

effort yet, to bring taxes to a reasonable level and give families back their own money. In fact, just 2 days ago, a colleague of the President brought the other body to a standstill during an attempt to repeal the Clinton tax, saying, "We are simply going to shut this place down." The President and his colleagues will stop at nothing to keep America's tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Americans to earn more and keep more of what they earn. I urge the President and his friends to join my Republican colleagues and I and give American families the tax relief they deserve.

HONORING THE FARMINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Farmington 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.

100 CLUB OF BUFFALO

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, Friday, May 17, 1996, will mark the 12th annual 100 Club of Buffalo and Buffalo Bisons Baseball/Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS Appreciation Day at North AmeriCare Park in Buffalo, NY.

This spectacular event will feature law enforcement, fire, and EMS vehicles, a Buffalo Bisons baseball game and a fireworks display. This fundraising event is yet another example of the 100 Club of Buffalo's continuing commitment to provide services to the members of law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies, and their families, throughout western New York.

The 100 Club of Buffalo Inc. was founded in 1957 by former Buffalo Police Commissioner Frank Felicetta to provide financial assistance to families of public servants killed or seriously injured in the line of duty. The organization was only the second of its kind in the Nation and was called "Felicetta's Fellows" until it was incorporated in 1962 as the 100 Club of Buffalo Inc.

Over the last four decades, this independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization has grown to serve law enforcement, fire, and EMS officials in a variety of ways. The 100 Club has provided over \$1.5 million in assistance to more than 60 family members of fallen law enforcement and fire personnel, has sponsored more than 100 candidates to the FBI Academy and has provided tuition assistance and seminar training to more than 500 law enforcement and fire personnel. Moreover, the 100 Club has recognized public servants and private individuals for acts of heroism. In addition, the 100 Club has sponsored more than a dozen training seminars for law enforcement and fire personnel and provided more than 90 grants to assist injured police and firefighters.

The 180 members of the 100 Club of Buffalo reflect why Buffalo is the City of Good Neighbors, a community which recognizes as well as cares for those who make major sacrifices to protect it. They deserve our most sincere thanks, commendation, and best wishes for continued success.

ARMORED CAR INDUSTRY RECIPRO- CITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Improvement Act of 1996. This legislation represents a major improvement to legislation originally enacted in 1993 which provided reciprocity among the States for weapons licenses issued to armored car crews.

Armored cars and their crews annually carry billions of dollars in currency, important documents, and other valuables. In fact, the Federal Government is one of the largest users of armored car services in the Nation, transporting hundreds of millions of dollars annually in currency, food stamps, and other negotiable documents. Because of the value of their cargo, armored cars remain a ripe target for crime and their crews must be armed to protect themselves and their cargo.

In order to address the problems arising from differing requirements among the States for weapons licenses, the Congress passed the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act in 1993. This statute granted reciprocity for weapons among the States, so long as the issuing State met certain minimum training standards and required criminal background checks, much like a driver's license. While this act has improved the flow of interstate commerce by reducing the need for armored car crews to obtain licenses in every State in which they might conceivably operate, we have found certain problems in the original act which need to be addressed if the law is to have its full effect.

The Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Improvement Act of 1996 makes several changes to the original act. It would:

Grant reciprocity for the weapons license and all other necessary licenses so long as the armored car crew member has met all requirements in his or her primary State;

Require FBI criminal background checks only for the granting of an initial license, and permits the State agency to use whatever means they deem best to check backgrounds for renewal applications; and

Eliminate the requirement that renewal applications be reissued annually.

These changes are primarily technical in nature, and result from the fact that, while the Congress was considering the original bill, many States changed their weapons licensing schemes.

Nothing in this legislation would make it easier for a criminal to obtain a weapon or circumvent State or Federal gun control laws. It simply allows the brave men and women who serve as armored car crews to worry about their job—protecting valuable cargo—rather than worrying about various States' licensing requirements and paperwork.

The original legislation was supported by groups as diverse as the National Rifle Association and the International Chiefs of Police, and groups such as Handgun Control International had no objection to its passage. Since these changes simply are designed to improve the functioning of the original act, it is my belief that we can expect similar support for this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation when it comes to the floor.

FISCAL YEAR 1996 BUDGET

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the final piece of the fiscal year 1996 budget—the first downpayment on a 7-year balanced budget. This conference report is the product of months of negotiations and many compromises. It cuts discretionary spending by \$23 billion and sets the stage for the balanced budget this Congress promised to deliver.

A major victory in this package is language I sponsored to repeal the discriminatory ban on HIV-positive military personnel. The so-called HIV-discharge law was inserted into the fiscal year 1996 Defense authorization bill over the objections of the Pentagon, veterans groups, and many distinguished Members of the House and Senate. With the repeal of this provision in the conference support, I urge all my colleagues to cast a vote for simple fairness, commonsense, and all men and woman who serve our country with honor and distinction.

In addition, this budget plan restores over \$2 billion in Federal education funding. The original House-passed spending bill contained deep cuts in title I, School-to-Work, Goals 2000, and other key programs. The conference report restores much of the education funding needed to maintain a commitment to America's children and I urge my colleagues

to remember that a vote for this bill is a vote for educational opportunity.

Finally, due to extensive good-faith negotiations, this bill is a win for our environment. It does more to protect endangered species than the original House version, and eliminates a provision allowing oil drilling at the Tongas National Forest—the world's largest temperate rainforest. And under the final compromise, the National Park Service retains management authority of the Mojave Desert National Preserve—as outlined in the California Desert Protection Act Congress passed in 1994.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, this budget package is the right thing to do for our children and grandchildren who deserve our best efforts to give them a deficit-free future. This plan is the first concrete step in honoring this commitment and I urge all Members of the House to support final passage.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers who will be holding their annual "Food Drive" Day this Saturday, May 11, 1996. I would especially like to recognize those letter carriers in California's 13th Congressional District who have worked so diligently over the past few years to make this food drive such a great success.

The National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day began as a pilot program in just 10 cities in 1991. It has since grown into one of the largest one day food collection drives in our entire nation. Since 1993, letter carriers across the country have joined in a nationwide effort to make the second Saturday in May, "National Letter Carriers' Food Drive" Day.

This program has been a tremendous success. The first nationwide drive, in 1993, gathered 11 million pounds of food. In 1994, 32 million pounds of food were collected and in 1995 almost 45 million pounds of food were donated by postal patrons nationwide. This Saturday, letter carriers will pick up food donations as they deliver the mail. To participate, one leaves canned or non-perishable food next to one's mail box or takes it to the nearest Post Office. All of the food items collected that day are then delivered to local food banks.

Mr. Speaker, in the Bay Area, almost 300,000 people—half of them children—need emergency food. I urge you and my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the National Association of Letter Carriers for their efforts to help those who are less fortunate. I also urge anyone who can to participate in this Saturday's National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive.

HONORING THE FIVE POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Five Point 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.

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND SOUTH ASIA

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I have long advocated the importance of

the U.S. role in responsible trade in conventional arms and nuclear technologies, and I feel strongly that, as the world's remaining superpower, the United States can and should set an international example of positive political change through monitoring trade in nuclear technologies. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, I believe that stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be our highest priority in international relations. I am a strong supporter of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and its member nations. The NPT has helped prevent dramatic increase in nuclear weapon-capable states. I was encouraged by last year's indefinite extension of the NPT by consensus over 175 nations, and I actively encourage the recognition of nonproliferation at every level as the key to global security.

Since its implementation in 1970, however, many nations that have remained outside of the NPT have concentrated on the buildup of their own nuclear capabilities. These threshold nuclear states view the NPT as discriminatory, because the treaty divides the world into the nuclear haves and have nots and, as they see it, unfairly places nonnuclear nations at a strategic disadvantage relative to the nuclear states. At the same time, several of these nations have stated that, without significant steps toward reducing stockpiles for all member nations, the NPT cannot be the foundation for an end to the arms race and complete nuclear disarmament.

Nowhere is this attitude more alarming than in South Asia. Regional religious and political history, particularly with India and Pakistan, has encouraged heightened military unease in the region, and an association of nuclear capability with regional dominance. Pakistan, a nation of 130 million, has long feared being overwhelmed militarily by India, with its population of over 900 million. Historical alliances and relations with nuclear and nonnuclear nations elsewhere in the region have contributed to forcing these two countries in a race toward nuclear weapon capacity. I believe the nuclear arms race saps the strength of any developing country, and I have repeatedly expressed my concern about the nuclear direction in which these two nations have been headed. The future of our national, as well as global, security depends more than anything on our ability to restrain the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to enhance the breadth of opportunities for every citizen of the world.