

on Medicare fraud and abuse prevention activities since 1989, despite historic savings rates in excess of \$10 for every \$1 invested in prevention. Our plan devotes more resources to the fight against fraud and abuse.

We also toughen criminal laws and enforcement tools for intentional fraud and abuse. The lack of a specific Federal health care fraud criminal statute, coupled with weak sanctions, has significantly hampered law enforcement's efforts to combat health care fraud. That is why it is so necessary to create this new criminal offense for activities such as theft, embezzlement, false statements, and money laundering. We then provide for mandatory forfeiture of property in such cases. In addition, civil monetary penalties will be substantially increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for each item or service involved. All of these efforts will serve to deter future abuses.

Strengthening prevention, increased funding for the battle against fraud and abuse, better coordination and enforcement, new criminal fraud statutes—all of these are included in this bill. I urge my colleagues to support our effort to end this annual \$100 billion rip-off of taxpayers by supporting the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it was necessary for me to return to my district on Thursday, March 28, before the final vote of the day was taken. I would have voted "no" on the procedural motion to H.R. 3136; "yes" on the final passage of H.R. 3136, "yes" on ordering the previous question on the modified closed rule (H. Res. 392) for H.R. 3103; "no" on the amendment in the nature of a substitute (H. Res. 392) to H.R. 3103; "no" on the motion to recommit H.R. 3103; "yes" on passage of H.R. 3103; "yes" on agreeing to the conference report on H.R. 2854.

NATIVE-AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act introduced by Housing Subcommittee Chairman LAZIO. I am an original cosponsor of this bill because I believe there is a pressing need to assess and reorganize native American housing programs in this country. Chairman LAZIO's bill is a strong step in the right direction. However, my primary concern in adding my name to this bill is to insure that the needs of native Americans in my State and across the country are given serious attention and consideration, and that Indian tribes have a leading role in the development of this lasting legislation.

There are nine federally recognized tribes in South Dakota, whose members collectively

make up one of the largest native American populations in any State. At the same time, South Dakota has 3 of the 10 poorest counties in the Nation, all of which are within reservation boundaries. Unemployment on these extremely rural reservations averages about 50 percent. Yet economic depression on rural Indian reservations is not unique to my State. I believe strongly that housing is an integral and most basic component to economic development for Indian and non-Indian communities alike.

Federal expenditures for social programs continue to exceed investments for economic growth in Indian country. Tribal leaders in my State and elsewhere have struggled to break the cycle of dependence upon the Federal Government. In keeping with this Nation's special trust responsibility to sovereign Indian nations, I believe Federal programs must promote the self-determination and self-sufficiency of Indian communities. I support the premise of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act because Congress must prioritize programs which develop infrastructure on reservations and enhance economic growth for tribal communities. Additionally, the extreme health problems that many Indian communities face can be linked directly to inadequate housing, problems that can begin to be addressed through this Indian self-determination legislation.

I agree with Chairman LAZIO and the Native American Indian Housing Council that Indian housing should be divorced from public housing programs because of the unique needs of Indian country and the many economic challenges that must be overcome. I am particularly supportive of the funding initiative outlined in this legislation which is based on the section 108 loan guarantee for Community Development Block Grant funds. The flexibility in funding and in the administration of housing programs that this bill promotes is the key to tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination in housing management. Ultimately, this self-determination will result in increased access to safe, affordable housing for native American people nationwide.

The unique housing needs of Indian country warrant a continued Federal commitment to successful tribal housing programs. I look forward to working with Chairman LAZIO, my colleagues, and Indian tribes nationwide to make the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act a reality, with the health and welfare of Indian tribes our foremost priority.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition and celebration of the outstanding contributions of women to the history of this Nation and to society as a whole. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this special order and to add my voice to the chorus of praise for those women who have contributed so much.

In primary and secondary schools across the country, young women and young girls are being exposed to the accomplishments of notable women of history. While they can appre-

ciate the heroism and the ingenuity of these women, they may not yet fully understand that many of these accomplishments came at great individual sacrifice, were not fully appreciated at the time they occurred, and were often the result of long struggles to gain the opportunity to excel at their chosen pursuit.

Women's History Month also provides an important lesson to our young men and young boys in those same classes. They learn to recognize that their classmates, their sisters, their mothers, and all women have dreams similar to their own of careers and contributions. These boys can then better appreciate that women are equally valuable and equally capable of leading society in the next breakthrough in whatever field one chooses to pursue.

At the same time, we adults are reminded that while great progress has been made, particularly within our lifetimes, sufficient progress remains illusive. Too often our wives, daughters, and friends share with us the frustrations of obstacles to their careers rarely faced by males. These challenges come in the form of harassment, doubting of ability, and unfair choices placed on women concerning family objectives as opposed to career objectives that are not similarly placed upon men.

The children in our classrooms today need to enter a work force that is free of harassment, free of bias, and full of respect, full of opportunity and full of challenge. As our children enter and succeed in the workplace they need to look back at the contributions of the women who broke ground in their particular field. In so doing, they will appreciate not only the contributions of these women but also the barriers that have been removed to women as a result of their persistence.

There are no career fields in which we, as a Nation, can afford to restrict the contributions of talented, motivated workers. Our society cannot afford the disruptions caused by the lack of respect shown towards successful women in the work place.

Similarly, our society can not afford to minimize the contribution of women who choose to interrupt, delay, or forego their careers in order to tend to the needs of their families. Whether single or married, women today bear a disproportional share of the work involved in keeping our families strong and on a positive track. The struggles of mothers today, who seek to raise their children in a safe and moral environment, are unlikely to be the subject of the history lessons but are of historic proportions.

As we consider and honor the notable figures of the distant and recent past, we should also go home today and honor the historical women of the future and encourage their pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. TAYLOR

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I join with the family and many friends of John W. Taylor to offer congratulations on his retirement as the Director of the United Auto Workers and good luck to a man of courage and vision who has devoted his life to helping the working people of America.

Throughout his four decade career with the labor movement, John has displayed unmatched leadership and integrity. His legacy is one of numerous, outstanding, and long-lasting contributions on behalf of the working people of America.

John established himself as a man of true courage in 1982 when he bucked the vested interests in the United Auto Workers as well as the machine of an incumbent Member of Congress to support the long-shot candidacy of an underdog challenger. John recognized that I would help give Philadelphia's working people a voice in Washington and he was willing to put his career on the line to be one of the first to give me the help I needed.

Despite strong pressure from the establishment, John stood his ground because he had the people's interests at heart. It was his strength, determination, and tenacity that brought me an endorsement from the United Auto Workers—a key factor in a tight election which I won by less than one percent of the vote.

A born-and-raised citizen of Philadelphia, John W. Taylor, worked hard to strengthen the aircraft unions in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Originally a volunteer organizer for Piasecki Aircraft—now known as Boeing Helicopter Company—John was the first elected chief organizer by his fellow workers in May 1956. John was then elected to the union's first executive board and through the years served as the local union's editor and recording secretary before becoming president in 1967.

In 1967, John had become the president of the largest local union—the UAW's region 9—which consisted of 7,200 acting members. As president, he successfully administered such a large organization with five locations and supervised the construction of the union's \$250,000 Walter P. Reuther Memorial Building in Eddystone, PA.

Soon after becoming president of UAW's region 9, John was assigned to the region 9 servicing staff, where his major duties included collective bargaining, arbitration, mediation and all forms of dispute settlements until 1980. Also in 1972, John was appointed to the staff of the international union, UAW, by then president, Leonard Woodcock, and regional director, Martin Gerber. He was selected to coordinate the activities in the UAW's Community Action Program [CAP].

In recognition of his loyalty and hard work, John was appointed to a transition team by then Governor-Elect Robert Casey in 1986. This important position led to a labor friendly Labor and Industry Department for the 8 years of the Casey administration. Finally, in 1987, Governor Casey selected John to represent labor and the UAW on the Pennsylvania State Job Coordinating Council [SJTCC] which was established under the Federal Job Training and Partnership Act [JTPA]. This position has been directly responsible for the securing of hundreds of thousands of dollars in job training funds into UAW programs and to UAW members. He continues to hold this position under Governor Tom Ridge.

Personally, this tribute is only a small token of my gratitude for John and his accomplishments over the years. His work with the UAW and the citizens of the Philadelphia region is greatly appreciated and will be missed by all. John's valued judgment has been an asset not only to me but to all people associated with

him as well. I am proud to say that John W. Taylor has become a close personal friend of mine and I wish him well on a richly deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I join John's wife Jean and his family and friends in congratulating him for a lifetime of service, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the United Auto Workers and the working people of America.

MAJ. GEN. (SEL) RONALD C.
MARCOTTE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, an outstanding Air Force officer, and an exceptional individual: Maj. Gen. (sel) Ronald C. Marcotte. On March 26, 1996, Ron Marcotte handed over command of the 509th Bomber Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base after serving as its commander from the beginning of its operational status—April 1, 1993. Major General Marcotte will be the new director, strategic target plans (J-52) and deputy director, plans and policy (J-5), at U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, NE.

During his command of the 509th, Major General Marcotte was responsible for the oversight and successful completion of the facility construction as well as the beddown of the B-2 fleet. His accomplishments, as expected, went far above and beyond his described duties. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Major General Marcotte a fond farewell from the 509th Bomber Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base. Missouri will truly miss him.

SALUTING PUBLIC BROADCASTING
EXCELLENCE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege for me to recently address the Association of America's Public Television Stations' [APTS] annual meeting of member stations to discuss my proposal to privatize funding for public broadcasting. I am among those working to reduce Federal spending, without sacrificing the high quality of television programming available to all Americans from the Public Broadcasting System.

Public broadcasters have for many years provided Americans—particularly young Americans—with programming of exceptional educational value. My own 6-year-old daughter enjoys watching "Barney and Friends," "Sesame Street," and other children's shows produced by public broadcasters. And as a student of the Civil War, I believe that "The Civil War" may have been the finest television series ever aired on public, or commercial, television.

During the APTS annual meeting, two public broadcasters in Texas were recognized for excellence in their fields. Rodney Zent of KAMU-TV in College Station was named one

of seven "Visionary Public Broadcasters" and was presented with the 21st Century Award for his outstanding contributions to the public television system. And Leon Collins of KUHT-TV in Houston was one of eight recipients nationwide to receive the Grassroots Advocacy Award, presented to those individuals and public broadcasting stations who work to garner support for public television in their communities.

I salute Mr. Zent and Mr. Collins for their past efforts to enhance the future of public television.

Mr. Zent has spearheaded Texas A&M University's efforts to impose its distance learning program. On April 3, KAMU, in partnership with GTE, will unveil the Center for Distance Learning Research, which will offer training in distance learning and cutting-edge telecommunications technology. Last year, KAMU coordinated 3,400 videoconferences on its TRANS-TEX Videoconferencing Network, which provides real-time, two-way video, data and Internet services to 44 locations throughout Texas.

Mr. Collins at KUHT has enlisted his staff, the University of Houston, and supportive volunteers on behalf of public television. Due to his efforts, the University of Houston's newsletter now features a column containing legislative news from Capitol Hill, and the station's legislative needs are a high priority on the university's agenda. It is precisely this type of local, community support, that will be key to public broadcasting's future, and I salute him for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee, I want to reiterate my support for public broadcasting—and reiterate my desire that future generations of Americans benefit from the fine, educational programming it makes available to all our citizens.

Individual efforts by persons like Rodney Zent and Leon Collins—together with enhanced local support for outstanding public broadcasters like KAMU and KUHT—will ensure that this valuable public resource will remain with us for many years to come.

YOUTH ART MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this month we have celebrated Youth Art Month, a valuable advocacy program that cultivates and emphasizes the importance of art and of quality art education in the lives of today's children.

In today's world, filled with harsh realities and ambiguity, children often lose touch with themselves and their surrounding environment creating a damaging gap. Since art is not only a representation of life in its physically, emotionally, and spiritually, it provokes self introspection and, in turn, helps to bridge this gap. Youth Art Month reminds us that this importance should never be taken for granted, for art is one of the most integral components in the development of a child's imagination and cognitive mind. Art adds a new dimension to a child's personality—a dimension of imaginative thought, subjective interpretation, and perhaps most important—individuality.