

my colleagues a painful reminder of WWII and the Nazi Holocaust in Europe. Several months ago, it came to light that the German Government was paying military pensions to former Nazi Waffen S.S. soldiers living in the United States and elsewhere, while scores of Jewish survivors in Eastern Europe and even some in the United States have never received any compensation for the horrors that they endured. I have spoken out on this subject numerous times, but I wanted to commend my colleagues to an ad placed by the American Jewish Committee in the New York Times on May 7, 1997, which clearly outlines this horrible and tragically ironic state of affairs.

At the beginning of the ad, two pictures are displayed: One is of an elderly Jewish man who was a survivor of a Nazi ghetto in Eastern Europe, the other is of a man with arm raised in a Hitler salute, who was a soldier of the Waffen S.S. from Latvia. The headline asks: "Guess Which One Receives a War Victims Pension from the German Government?"

The text of the ad follows:

If you guessed the survivor, you're wrong, sad to say. While Holocaust survivors in other parts of the world are eligible to receive German pensions, Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have never received a pension of any kind from Bonn. Inexplicably, the German government has simply drawn the line at providing such direct assistance to this group of survivors. Not so, however, for many of the survivors' former tormentors. Believe it or not, the German government provides generous monthly pensions to Nazi war veterans whose injuries or even mild, chronic ailments qualify them for "war victims pensions." In the U.S. alone, there are 3,377 pensions sent each month to veterans of the armies of the Third Reich or their dependents! After the fall of communism, many Waffen S.S. veterans in the Baltic states and elsewhere in Eastern Europe discovered they, too, were eligible and are now receiving such pensions from Germany, while their victims are not. Today, an estimated 15,000-20,000 Jewish survivors of ghettos and concentration camps live in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. They are old, many are in poor health and financially destitute. Surely, they deserve some help and comfort in the last years of their lives. Join our call to the German government to correct this grievous wrong. Bring justice to the real victims of the Holocaust.

RECORD LOW UNEMPLOYMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, in April the national unemployment rate reached a 24-year low of 4.9 percent. Ohio's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent for April, according to Ohio Bureau of Employment Services statistics released last Friday. Unemployment fell in every one of the counties of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District. Clearly, the Ohio economy is very strong, with a robust labor market.

For the national unemployment rate to crack the 5 percent floor for the first time since the Nixon administration signals a fundamental change in the labor market. The accepted economic thinking has been that even a full-employment economy had a natural unem-

ployment rate of 5 percent or so. That is, that even during times of prosperity and growth you would have structural and short-term unemployment due to the normal function of the labor market, and that the figure was between 5 and 6 percent.

The parameters have changed, and it is the result of actions taken by the Republican Congress. Welfare reform probably had the largest single impact. As the States implement the legislation enacted by Congress, individuals are being weaned off welfare and into paying jobs. Over 1.3 million people left the welfare rolls in 1996, more than 650,000 of them in just the last 4 months of the year. When you reform social programs that discourage work, you are bound to get more wage earners.

Then there's immigration reform. With the tightening of restrictions on illegal immigration and the termination of benefits like unemployment insurance for illegal immigrants, jobs are moving out of the underground economy and are being filled by legal residents.

In addition, efforts made by Congress to deregulate businesses, promote competition, and cut government spending are all contributing to economic growth. The telecommunications and securities reform legislation passed during the 104th Congress are two prime examples where deregulation is eliminating redtape, expanding industries, and putting capital investment to more efficient use to create jobs.

Another factor contributing to the sustained economic expansion has been the increase in international trade. Fully half of U.S. economic growth during the past 5 years has been export growth. Free trade policymaking in Washington and a global perspective in Columbus have accrued to the advantage of the Buckeye State, where Governor Voinovich has worked to make Ohio one of the top exporting States in the Nation.

International competition benefits the U.S. economy in another important way, by working to keep prices down. We truly are part of a global economy, one result of which is that tight labor markets do not necessarily mean higher prices.

What we are experiencing now is record employment without accompanying inflationary pressures. With the exception of a few sectors requiring special skills in short supply, you have full employment without worker shortages. The old notion of what constitutes natural unemployment rates needs to be rethought. The Federal Reserve Board was correct not to raise interest rates yesterday, and it should not do so until such time as there is real evidence of inflationary pressure.

Finally, because the balanced budget agreement negotiated by GOP congressional leaders calls for tax cuts for families, capital gains tax relief, and reduced government spending, we can count on lower interest rates, continued job growth, and more money in the pockets of Americans—more of whom are working than at any time in history.

THE MEN OF ESSEX—AN EXTRAORDINARY GROUP

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to an

event that will take place this evening in Newark, NJ. It is the 39th Annual Essex Award ceremony of the Men of Essex. For 39 years this group of distinguished and dedicated gentlemen, the Men of Essex, has given time, expertise and resources to recognize and enhance the lives of students who have shown outstanding achievement and potential in academic and athletic activities. This evening, four of its founders—Winfred Gideon III, Hamilton V. Bowser, James Sherman, and J. Garfield Jackson, Sr., will be honored. All of these men are excellent role models and exemplify what it means to be of service to one's community.

In 1958 a group of men having a common interest in athletics and creating a better image for the youth of the County of Essex met to discuss the possibilities of forming an organization whose prime function would be that of providing the young athletes in the community with some incentive for achieving both athletic and academic distinction. Following several informal meetings under the leadership of Winfred Gideon, with whom I had the pleasure of working with at The Prudential some years ago, it was agreed that there was a need for such service and the Men of Essex was born.

Mr. Speaker, that was 40 years ago. Just a few weeks ago there was a summit in Philadelphia that focused on volunteer efforts and working with youth. I would like to commend and thank these men for having such foresight and remaining focused on such a laudable and practical mission.

WEST GLENS FALLS, NY, FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. That's why I travel home to my congressional district every weekend, to see the picturesque towns and scenery that marks the 22d district of New York. And my hometown of Queensbury and the Glens Falls community are certainly near and dear to my heart.

The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make such places great places to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the West Glens Falls Fire Company No. 1. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis. As a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand, and appreciate, the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

It has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents of my home town, the members of West Glens Falls Fire Company No. 1 continue to selflessly perform their duty without remiss. I can't say enough about the countless lives and millions of dollars in property they

have saved by doing so over the course of their 50 year history.

That's why I am so glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to them today. And for that matter, the residents of their community will have the opportunity to show their appreciation at a parade marking this momentous occasion on Sunday, June 1, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of this fire company, both past and present, are truly great Americans. I am proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of volunteerism which has been such a central part of American life. We would all do well to emulate the service of the men and women who comprise Fire Company No. 1 in West Glens Falls. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to them on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM DEFOE

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an impressive young North Dakotan. Adam DeFoe of Devils Lake was the 1997 State winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. Mr. DeFoe's essay is based on the theme "Democracy—Above and Beyond".

I am very excited to see such worthwhile ideas coming from North Dakota's youth. It is my pleasure to submit Mr. DeFoe's essay for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

(By Adam DeFoe)

"Democracy, above and beyond all other forms of government. What exactly does this phrase mean? To find out, I took each letter of democracy and found a word befitting this form of government starting with that letter. It is as follows.

First of course is 'D'. I chose two words for this letter. The first is dependence. Democracy stands for dependence upon the people for an efficient government unit. Dependence upon the people is the key to democracy, for without the people's say in the government, what kind of government is it?

My next word is dauntless. Synonyms for this word include fearless and bold. A democracy is indeed dauntless because it is government by the people. If the people are in charge, of course they will be bold and fearless. This is what they fought for, went above and beyond their call of duty for, for a government that is indeed above and beyond all others.

Next, we have the letter 'E'. For this letter I chose empowerment. Again we come back to the people. The people are indeed empowered in Democracy as it is their form of government: "of the people, by the people, for the people". Without a government such as a democracy, the people would have little or no say in the government, as is the case in lower forms of government such as a tyranny or monarchy, where the rule is just by a few and oftentimes by the least competent few.

We move on now to the letter 'M'. For this letter I settled upon majority rule. A democracy is rule by the majority, not by just the

wealthy or by those who inherit their positions. The voice of the majority is heard and ruled upon. The laws of the country are governed as such. This is government in its truest form, this is democracy.

Now we have 'O'. For 'O' we have obligation. This word relates not only to the Democratic government, but also to the people. The government's first and foremost duty is to do what is right for the people, to defend and protect their rights and interests. However, these people, too, are obliged to see that the government does these things, to see that the government is run well and efficiently. Moreover, it is the people's obligation to vote, so that their voice may be heard. For without this very important part of the democratic process it is very hard for the government, or democracy as a whole, to be above and beyond all other forms of government.

This brings us now to the letter 'C'. I found the word 'change' to be appropriate for this letter. People crave changes. Democracy gives them that. True, other forms of government do give change, such as a monarchy, for example, but in a democracy it's good change, a change the people want. Also, a change that democracy needs, to have fresh ideas and thoughts in the government. It is the people's responsibility to see that this change is brought forth.

Next, we have 'R'. Resilience. It is my belief that a democratic government is resilient. Resilience to change, and to recover quickly from these changes that are imperative to Democracy. Resilience is also needed to recover quickly from misfortune. The people in a democratic nation may band together more quickly than would other nations with other forms of government for the reason that they've had to work together in the past to form and make their democratic government work and will remain banded together in times of disaster.

After that comes 'A'. For 'A' we have adapt. This word is important to democracy in that democracy has evolved over time from other forms of government such as the caste system. Democracy originated in Ancient Greece and has since then adapted and changed to the needs of modern society.

Moving on now 'C', we have culture. A democracy can represent all forms of culture in a nation. It can represent all of the people, rich or poor, educated or not. This is the essence of democracy, representing all walks of life equally. Favoring no one. Going "above and beyond all other forms of government" in this way.

Finally we come to the letter 'Y'. For this I have chosen the word 'yes'. The word 'yes' in that I say yes to democracy, a fine government in which people can express their opinions without fear of oppression. A government where people can guarantee themselves the freedoms they want. Yes, a democracy, above and beyond all forms of government. I think it's spelled out quite clearly."

A TRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL ELIZABETH WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Annual Elizabeth Waterfront Festival. This 3-day cultural celebration will take place in my district on May 24–26, 1997, along the spacious Veterans Memorial Waterfront Park in the city of Elizabeth.

This weekend's festivities celebrate the enormously positive influence of Hispanic culture on the lives of the people of Elizabeth. The Elizabeth Waterfront Festival proudly exhibits the rich cultural traditions that Hispanics have brought to the city, and to the Nation. The artwork, music, dance, and cuisine at the festival represent the cultural mosaic of Elizabeth.

The Elizabeth Waterfront Festival recognizes the role business can play in helping people achieve their true potential and highlights the diversity that exists within the Hispanic community. Its success exemplifies the beneficial influence public-private partnerships can have on a community. In cooperation with the city of Elizabeth, sponsors of the festival include major companies such as Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Bustelo Coffee, HBO en Espanol, Best Foods, and Coca-Cola. Melly Mell Productions is once again producing the festival whose local sponsors include the Elizabeth Center at 13A, Twin City Supermarkets, Mega 97.9 FM Radio, Telemundo 47, TKR Cable of Elizabeth, Union County College, and First BankAmericano.

The Elizabeth Waterfront Festival observes the cultural and economic role that the Hispanic community plays in Elizabeth and it illustrates all that the city has to offer. Locating the festival on the waterfront was an inspired choice to highlight Elizabeth's business community since the city of Elizabeth's strategic location on New Jersey's coastline makes it a preferred destination for ships carrying goods from all over the world.

It is an honor to have such an exceptional event take place in my district. The festival brings our community together, reflecting positively on the city of Elizabeth and New Jersey. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and recognize this wonderful celebration of culture, community, and diversity.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICES ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a number of organizations provide volunteer medical services without charge to those who might not otherwise have access to medical care.

I think all of these people should be commended for lending a helping hand to their fellow man.

However, many of these organizations have been hampered in their efforts because the doctors must have a medical license in each State in which they volunteer their services. The State of Tennessee recognized this problem and addressed it by enacting legislation which will allow any licensed doctor to practice in the State as long as they are providing medical services to the poor at no cost.

Unfortunately, the State of Tennessee is the only State in the Union to have this type of law. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill, House Concurrent Resolution 69, which encourages all States to pass similar legislation.

I believe we need to reduce the rules and regulations which hinder the efforts of those who wish to help the less fortunate in our