

or pecuniary interest in the event of such question." The Ethics Manual cites numerous House precedents which tend to encourage voting, and provides hypotheticals for guidance. In my particular situation, the committee recommends that I recuse myself from debating, commenting upon and voting on USIA funding for my wife's specific program. I will follow this advice, and additionally refrain from communicating with any agency or person on matters related to this USIA Program. A vote on her program by itself is, of course, extremely unlikely.

I have prepared this statement to make public, and also to deliver to any agency or person when appropriate in connection with my work as a Member of Congress so that, should a matter of my congressional business involve USIA funding or the University of California at Berkeley, the recipient can weigh my advice or opinion knowing of the interest that I may have. However, I do assure any such recipient, and my constituents, that I have never, and will never, decide a matter of public policy differently because of my wife's relationship with the University of California at Berkeley.

A BILL DESIGNED TO HELP

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing H.R. 1877, a bill to improve the opportunities for veterans to obtain part-time employment while using their VA education benefits.

The cost of a college education continues to grow faster than the general rate of inflation. This means that in times of tight Federal budgets, it is difficult for us to provide the increases necessary for VA education benefits to keep pace with inflation. Clearly, a veteran, especially a married veteran, cannot go to school without an additional source of income. For most, that means a part-time job. But, for many veteran students, part-time jobs are difficult to find or do not fit well with class schedules. For example, veterans attending school at a large university located in small towns find part-time jobs nonexistent.

Under current law, work study positions are limited to colleges, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Defense. These positions involve veteran-related work and are compensated at the minimum wage level.

H.R. 1877 will expand the types of organizations which may apply for approval of work study positions. Federal agencies, schools, and community service organizations will be able to avail themselves of a dedicated, drug-free and proven work force at no cost through this bill. For example, a community-based nonprofit whose mission is to provide services to homeless veterans would be eligible to apply for positions to be filled by work study participants. As a result, veteran students will find it easier to get part-time jobs and homeless veterans will see an improvement in the quality of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides opportunities for people who want to work and improves services to veterans at almost no additional

cost to the Government. This is the type of program that rewards energetic young veterans who need assistance in finishing their education and is good for America. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1877.

HONORING BRIG. GEN. JAMES DOWNS LATHAM

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. SNOWBARGER, and I, rise today to pay tribute to the life of a man who has given much to his country. Brig. Gen. James Downs Latham is being honored Friday, June 20 for his retirement from the Air Force after a distinguished career of service.

A native of the Kansas city area, General Latham started his Air Force career in pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma after receiving a B.S. degree in psychology from Kansas State University in 1969. An accomplished swimmer, he attended the university on a swimming scholarship where he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He served as president of the Intrafraternity Council at KSU. He went on to become a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours, including 383 combat missions in Southeast and Southwest Asia. His commands have included a tactical fighter squadron, two fighter wings, a composite wing, Squadron Officer School, and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

General Latham's courage and bravery were exemplified by his voluntary assignment as a high speed forward Air Controller—(Wolf Fac.) during the Vietnam conflict. It was on such a mission that his F4 phantom jet fighter was shot down over North Vietnam in October, 1972. He was immediately captured and detained in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. In what has become known as a daring and legendary escape, he evaded his captors through the jungle and out into the South China Sea only to be recaptured and imprisoned in Hanoi until his release in the Spring of 1973.

Known throughout the entire Air Force as the best of the best aviators, he was selected as commander/leader of the Thunderbirds, the Air Force's elite demonstration team. He was the first major to lead this prestigious group of aviators.

He has received numerous awards and decorations. His decorations include the Silver Star with oak leaf cluster and the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster. General Latham was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry and devotion to duty while flying against opposing armed forces in Southeast Asia and facing certain torture and probable death while a prisoner of war. His Purple Heart was awarded for the wounds incurred as a direct result of the Vietnam conflict.

General Latham's many awards are a testimony to his qualities as a leader and to his abilities as a team builder in the finest tradition of the Air Force. Whether flying fighter aircraft, commanding fellow servicemen, or working in the Pentagon, General Jim Latham has shown courage throughout his career. Our Nation can be proud of this fine citizen whose dedication to his country make him truly a great American.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in extending congratulations to General Latham and his wife, Sue, his daughters, Minde, Kendra, and Brecke and his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Latham.

STATEMENT BY DANIEL LUZOR REGARDING GUN CONTROL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. That is the Second Amendment in its entirety.

The Second Amendment was one of the first amendments to be ratified being part of the Bill of Rights and is also the shortest and arguably the vaguest of all amendments in the constitution. Despite all of the discussions surrounding the issue, it is still not clear precisely what the amendment means.

The Second Amendment grew out of a law passed by British Parliament during the latter period of the Colonial era. The law effectively prohibited any colonist from possessing a firearm of any kind so as to prevent any possibility of rebellion. Eventually, of course, the colonists disregarded that law, overthrew the British and set up their own nation. Later once the Revolutionary War had been won and the United States was relatively secure in its status as an independent country, the founding fathers decided that it was necessary to formally allow the people a means of defense against the government.

One of the founding principles of the Revolution had been that the people had the right to overthrow the government if they believed it to be unworthy. One of the most effective means to overthrow the government was, of course, with firearms and so the Second Amendment was born.

Since the Second Amendment mentions the militia specifically, one would assume that the right to keep and bear arms relates specifically to the militia and that the intended meaning of the Second Amendment was that the people have the right to use arms as members of the militia in order to protect themselves from tyrannical governments.

On the other hand, if one considers the state of the world in 1791 when the Second Amendment was ratified, the notion of the founding fathers allowing exclusively members of state militias to bear arms seemed ridiculous. Most people in the 18th Century needed firearms in order to survive because most food needed to be hunted. Personal firearms were a necessity for survival and yet in today's society with cheap hamburger in every supermarket and good steak in every expensive restaurant, firearms are no longer necessary for survival. Therefore, one of the original reasons for the Second Amendment has perhaps been outlived.

What then is the use of the Second Amendment? I believe that the Second Amendment's relevance in today's world pertains to the militia. It is essential for the survival of American ideals that Americans have the right to overthrow corrupt government. That was one of the main principles behind

the Second Amendment, that Americans should be allowed to possess firearms in order to defend themselves as members of state militias.

Regardless of the intentions of the Second Amendment, the wording itself is rather vague. It does not specifically state in the Bill of Rights the extent to which firearms should be allowed. Therefore, it seems that simply from reading the Bill of Rights and without accounting for other factors, the possession of firearms can be limited although not prohibited altogether.

It is also important to remember that the Constitution was written with the awareness that it would be changed, that as the world progressed, new issues would become important and old issues would become less important.

We have repealed an amendment before and while I do not necessarily advocate repealing the Second Amendment, the amendments to the Constitution are not set in stone and if times change, the Constitution ought to change with it. Perhaps it is time to rethink the issue of gun freedom. Is the possession of a firearm a general necessity? Is the private possession of a handgun ever necessary? And, most importantly, do the risks of gun freedom outweigh the benefits?

IN CELEBRATION OF LAWRENCE MEINWALD'S 83D BIRTHDAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to call to the attention of our colleagues the birthday of an outstanding American and a resident of the town of Goshen in Orange County, NY, Mr. Lawrence Meinwald. On June 18, 1997, Mr. Meinwald will be celebrating his 83d birthday.

Mr. Meinwald was an immigrant from Warsaw, Poland, who came to the United States in 1920, when he was just a young boy. Mr. Meinwald spent 10 days on Ellis Island, being forced to remain there until our Government decided if the young immigrant should be permitted to stay. Luckily for him and for us, they allowed Mr. Meinwald permanent entry into the United States, where he has remained ever since.

Fourteen years ago, Mr. Meinwald and his wife, Carolyn, took a trip to Goshen, NY, looking for a haven from the hectic atmosphere of city life. They fell in love with the quaintness and historic character of the Goshen area and decided to make this country retreat their new home.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Meinwald and his wife set out to restore and revitalize their new community. The couple chose selected buildings in the village of Goshen which, although long neglected, had much promise for enhancement due to their architectural excellence and historic beauty.

Eight commercial buildings have been completely restored since Mr. Meinwald's arrival in 1983. Mr. Meinwald has installed elevators in all eight of the buildings, as well as creating other structural mechanisms designed to preserve the historical nature of the area. The most recent is an office building at 1 Railroad Avenue, so called due to its close proximity to the old Erie Railroad train station.

In celebrating Mr. Meinwald's 83d birthday, it is important to note that he has been a tre-

mendous asset to the Goshen community and to our entire region. In his restoration of the eight historic buildings in the village, he has provided both a great service to his community or his home and at the same time has found the small-town atmosphere that he was looking for.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in extending birthday greetings to an outstanding citizen of our community, Lawrence Meinwald of Goshen, NY.

TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of America on the occasion of their 85 years of service to our Nation's girls and young ladies.

Girl Scouts of the United States of America was founded in 1912 by Ms. Juliette Gordon Low, with 18 girls in Savannah, GA. Three years later the first group was established in Suffolk County, LI. In 1930, a noted environmentalist from Bellport, LI, Birdsall Otis Edney, became the first, and remains the only, Long Islander to be president of the Girl Scouts USA.

The mission of the Girl Scouts is to help all girls reach their full potential. To that end they teach girls to set and reach goals, improve their decisionmaking skills, appreciate the diversity of others, and to become leaders. Under the able leadership of its executive director, Marilyn Proios, and 8,360 adult volunteers, the Suffolk County Council provides this benefit to one of every four girls in Suffolk County, LI.

Next January, the Suffolk County Girl Scout Council will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding in Smithtown, LI. Since 1968, the Suffolk County Council has grown into the largest Girl Scout Council in New York State; serving 31,000 girls in Suffolk County. The Suffolk County Girl Scout Council is the largest youth-serving agency in all of Suffolk County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Girl Scouts of America for 85 years of outstanding service to the young women of the United States of America.

THANK YOU, FATHER DONALD LOUIS SHIRODA

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American public the retirement of a man who many residents of Michigan's Upper Peninsula think of as one of God's greatest blessings. Father Donald Louis Shiroda will retire from the priesthood at the end of this month after 37 years of dedicated service to the people and the communities of the Upper Peninsula.

After high school, Father Shiroda served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he

made the decision to become a Catholic priest. In 1950, he began seminary in Kitchner, Ontario at St. Jerome's, moving to Milwaukee's St. Francis Seminary 2 years later to study philosophy and finishing his theological training at St. John's in Plymouth in 1959. Father Shiroda then began his career as a priest serving as assistant pastor for St. Gregory Church in Newberry, MI.

Father Don has served numerous parishes and communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, subsequently administering to St. Thomas in Escanaba, St. Agnes in Iron River, St. Albert the Great in Houghton, Marquette's St. Christopher, Calumet's St. Paul the Apostle, Immaculate Conception in Iron Mountain, and the Sacred Heart Parish in L'Anse. In 1986, Father Shiroda was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Church in Sault Ste. Marie. He has been an example and leader of faith, human kindness, and the active living of God's love in the Sault area for the last 11 years. The people of the Sault have had the opportunity to know Father Shiroda's talents in many settings. Along with his service as Dean of the Sault Ste. Marie Deanery and Episcopal Vicar of the Eastern Region, he has also held terms as Sacramental Minister to Catholic Campus Ministry at Lake Superior State University and regularly performs mass at the Hiawatha Correctional Facility.

As Father Don recently stated about his community, "I love the people of the Sault, not only the Catholics, but everyone. I have just as many non-Catholic friends as I do Catholic. I'm a people person. I also greatly enjoy my work with children and working up in long-term care. I really enjoy those people. I wasn't any place longer than 5 years until I came here." The people of the Sault, and all across the Upper Peninsula love and enjoy Father Shiroda and it will be with a heavy heart that they witness the end of his distinguished pastoral career.

Father Don's last Sunday Mass will be said June 29, 1997, 37 years and 3 weeks after his first Mass was held in Newberry. Fortunately, he will not be saying goodbye to the area, but plans on continuing his ministry. "I'm going to reside in the Sault and help where help is needed," he has said. "People of the Sault are all people of God regardless of their denomination."

Mr. Speaker, Father Don Shiroda truly has been a blessing for the people of the Upper Peninsula and the Sault Ste. Marie area. As a practicing Catholic, I know the importance and value of priestly leadership and direction. Father Don is an example to all of us, Catholic and non-Catholic, because of his compassion and concern for the community and the people who surround him. Not only is he a spiritual model, but also a model American citizen and for this he deserves our recognition and praise.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all the residents of Michigan's First Congressional District, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Father Donald Louis Shiroda on his retirement, thank him for his dedicated service, and wish him well in his endeavors yet to come.