

the country and then resume fighting. If withdrawal may well lead to another war, why does the Clinton administration remain committed to it.

Similarly, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has recently told Russian leaders that NATO expansion will go forward but was ambiguous about the timing. Such hesitation gives Russian hard-liners time to whip up domestic public fears and to pursue a diplomacy aimed at defeating the expansion.

Moscow has already succeeded in prodding German chancellor Helmut Kohl to retreat on the issue. He had been for it but recently called for taking it off the current agenda in light of Moscow's attitude. To be sure, the impact of Russian policy in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia has been largely negative. When Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov visited Hungary last month, he demanded that Hungary desist from joining NATO; Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs refused, reiterating Hungary's desire to enter the western alliance. Primakov was sufficiently jolted, to leave the door slightly ajar for a "compromise," "taking into account the concerns of all sides." But how long can these governments withstand Russian pressure? What alternatives will they be forced to seek?

Opponents of NATO's expansion say that the central European states should be satisfied with membership in the European Union and its security sub-group, the Western European Union. As these countries are beginning to realize, the European Union is setting economic criteria for admission that they cannot meet in this decade, and perhaps not in the next. They are likely to react by pushing much harder for early admission to NATO. If they don't get it, the only alternative for central European countries would be accommodation to Russian demands.

The hesitant U.S. policy on NATO expansion reflects anything but strong U.S. leadership. Why the delay? Several technical reasons have been advanced. The armies of these countries are insufficiently modernized to meet NATO standards. The military costs to their weak economies are too high at present. The cost to the United States of accepting the defense of these countries is too high. These arguments are mostly spurious.

The external military threat to the region is so small that it imposes virtually no risk to the United States and its NATO allies for years to come. Moreover, the cost of defending the eastern border of Poland is far less than the cost of defending the inter-German border during the Cold War. And what about the more distant eastern border of Turkey we are now committed to defend? Nor is there good reason to demand that the Polish, Czech, and Hungarian armies meet NATO standards in the short term. Spain joined NATO without being able to meet them. And some countries already in NATO hardly meet them.

The real reason for hesitating on NATO expansion is fear of Russia's reaction. Admitting even three, maybe four central European countries, some administration officials believe, will strengthen Russian hard-liners, divide Europe, and provoke a milder version of the Cold War. This fear should be taken seriously—but only because the administration's policy of forbearance on NATO expansion is encouraging Russian beligerence.

In the summer of 1993, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the Polish and Czech governments that they could join NATO if they desired. He returned home and reversed his position under pressure from hard-liners in his military and in the parliament. This apparently convinced the administration that postponing NATO expansion would strength-

en Yeltsin and his liberal advisers. During the subsequent two and a half years, those advisers have been replaced by hard-liners, and Yeltsin now sounds like the Russian defense minister, Gen. Pavel Grachev, the ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, all of whose bash NATO expansion. In other words, hesitation has strengthened precisely those Russian leaders it was intended to weaken. If Russia's intentions beyond its current borders are in doubt, the Duma's non-binding rejection in March of the treaty ending the Soviet Union should clarify Moscow's aims; today the restoration of the Soviet Union, tomorrow Russian hegemony over central Europe.

Most American opponents of NATO expansion insist that no Russian, now favors NATO expansion. This, of course, is true. The climate of intimidation that delaying expansion has allowed to develop in Moscow makes it unsafe to express honest views on the matter. In a recent visit to Moscow, I was told by two former government officials that the United States should expand NATO quickly right after the June presidential elections. That would take the air out of the balloons of the Russian hard-liners, and they would soon come to accept it. My interlocutors also confirmed my suspicions about the climate of intimidation that prevents them and others from speaking out in favor of NATO expansion.

All this is not to say that NATO expansion is simple. Legitimate questions can be raised about the security of countries not included, particularly Ukraine and the Baltic states. Still, leaders in all of these countries privately concede that a limited NATO expansion is better for them than none, especially if additional future expansion is not ruled out in principle.

The main purpose of NATO expansion is not primarily military protection for new members but to provide an umbrella that engenders confidence among democratic and market reformers and intimidates extreme nationalists who might try to exploit ethnic minority sentiments in the way former Yugoslav communists used them to create the war in Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

The opportunities for nationalist provocation are real. A large number of Hungarians live uneasily in southern Slovakia, in Romanian Transylvania and in northern Serbia. Russia has been pressing Poland for a ground corridor to its Kaliningrad enclave on the Baltic Sea (formerly East Prussia). A Polish minority lives in Lithuania, while Latvia and Estonia have large Russian minorities. Moldova formerly part of Romania, faces an uncertain status. NATO expansion is to preempt some of these problems and to give pause to those who might exploit them.

Indeed, we cannot afford to fall in Bosnia, even if it takes more than a year to succeed, any more than we can afford to encourage an irresponsible Russian foreign policy by delaying a limited expansion of NATO. The two challenges are a single piece of cloth. And they are the unfinished business of the peaceful strategic transformation of Europe.

HONORING THE EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY 1995 FOOTBALL SEASON

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, it has been a part of our heritage as Americans to recognize

excellence. The American Dream is built upon the premise that if someone gives his best, plays by the rules and never gives up, good things will happen. Today, I want to talk about one such success story that occurred this past fall in Charleston, IL.

The 1995 Eastern Illinois University Panther football team had an outstanding 1995 campaign. Under the leadership of Coach Bob Spoo, the Panthers finished the season with a 10–2 mark—the fifth best record in school history—while qualifying for the NCAA I-AA playoffs. The team was co-champion of the Gateway Conference, and has won 14 of its last 16 games. For these accomplishments coach Spoo was named Coach of the Year by the Gateway Conference and the American Football Coaches Association Region I-AA and Co-Coach of the Year by the Football Gazette National. These are the results when a team has good leadership and is dedicated to striving for excellence.

Mr. Speaker, as their record attests, Eastern Illinois University has one of the elite football programs in the country. The Panthers have been an enormous source of pride for the surrounding community, and the prospect of spring practice is eagerly anticipated. I am honored to represent Charleston and Eastern Illinois University in Congress. I wish Coach Spoo and his players continued success as they prepare for another season in the fall.

HONORING THE SOUTHEAST VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTER FOR
JEWISH HISTORY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Center for Jewish History. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the establishment of this very important institution and in recognizing the immeasurable contribution it will make to the study of Jewish history.

The Center for Jewish History is comprised of four established institutions: the American Jewish Historical Society; the Leo Baeck Institute; Yeshiva University Museum; and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. These established and highly respected institutions have become partners in the visionary creation of a center devoted to the study of Jewish history and culture. The goal of this major partnership is to house each of the partner-institutions' research libraries, preserve each of their collections of historical documents, works of art, and objects, and to plan and mount exhibits of these combined collections. The new Center for Jewish History will also publish important works of scholarship, present lectures and educational events, and sponsor fellowships in Judaic studies. With the cooperation of major universities, the center will also establish specialized graduate and post-graduate studies programs.

The collaboration of these four important institutions to form the center for Jewish History is an unprecedented enterprise. Sunday, April 28, 1996, marks the celebration of the center's founder's day. With the support of the Jewish community and the collaboration of the four established partner-institutions, the center is destined to become a major educational and cultural resource for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute here today to the inception of the Center for Jewish History, whose establishment marks an important milestone in the advancement of the study and preservation of Jewish history. I ask my colleagues to join with me in this tribute and to celebrate the creation of the Center for Jewish History, a very significant contribution to the resources for advanced Judaic scholarship in the United States.

ON COSPONSORING H.R. 3199, H.R. 3200, AND H.R. 3201, FDA REFORM

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to add my name as a cosponsor of the three bills that make up the comprehensive Food and Drug Administration [FDA] reform being considered in the House. Most Americans believe that the FDA approval process for new drugs, medical devices, and foods should be streamlined to ensure that citizens have access to life-saving products. Many believe, however, that this streamlining effort also must preserve the public's confidence in the agency's mission of protecting the health and safety of consumers. I agree

with both concerns and believe that both goals can be met through commonsense legislation.

While I have some concerns about these FDA reform bills, I strongly agree with the underlying principle that there are constructive reforms of FDA that should be enacted. I am cosponsoring these bills because I believe they are a step in the right direction. At the same time, I believe it is critical that the hearing process function as it should, providing an opportunity for all interested parties to air their concerns and assisting Congress in making changes in the legislation as appropriate.

Some of the people who have approached me about FDA reform have described it as a "work in progress." Therefore, I look forward to seeing what progress can be made to address some of the concerns I have heard regarding safety. In particular, I know that breast implant recipients, understandably, have some concerns along these lines. I also have had expressed to me an uncertainty about moving too quickly to privatization, as well as concerns expressed from the State level about changes in the State and Federal relationship.

I am convinced that a middle ground can be reached to reduce bureaucracy and delay, while also protecting the public health and safety. I believe that, while not perfect, these three bills set us off down that path toward appropriate FDA reform.

HONORING DELMONT LODGE 43,
FORMERLY VALLEY FORGE
COUNCIL, BSA

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a group of citizens that have had a tremendous impact on the 13th Congressional District over the past 66 years.

This year these citizens, members of an organization known as the Order of the Arrow, will merge their lodge, Delmont Lodge No. 43, with the founding lodge of the Order, Unami Lodge No. 1, to form a new lodge. They are merging as a result of a merger between two Boy Scout councils in the area. Valley Forge Council, which formerly served Montgomery and Delaware Counties, including the 13th Congressional District, and Philadelphia Council, which served the city of Philadelphia, consolidated their operations into the Cradle of Liberty Council on the first day of this year.

The Order of the Arrow is an honor camper society within the Boy Scouts of America. The scout units select from members in their troop those who have represented the best principles of Scouting and nominate them for membership in this organization. Following an ordeal which the candidates face several personal challenges, they become members of the brotherhood.

This organization has its roots in the Delaware valley. It was started in the summer of 1915 by E. Urner Goodman on Treasure Island, an island no more than 30 miles up river from Philadelphia in the middle of the Delaware River. He devised this organization as a means to keep young men interested in returning to summer camp every year.

Word of Goodman's organization spread, and some members of Valley Forge Council,

known at that time as Delaware and Montgomery Counties Council, were inducted by members of this original lodge. As time progressed, staff at the council's camp in Green Lane, Camp Delmont, decided to start their own lodge. In 1929, with the help of Jack Foster, Delmont Lodge was born, and with it increased opportunity for the scouts in the 13th Congressional District.

One of the crowning achievements of the order has been its ability to successful combine youth leadership with adult advising. As a result, through participation in this organization millions of scouts have had the opportunity to experience direct leadership. The organization offers opportunities to work in event planning, publications, promotions, acting, and service.

Delmont's brothers have also spent innumerable hours giving service to the community and to Camp Delmont itself. They provide money for disadvantaged scouts to attend summer camp. They also promote the camp's program to over 150 individual scout units every year.

Delmont has also been recognized nationally for their outstanding level of service. In 1995, the lodge received the highest recognition any lodge can receive, the Urner E. Goodman Camping Award. It is only presented to eight lodges each year, two in each region. And in 1982, as well as every year from 1989 to 1995, they received national honor lodge recognition, ranking it consistently among the best of the lodges across the country.

Mr. Speaker, while on September 1, 1996, Delmont Lodge will merge with Unami Lodge, and despite that the name and number of this institution will no longer exist, the spirit and dedication of the individuals associated with this brotherhood will help preserve what they have accomplished over the years. These citizens will work to ensure that the new lodge works just as hard to provide assistance to just as many, if not more members of the community, and will honor their former lodge in all their endeavors.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK
HAWK SHOOTDOWN

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, April 14 marked the second anniversary of the Black Hawk shootdown, an accident which claimed the lives of 26 international servicemen. Among the victims was Capt. Patrick McKenna, the son of my constituents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. McKenna of Columbus, GA.

Captain McKenna was among an elite group of brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to complete a mission of selflessness in the face of tyranny. Their bravery and courage epitomize the strength of the human spirit and the dedication of those who give their lives to defend others.

To commemorate this heroism, the Eagle Flight Detachment Memorial Monument was constructed at the Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Giebelstadt, Germany. This memorial provides a tangible reminder to the victims' families and friends that their loss will never be forgotten. I commend all parties involved who had a hand in making this project a reality.