

from the U.S. Department of Education. Lower Merion has a record number of National Merit Scholars and its students have just won their fifth consecutive State championship in the Academic Decathlon.

The achievements of the students and athletes of Lower Merion represent all that is good about our public education system. The school district and the students educated there are a monument to what can happen when local officials and parents work together to craft an educational and athletic program which provides a well-rounded background as these young men and women prepare for their adult lives.

Mr. Speaker, as the Representative who has been given the honor of serving the people of Lower Merion and the entire 13th Congressional District, I offer my congratulations to the student athletes of the Lower Merion Boys Basketball Team, their coaches, and families on the occasion of this great State championship. And I offer best wishes for a future I know has been forged in the fires of hard work, strengthened by the dedication to excellence, brightened by the light of potential and nourished by a caring community and family.

IN HONOR OF MS. LIDIA GIL-  
RAMOS FOR DISTINGUISHED AND  
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE  
SENIOR CITIZENS OF NORTH  
HUDSON COUNTY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos, an outstanding individual who has distinguished herself by her selfless commitment to the senior citizens of Hudson County. Ms. Ramos will be honored at the 22d anniversary dinner of Tertulias de Antano, a senior citizen recreational program she founded.

Ms. Ramos emigrated from Cuba and arrived in Union City, NJ in 1965. She is a woman who seems to have been born for social work and community service. In Cuba, she taught primary school during the day and volunteered her nights teaching elderly farm workers who never had the opportunity to attend school. Upon receiving her master's degree from the University of Havana, she became director of a large nursing home in San Miguel de los Banos, Matanzas in central Cuba.

Once in the United States, she found employment as an income maintenance specialist for the Food Stamp Program in Jersey City and undertook further training in working with elderly citizens. Her service to seniors began in the Cuban refugee program of Union City. During her service, she witnessed the dejection and solitude that many Cuban seniors experienced in their new surroundings. Determined to address and to improve the social environment of the Cuban senior community, she founded the Tertulias de Antano recreational program on October 13, 1974.

Ms. Ramos devotes much of her time to coordinating the details of the program, which provides seniors with information on health care issues, English-language programs, and

social events within the community. Today, not only do seniors in the Cuban-American community praise the program, but so do seniors from other Latin American countries now living in Hudson County. All this is due to the vision and enduring commitment of one woman dedicated to the overall happiness of the senior community.

Ms. Ramos' commitment to the senior citizens of Hudson County exemplifies the true meaning of compassion and community service. For her outstanding work and leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this wonderful individual. I am proud to have such a remarkable woman living and working within my district.

RECOGNIZING AARON MICHAEL  
EINBOND, 5TH PLACE WINNER OF  
THE 55TH ANNUAL WESTING-  
HOUSE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young man, Aaron Michael Einbond of New York, NY. Aaron, a senior attending Hunter College High School in Manhattan was chosen on Monday March 11, 1996, as the fifth place winner in the prestigious Westinghouse Science Awards.

Since 1942, the Westinghouse Science Talent Search has identified and encouraged high school seniors to pursue careers in science, mathematics, and engineering. The search is sponsored by Westinghouse Electronic Corp. through the Westinghouse Foundation in partnership with Science Service, a nonprofit organization.

Over the years, more than 113,000 students from all over the country have entered projects into this prestigious competition. This year, 735 high schools from all 50 States submitted entries to the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Only 40 students may participate in the final round of judging and from that pool of 40 students, only 10 finalists are awarded scholarships.

Aaron's project explored a new protein domain through the use of protein sequence database searches. It resulted in the isolation of two human genes.

Aaron is not new to winning awards. He is a three time winner of the Manhattan Borough Science Fair competition and a multiple winner of various school science fairs. This talented young man is also an award winning composer and gifted musician who plays the clarinet. This fall, Aaron will enroll as a freshman at Harvard University where he will have the opportunity to pursue his two loves: music and science.

I congratulate Aaron on his accomplishment of being awarded a Westinghouse Science Award and I salute the Westinghouse Science Talent Search and all the winners for acknowledging the hard work of young people like Aaron.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 3136, CONTRACT WITH  
AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT ACT  
OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 28, 1996*

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3136, the Contract With American Advancement Act. Over the past 15 months, Republicans have made truly historic efforts to change business as usual here in Washington, DC. Central to those efforts has been our drive to finally put our Nation on a credible path to a balanced budget.

Despite the fact that Republicans crafted the first balanced budget since 1969, we have learned that a supposedly revolutionary idea like balancing the budget takes two elections. Despite this setback, we have not given up the fight.

Republicans continue to believe that Washington spends too much, taxes too much, and that government is too big. That is why we are doing all we can to reduce spending, reduce taxes, and shrink the size of government.

While we may not be able to accomplish as much this year as we had hoped, we are dedicated to doing as much as we can—right now. That brings me to the measure before us today. While we continue to work to keep our promises to the American people for a balanced budget, we must not put the Nation at undue risk. This vote—to authorize the Government to borrow more money by increasing the Nation's debt limit—is not easy.

Congress has twice sent the President a bill that extends the Government's borrowing authority. President Clinton has vetoed both bills. Now Republicans again act to avoid default.

Our current debt limit stands at \$4.9 trillion. And it is growing everyday. Someone, someday has to pay off this debt. I do not want to leave it to the next generation. We have a responsibility to our children, and to our children's children, to end this pattern of destructive out-of-control spending.

Mr. Chairman, \$4.9 trillion is a lot of money. To put that figure into perspective I want to share just a few facts. If we were to pay all of the debt off today, a family of four would need to contribute over \$72,000 as their share of the debt. A single person's bill would come to just \$18,000.

Every week we continue to have this debt, that family's personal share of the debt rises by \$89. Every month—\$383. For most families, this is a monthly car payment which ends in 4 or 5 years. But this is not a car payment, it is our national debt. You keep giving, but you get nothing in return and you continue to pass the tab onto our children.

Included in this measure is what I believe to be one of the most important tools necessary to fix our irresponsible spending habits—the line-item veto. To demonstrate how important this tool is, I am willing to give the authority to a President of a different party. To those who say the President will use it for political purposes, I say nonsense. The President currently has veto authority. With line item authority he simply could remove the misguided pork barrel spending without killing the entire bill.

It is time we give the President what 43 Governors have: the fiscal responsibility to strike out the pork. The American people clearly are in favor of this provision, as well they should be. With a new debt ceiling of \$5.5 trillion, it is time we stop Congress' out of control spending.

The bottom line is that we are in far too deeply. Over the past 15 months Republicans have made the difficult choices necessary to reduce the size of the Federal Government, to provide families and employers with badly needed tax relief, and to provide for a balanced budget in 7 years. We are building a path to the future that restores both hope and opportunity for all Americans—from my parents to my children and to their children yet to be born.

Our Nation is at a crossroads. There are two competing visions of America's future. We can either adhere to the status quo as the President suggests—which means higher taxes on families, more spending, more debt, fewer jobs, and less opportunity for our children—or we can follow a new responsible course by balancing our Nation's budget, cutting taxes and restoring hope, confidence, opportunity, and prosperity.

To be sure, it has not been easy making the tough choices needed to reach a balanced budget. But those are decisions that we have been willing to confront. In no way should today's extension of the debt limit relieve us of this responsibility. To the contrary, we must be more vigilant than ever in bringing our Nation back to a responsible fiscal path. To the next generation—to my own two sons—I say that Republicans are committed to redoubling our efforts to convince the President that enactment of a balanced budget is our single most important responsibility.

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DAY OF NATIONAL HUMILIATION,  
FASTING, AND PRAYER

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to submit excerpts from President Lincoln's proclamation for a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer which was intended to promote a national day of healing and reflection after turbulent times. Mr. Vern Ihm, a constituent of mine, brought President Lincoln's proclamation to my attention and thought President Lincoln's message is still relevant today. In keeping with the spirit of reflection I would like to enter excerpts of President Lincoln's proclamation into the RECORD.

And whereas, it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord:

And, in so much as we know that, by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisement in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now deso-

lates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our rational reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and powers as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Tuesday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain on the day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, in their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper onto that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

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TRIBUTE TO THE NEW JERSEY  
STATE POLICE UPON THEIR 75TH  
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Jersey State Police on their 75th anniversary. The service of the division of State Police is invaluable to the people of New Jersey.

On March 29, 1921, Gov. Edward I. Edwards signed legislation creating the New Jersey State Police, and appointed Col. H. Norman Schwartzkopf as the first Superintendent of the State Police on July 1, 1921. In December 1921, 81 troopers and officers left Trenton and took up their initial assignments as the first statewide police force in New Jersey.

In the 75 years since their creation, the New Jersey State Police has led the way in the field of criminal justice. Among the techniques that the State Police has pioneered include the Nation's first Underwater Recovery Unit, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, and the DNA database and databank, which allows the inclusion of DNA records in the FBI's national identification index system. The police have shown their impressive skill in such historic events as the Lindebergh kidnapping, the Hindenburg zeppelin disaster, the Hall-Mills murder trial, and the Woodbridge train wreck.

Today 2,500 troopers valiantly serve New Jersey in many capacities. They patrol our

roadways, including the New Jersey Turnpike, the Nation's busiest limited access nonstop toll road. They enforce the criminal, motor vehicle, marine, and alcoholic beverage control laws of New Jersey. They also maintain the State Police Museum and Learning Center as a tribute to the men and women who have served the State of New Jersey as State Police troopers and officers.

The people of New Jersey are indebted to the honor and dedication of the New Jersey State Police. Today I congratulate State Police Superintendent Maj. Carl A. Williams, Jr., and all of the ranks of the State Police on reaching this milestone, and look to many more years of continued service.

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THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES  
ACT OF 1996

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. LATOURETTE intends to introduce a bill that will curtail the spread of non-native aquatic species in our Nation's waters. As you know, I am from New Jersey and this issue is of particular importance to our State. Over 130 miles of coastline and with delicate estuary and river ecosystems, non-native aquatic species could destroy our environment. This is already happening in Mr. LATOURETTE's district on Ohio. New Jersey shares coast line with States that are already suffering the horrors of these forms of biological pollution.

In addition, these non-native species, such as the zebra mussel, tapeworms effecting trout in the Mississippi River, and the green clam which harms steamer clam production in the Gulf of Maine, cost us millions of dollars in lost revenue and increased costs to businesses.

This bill establishes national guidelines for the removal and cleansing of shipping ballast water to stop the accidental introduction of non-native aquatic species into ecosystems. This is important to my State which has extremely active ports in the Newark area as well as on the Delaware River, and since, by weight, 98 percent of all U.S. international commerce occurs by shipping, this is a problem about which every coastal and Great Lakes Member should be concerned.

This bill takes a pro-active approach to environmental legislation in its efforts to address potential environmental disasters before they begin. Pro-active solutions give us reasoned, scientifically sound, less expensive, more effective, and more efficient solutions than reactive measures. I urge your support for this important bill.

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TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF  
MARE ISLAND

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 29, 1996*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, when the last workers leave Mare Island Naval Shipyard as it closes March 31, 1996,