

Mr. Newton's legacy of commitment and dedication as a volunteer firefighter will find a permanent place in the Delaware volunteer fire service mantra, reminding future volunteer firefighters of the importance of their mission. On behalf of the citizens of Delaware, I offer my condolences to Sharon Newton and the entire family on the untimely and tragic death of a true American hero, Mr. Jonathan Newton.

HONORING MICHAEL EAKIN

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to J. Michael Eakin who was recently elected as Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge and is ending his tenure as Cumberland County District Attorney. For over 20 years he has served the citizens of Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District by dedicating his career to protecting those who live in Cumberland County and ensuring the laws of the Commonwealth are upheld.

Mr. Eakin's accomplishments in both enforcement and prevention are numerous. He is responsible for establishing the first multicounty drug task force in Pennsylvania's history. He has also dedicated much of his time to working with at-risk youth through programs such as drug abuse resistance education. In addition, Mr. Eakin has led efforts to reduce Cumberland County's alcohol-related fatalities by developing innovative programs which work to expeditiously apprehend and process drunk drivers. Several community service groups including Mother's Against Drunk Drivers and the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Council have recognized Mr. Eakin for these achievements.

Mr. Eakin has contributed a great deal to the professional development of attorneys and law enforcement personnel. Currently recognized by the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association and Pennsylvania Bar Association as an authority on law enforcement, he has developed and led training sessions for new district attorneys throughout the State.

Mr. Speaker, by working hand in hand with the community, Michael Eakin has exemplified the true definition of public service. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District, I thank him for his years of dedication and wish him continued success as superior court judge.

SRI LANKA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, February 4, 1996, marked the 48th anniversary of the independence of Sri Lanka. I know my colleagues will want to join me in saluting our good friends in Sri Lanka on this momentous occasion.

Sri Lanka and the United States have much in common. Both are committed to political pluralism, and both believe in the efficacy of

free markets and private enterprise. In addition, Sri Lanka has been a good friend to the United States for many years. We work together on regional issues and in the United Nations. We collaborate on a range of critical transnational issues such as population, food security, and the environment. The United States is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner. Sri Lanka has long hosted an important Voice of America facility on its territory.

Sadly, what should have been a day of celebration for our friends in Sri Lanka was instead a time of mourning. Several days before National Day, Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, was rocked by a terrorist explosion that claimed nearly 100 lives; 1,400 other men, women, and children were injured in the blast.

Sri Lankan officials have blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] for this despicable act of terrorism, which, if true, would make the Colombo attack merely the latest in a long line of cowardly terrorist acts the LTTE has taken. The world community should be forthright in its denunciations of this group. Let there be no doubt on this score: Genuine freedom fighters do not wantonly take the lives of the very people they claim to be liberating.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by reiterating my congratulations to the brave people of Sri Lanka on the occasion of their National Day, as well as my deepest condolences for this horrid act of terrorism that struck down so many innocent people.

CONGRESS MISSES THE MAGIC SHOW

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in passing a Defense authorization bill which includes a cruel and wholly unjustified provision requiring the discharge of all service members who are HIV-positive, Congress served itself and the Nation very badly. Our former colleague, who is now the junior Senator from California [Ms. BOXER] recently illustrated how unwise and unfair this new policy is with an article in the Los Angeles Times for February 6. Because we still have a chance to redeem ourselves by repealing this provision before it goes into effect, it is very important that all Members reflect on the truth of what our former colleague has written and so I ask that the article entitled "Congress Misses the Magic Show" by BARBARA BOXER, in the February 6, Los Angeles Times be reprinted here.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Feb. 6, 1996]

CONGRESS MISSES THE 'MAGIC' SHOW

(By Barbara Boxer)

Americans cheered last week as Earvin "Magic" Johnson triumphantly returned to the Los Angeles Lakers. In just 27 minutes, he scored 19 points and dispelled any remaining doubt about his ability to compete at the highest level.

To their credit, Magic's fans, coaches, teammates and even his NBA opponents welcomed him back with open arms. Imagine how absurd it would be if Congress, just as Magic demonstrated his Hall of Fame talent, passed a law requiring the NBA to fire all basketball players who have the HIV virus.

This past week, Congress did something just that absurd.

A little-noticed provision of the annual military spending bill requires the Pentagon to fire all soldiers, sailors and Marines who test positive for the HIV virus, even if they perform their duties as skillfully as Magic Johnson makes a no-look pass. The military strongly objected to this provision, but Congress did not care. The president has called the new policy unfair, but because it is part of a larger bill that includes urgently needed funding for our troops in Bosnia, he will sign it into law.

Under current policy, military personnel with the HIV virus are permitted to remain in the services as long as they are able to perform their duties. If their health deteriorates, the military initiates separation procedures and provides disability benefits and continued health insurance coverage for them and their dependents. So they can remain near health care providers, military personnel with HIV are placed on "worldwide nondeployable status," which means that they cannot be sent on overseas missions. Soldiers with other serious chronic illnesses, such as severe asthma, cancer and diabetes are also nondeployable. In fact, only about 20% of the more than 5,000 nondeployable personnel are infected with HIV.

The congressional authors of the new policy, led by Rep. Robert K. Dornan of Orange County, argue that nondeployable personnel degrade military readiness because they cannot be sent overseas. However, their true motive appears to be less lofty than protecting the readiness of our forces. The new policy irrationally singles out military personnel with HIV. If backers truly believe that nondeployable personnel harmed readiness, why wouldn't they seek to oust soldiers with diabetes and asthma? The only conceivable answer is that readiness is not their real motivation. Their motivation is discrimination, pure and simple.

Can anyone seriously contend that 1,059 HIV-positive soldiers—less than 0.1% of the total force—can meaningfully affect readiness? The Pentagon doesn't think so. Its top personnel policy expert, Assistant Defense Secretary Fred Pang, recently wrote that "as long as these members can perform their required duties, we see no prudent reason to separate and replace them. . . . The proposed provision would not improve military readiness or the personnel policies of the department."

If Magic Johnson can run and leap with the best of them, why can't a military clerk file with the best of them, or a military driver drive with the best of them?

Perhaps the worst aspect of the new policy is its total rejection of the compassion and camaraderie for which the armed forces are rightfully praised. The United States of America does not kick its soldiers when they are down. We have a proud tradition of standing by those courageous enough to dedicate their careers to the defense of our nation. That tradition will end the day this new policy is enacted.

Military personnel discharged under the new policy will lose their jobs even if they exhibit no signs of illness. They will lose their right to disability benefits and their spouses and children will lose their health care coverage. This policy is worse than wrong, it is un-American.

The same day that President Clinton signs the bill that includes this new policy, a bipartisan group of senators will introduce legislation to repeal it. The president and our senior military leaders support repeal. Despite their strong support, the odds are unclear. But I am certain about one thing:

Those who vote "no" should take a good look in the mirror.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
WILLARD CURTIN

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Henry David Thoreau wrote in 1849:

Even the death of friends will inspire us as much as their lives. . . . Their memories will be encrusted over with sublime and pleasing thoughts, as monuments of other men are overgrown with moss, for our friends have no place in the graveyard.

I am here today to honor the memory of Willard Curtin, who served in this esteemed body as the Representative from my district from 1957 until his retirement in 1967.

Mr. Curtin's life was dedicated to public service and his memory should inspire us all. Before running for Congress, Mr. Curtin served as Bucks County's district attorney from 1949 to 1953. Prior to that, he was Bucks County's first assistant district attorney.

He ran for Congress in 1956 to succeed retiring Representative Karl C. King. His campaign theme was based on his belief that President Eisenhower's policies were sound and should be continued. He served Bucks and Lehigh Counties during the Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson administrations.

Mr. Curtin retired to Florida where he continued to lead an active life. His grandson will always remember him as the energetic, active, sharp minded man that he was, even to the end of his life. He also will share with his grandchildren this story: One of Mr. Curtin's most prized possessions was his grandfather clock. When he would go away, Mr. Curtin would stop the clock's pendulum so it would not disturb the other residents in his building. Even though he had not traveled in a long time, the clock was stopped 6 minutes after 1 o'clock. The coroner later estimated the time of his death to be at 1:10 a.m.

I ask you all to join me in remembering the hard work and dedication that Mr. Curtin gave to this country so generously.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY D. KERN

HON. ANTHONY BEILENSEN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. BEILENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to Harvey D. Kern, who is retiring as director of public affairs for the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California [LAC-UCS] Medical Center.

In addition to serving as director of public affairs for over 9 years, Mr. Kern oversees volunteer and chaplain services and serves as a government relations representative for the medical center, which is the largest acute care hospital in the United States and provides a variety of patient care services, teaching and research opportunities, and includes the largest HIV/AIDS outpatient center in the country.

Mr. Kern is a native of Los Angeles and received his bachelor of science degree in pub-

lic health from UCLA and his master of health science degree from Cal State University, Northridge [CSUN]. His long and distinguished career in the health care field includes 32 years with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Sciences, as a faculty member of CSUN for 23 years, and as an assistant professor at USC. He is a fellow in the American Public Health Association, past president of the Los Angeles County Health Services Management Forum, and serves on the joint public affairs committee of the California Healthcare Association.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting Harvey D. Kern for his many years of dedicated service in the health care field. We send our warmest congratulations on his many contributions and accomplishments, and our very best wishes for the future.

HARD BARGAIN FARM—ALICE
FERGUSON FOUNDATION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Center located in Accokeek, MD. On January 23, Hard Bargain Farm was named the winner of Renew America's National Environmental Award. This award is part of the 6th annual Renew America National Awards for Environmental Sustainability. The awards are given each year to programs throughout the Nation that demonstrate leadership and excellence in environmental sustainability.

I have long been a supporter of the educational programs offered by Hard Bargain Farm and commend them on this selection from a pool of over 1600 applicants in 24 categories. I have been honored to work hand in hand with them throughout the Fifth Congressional District to protect the Potomac River through education efforts, environmental stewardship, and conservation action projects.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition of Hard Bargain's achievement and dedication to the environment marks two important firsts. Not only is this the first time that Renew America has honored a Maryland organization in the institutional education category, but it is also the first time that a National Park Program has received such recognition.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Speaker, Hard Bargain Farm has worked in a unique and highly effective partnership with the National Park Service to develop quality environmental education programs. I commend the leadership and experience of the Alice Ferguson Foundation and am very proud to rise today with my colleagues in recognition of this very special award.

THE PUBLIC'S TRUST

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for

Wednesday, February 21, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IMPROVING PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

It is no longer news that Americans have lost confidence in the federal government. Anger at the government and disgust with elected officials have increased, causing voters to jump in different directions. Americans believe government fails to deal adequately with crime, economic insecurity, and other of the country's biggest problems. They have concluded that government either makes things worse or is incapable of making them better.

It has always been true that people in this country have been skeptical of power and have cherished the right to beat up on their leaders, and in many respects that attitude is healthy. The Constitution of the United States is based on assumptions of wariness of government and each other. That's what checks and balances are all about.

But most elected officials, including me, believe today that public cynicism is severe, intense and stronger than it once was. Restoring confidence in government actions is a daunting task.

CAUSES

Most agree that the distrust of government and elected officials reflects a broader loss of reliance on each other, a civic breakdown in which divorce, crime, and economic anxiety all play important roles. Many Americans are frustrated by an increasingly impersonal economy. Their anxieties are fostered by a changing economy and the highly partisan nature of current politics. People wonder whether there's anything they can depend on. More fundamentally, the experts think that the mistrust of government is part of a larger problem. Americans just don't trust one another as much as they used to.

The media bear some responsibility for the mistrust of government as well. They tend to emphasize and encourage conflict and to downplay consensus. They encourage people to think things are worse than they are. You cannot be very upbeat after watching the evening news. It certainly exaggerates the violent and the sensational, and reduces complexity to a 15 second sound bite. The impact of television often is to isolate people; prevent sustained engagement with other people; and, because of its emphasis on violence and the dark side of human nature, increase pessimism about our fellow human beings.

Elected officials, of course, share much of the blame. It has become easier to lead people by dividing them than by finding areas of agreement. Running against the government in order to serve in it has been the standard practice in American politics for a long time. Elected officials take great delight in attacking the very institutions they serve in and are responsible for. They also create high expectations by promising quick-fix solutions but rarely delivering on them.

SOLUTIONS

So how do we deal with these problems of distrust? It's very clear that political rhetoric will not help much. The credibility of all elected officials is simply too low.

It is important that elected officials try to connect with people through town meetings and face-to-face contact. In the end there's really no substitute for an elected official to spend time with his or her constituents. People want their representatives to listen and be accountable. They have to see some connection between themselves and the government. But there are limits to public meetings. After all, elected officials have been holding them for years without putting the brakes on public distrust of government.

Elected officials have to learn to promise less and produce more. They can help by not