, and in doing so, have moved us to become better people.

No commendation could sum up fully half a century of journalistic achievement. But in honoring his life, the Blade has endorsed independent thought and the advancement of our common heritage as a free people.

ETHNIC TENSIONS CONTINUE IN THE BALKANS

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Ms. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, as the international community awaits analysis of last Saturday's Bosnian elections, it is now time to focus the spotlight on the other ethnic conflicts that continue to fester in the Balkans. A lasting peace in the region can never be obtained without a satisfactory resolution of the ethnic tensions there.

With that in mind, I commend the Congressional Human Rights Caucus for holding a briefing last week to report on the situation in Sanjak, a small region of the former Yugoslavia that is bordered on one side by Bosnia and on the other by Kosovo. Testifying at the briefing was Mr. Bajram Omeragic, president of the external board of the Muslim National Council of Sanjak. His statement provides an illuminating discussion of the plight of the Bosniac people of Sanjak, and why they believe the international community must come to their assistance.

TESTIMONY OF MR. BAJRAM OMERAGIC

I.

Mr. Chairman an Distinguished Members of the Caucus. It is an honor for me to testify before you this morning to discuss the problems facing the Bosniac people of Sanjak, a region of former Yugoslavia that has largely been ignored by the international community. We are grateful for the growing interest in Sanjak among Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

We have suffered in relative obscurity until now, and you are helping us generate the attention our people deserve and recognition that the intolerable situation we face cannot be prolonged.

II.

On the eve of the elections in Bosnia Saturday, the eyes of America and the world are focused on the Balkans. Regardless of the outcome of the Bosnian elections, the struggle to achieve lasting peace and freedom in the Balkans has just begun. As U.S. mediator Richard Holbrooke said recently, the Bosnia elections do not constitute the end of the game, but rather the beginning of establishing democracy in former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Holbrooke's recognition that the Dayton agreement was incomplete and inadequate implies that there is indeed unfinished business that must be resolved. We agree with Mr. Holbrooke that a new Dayton-type international conference on former Yugoslavia should occur soon after the Bosnian elections to address the wide range of issues that were intentionally left out of last year's agreements.

The "Dayton II" agenda should include resolution of the status of the Sanjak region and other troubling, and potentially dangerous conflicts that must be resolved before lasting peace can be achieved in the Balkans.

As Western powers meet with Balkan leaders at the December London conference, the issue of Sanjak must be on the agenda of unfinished business.

III.

While the world focuses on the Bosnia elections Saturday, there is another election coming up that demands the attention of the international community and world news media.

On November 3, the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, that is Serbia and Montenegro, will go to the polls to elect federal leaders. In Sanjak, we have decided to participate in the elections.

A boycott by our people would mean that we would have absolutely no opposition voice in federal government decisions. We prefer to fight for change from within.

While we are committed to democratic and fair elections, the Belgrade regime is not. We have evidence that Milosevic is trying to rig the elections in Sanjak in favor of the Serbs. By arbitrarily changing the number of voters comprising an election unit, based on numbers of Serbs in each voting district, Milosevic is trying to steal the election in Sanjak. There are election districts in which 200 Serbs will elect candidates, while similar districts will require 2,000 Bosniacs to elect a candidate. Such undemocratic, unfair and illegal tactics must be exposed. This cynical manipulation of the election process should alarm the U.S. and other democratic nations.

The president of our Council, Dr. Sulkeman Ugljanin, is meeting in Sarajevo this week with Carl Bildt, the international community's representative in former Yugoslavia, to express our outrage at such tactics. We are urgently requesting international election monitors to observe and report on such election irregularities and abuses.

We call on the U.S. Congress to send observers to Sanjak to see for themselves.

IV.

Sanjak is a small region of Yugoslavia, some 8,687 square kilometers, bordered on one side by Bosnia and Kosovo on the other. Two-thirds, or 350,000, of our people are Bosniacs who have historically maintained strong ties to Bosnia.

Throughout its history, Sanjak has been subjected to a deliberate, premeditated campaign of brutality and repression at the hands of the Serbs and Montenegrins. Conditions became much worse since the Milosevic regime unleashed its campaign of terror against non-Serbs and Bosnia exploded into war.

In April 1992, the Bosniac people were expelled from the constitution of Yugoslavia. Bosniacs living near the border were subjected to "ethnic cleansing" even though they lived within Serbia.

Over 60,000 Bosniacs have fled our homeland, dispersed throughout Europe and America;

250 Bosniacs have been killed, kidnapped and/or disappeared;

In the townships of Priboj and Pljevlja, 51 villages have been ethnically cleansed with homes looted and demolished;

317 homes have been destroyed;

Over 17,000 Bosniacs have been subjected to some form of state military-police brutality and terrorism;

During 1993 and 1994, our political leaders, including Mr. Hadzic, were arrested and organized political processes were halted;

An arrest warrant was issued for the President of the Muslim National Council of Sanjak and SDA, when he was going to a peace conference in Geneva; he has been living in exile for three years.

Please allow us to remind you that Sanjak is the only territory in the Federal Republic