

the estimated 30,000 jobs that manufacture those exports.

The Bank is essential to the communities, constituents, and businesses in my district. Whether it's in Elgin or Aurora, Batavia, or west Chicago, companies and their employees are benefitting.

I wish to thank my friend from New Jersey, Representative ROBERT MENENDEZ, for joining me in making this a priority. I'm delighted that the Chief Deputy Whips from each side of the aisle can come together in making this a bipartisan effort.

IN COMMEMORATION OF
UKRAINE'S 6TH ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of the 6th anniversary of Ukrainian independence.

On August 24, 1991, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet declared Ukraine's independence from the then Soviet Union. The declaration was confirmed several months later through a public referendum in which 90 percent of Ukraine's citizens voted in favor of independence. At the same time, Ukraine elected its first president.

Since then, Ukraine has labored hard to transform itself from a Communist controlled republic to a democratic and free market country. This has not been an easy task. Unemployment and inflation have run rampant throughout Ukraine. Shortages of food and other essentials are common. And in many cases wages often go unpaid for months.

However, throughout this long ordeal Ukrainians have remained committed to reforming their country. Ukraine is one of only a few of the former Communist dominated countries to have a peaceful transition of power. In 1991 and 1994, Ukraine held successful elections for both president and parliament without violence or bloodshed. Furthermore, Ukraine's Parliament, the Rada, adopted its first post-Communist constitution last year guaranteeing future free and fair democratic elections.

Ukraine has also shown a strong commitment to peace and regional stability. For instance, Ukraine is in full compliance of all reductions in force under the Conventional Forces in Europe Agreement. Early this year, NATO and Ukraine entered into a charter that will ensure cooperation between the alliance and Ukraine on all regional security issues including peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. However, most importantly, Ukraine agreed unilaterally to dismantle its entire nuclear arsenal, the third largest in the world at the time, and sign as a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Under the leadership of President Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine has instituted a rigorous economic reform plan. Already this plan has helped to lower the inflation from an overwhelming rate of 10,000 percent in 1993 to an anticipated level of 25 percent this year. It has also led to the privatization of nearly 50,000 state-run small and medium sized industries.

This progress has not come without controversy. Like many former Communist coun-

tries Ukraine has had a difficult time dealing with graft and corruption among government officials. This has caused a great deal of concern among United States and other foreign investors who have had great difficulties doing business in Ukraine because of the lack of firm laws and regulations guarding against abuse of power. The government of Ukraine realizes the seriousness of this problem and has taken steps to correct the problems expressed by foreign investors and clean up corruption within the government. For example, President Kuchma announced a clean hands anti-corruption campaign which has resulted in a large shakeup at the highest levels of government within Ukraine. In addition, Ukraine's president has also established an advisory committee made up of Ukrainians, foreign investors, and President Kuchma to deal with investor complaints in an efficient and timely manner.

I view these as steps in the right direction, but clearly more needs to be done. Specifically, I encourage the Ukrainian Rada to adopt comprehensive legal reforms that will protect investors from unscrupulous officials seeking individual profit.

The United States has been a major partner in Ukraine's success and should continue to play a major role.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support aid to Ukraine so that we may continue to celebrate the occasion of a free and democratic Ukraine for years to come.

A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE,
SENATOR ROBERT D. WETMORE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valuable Massachusetts State legislator, Senator Robert D. Wetmore. On September 28, 1997, colleagues, family, and friends will gather to toast Senator Wetmore's distinguished career in the Massachusetts General Court. Allow me to inaugurate this celebration early by introducing Senator Wetmore and his accomplishments to this House.

Robert Wetmore dedicated his entire career toward serving others. Even before his 32 years in elected office, he committed himself to his colleagues as a head lineman for the Massachusetts Electric Co. and by presiding over the local union. In 1965, he first entered the Massachusetts General Court as a State representative. In addition to his participation on several standing committees, the combination of his innovativeness, foresight, and abilities, allowed him to steer several new initiatives. Among these are his participation on the Bicentennial Commission and the Special Commission on Bike Paths. His leadership in identifying the effects of growth patterns on the quality of life in the commonwealth placed him on the vanguard of proactive government by foreseeing issues and precluding problems.

In 1977, Mr. Wetmore entered the Massachusetts senate. He would continue to serve the people of the Worcester, Hampton, Hampshire, and Franklin districts, and the institution, for 10 terms. Beyond chairing and vice-chairing several standing committees, he con-

tinued to identify new areas of specialization and organize committees to address these issues.

Senator Wetmore subscribes to one of life's lessons that I hold dear to my own heart: It is not enough to leave a place the way you found it—you should leave it better. Were a person only to strive for this in private life, it would undoubtedly win other's trust and praise. When someone such as Robert Wetmore makes this his public mission in the General Court, everyone in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reaps the benefits. As a lifelong Massachusetts resident, I too, owe Senator Wetmore a debt of gratitude.

I ask all the Members of this House to join me in recognizing this dedicated public servant.

ONCE AGAIN, THE NEED FOR TORT
REFORM IS EVIDENT

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, a jury in New Orleans, LA, last week has given us a prime example of this country's need for serious tort reform. Ten years after a tank car fire, CSX Transportation was hit with a \$2.5 billion punitive damages verdict for this incident in which it was considered blameless by the National Transportation Safety Board.

No matter who was at fault, such an enormous punitive damages award in this case would still be out of line, because there were no deaths or serious injuries as a result of the fire. But to make matters worse, every governmental authority that reviewed this incident, from the city of New Orleans to the National Transportation Safety Board, found no fault with CSXT. In fact, the city of New Orleans issued a proclamation recognizing the individuals from CSXT who prevented the fire from spreading for their heroic actions.

Certainly local residents were inconvenienced because of the evacuation, but it was the trial lawyers who filed a class action lawsuit before the fire was even put out that convinced the jury to reach into the deepest pocket in the lawsuit, not the parties who were responsible.

Punitive damages in our legal system are supposed to punish egregious behavior, but Mr. Speaker, in this case what was the jury possibly punishing? These high cost punitive damage awards must be reigned in, from the McDonald's hot coffee case to the bad paint job on the BMW, the consumers are actually the ones who will feel the belt-tightening because of the lack of tort reform laws.

TRIBUTE TO TIFFANY MONROY

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the speech of Ms. Tiffany Monroy, a student at Sacred Heart Academy of Honolulu, which won the Voice of Democracy competition

sponsored by the Honolulu Veterans of Foreign Wars. I certainly give my personal congratulations to Ms. Monroy, the daughter of Daniel and Loretta Monroy. I also would like to express my appreciation to VFW Post 1540 of Honolulu and its Ladies' Auxiliary for sponsoring the event. I trust that it will provide inspiration to my colleagues as we deliberate and endeavor to legislate solutions to the issues our Nation faces.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND—1996-97
VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

(By Hawaii Winner Tiffany Monroy)

A mother had three children: Adam, Owen, and Daniel. Upon dying, the mother gave Adam to his banished father to be raised. Owen was given to his aunts and uncles to be raised. Finally, Daniel was given to the community to be raised by all. Years went by and the boys grew up. Adam became a rotund man who ate all he wanted when he wanted and no one could stop him from doing what he wanted. Owen grew up into a portly fellow who shared whatever he wanted with an esoteric group of friends. Daniel developed into a toned, lean, tall man, because he ate and worked depending upon the prosperity and needs of the community. It was he who soared above and beyond his brothers. These men soon became leaders of nations, taking with them the only governing methods they knew. When these individuals died, their governments lived on. Adam became autocracy, Owen became oligarchy, and Daniel became democracy. Like Daniel, who towered over his siblings, democracy remains above and beyond autocracy and oligarchy.

The three forms of government are like ladders competing to reach a great land—a land of great milk, great honey, and great chocolate—which coincidentally is at a great height. The amount of rungs a climbing individual has is in direct proportion to how many people have the power and authority to rule. "Contestant #1, with the ruling power in the hand of one sole individual, is Autocracy. Contestant #2, with the ruling power in the hands of a few people, is Oligarchy. Finally, last but not least, contestant #3, with the ruling power in the hands of many people is Democracy. Okay, contestants, on your mark get set, go! Wow, I don't know how Autocracy is going to get to the top with only one rung and I can't see how Oligarchy's gonna make it up. . . . But hark! Look at Democracy go! He's got enough rungs to get him to the top and then some! Go Democracy go! And the winner without any competition is Democracy! Just look at him standing at the zenith sparkling with sweat, way up above and beyond the other two!"

Democracy is able to maintain itself above and beyond any other form of government because of the level of participation democracy calls for from those who are governed. It calls on everyone to participate in their government since democracy is the form of government in which rule is by the people. As Pericles of Athens said, "Our constitution is named a democracy because it is in the hands not the few, but of the many." In a democracy people cannot sit back with their arms folded and leave decisions up to a sole person. Instead, they must unfold their arms, stand up, and take action for what they believe in. Democracy gives people the opportunity to be active participants in the government which rules them. Perhaps even better, democracy makes those who are governed care about their government. Because the power is in the hands of the people, it is the people themselves who must take responsibility for what happens to them, since it is

ultimately their choice. Therefore, they care about their government even more than those people who are ruled by autocracies or oligarchies. The caring, active participation that democracy calls for is what keeps democracy high above and above any other form of government.

Democracy remains untouched by any other form of government because there essentially no one ruling over the people. The marrow of democracy, the very core of this type of government is the fact that the people rules themselves. There is no almighty leader who says "this is the way things go" nor is there an omnipotent group who dictates "this is how all things shall be done." Rather, in a democracy, the people choose for themselves who they want and what they want and need. Perhaps Abraham Lincoln captured the quintessence of democracy by saying democracy is a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." This is exactly what puts democracy above and beyond any other government: the people have the ultimate say.

Through every age democracy has and always will remain above and beyond any other form of government because it calls for caring participation from the people by putting the power directly into the hands of the people. Democracy will forever stay above and beyond any other form of government because no one else has a ladder with as many rungs.

IN HONOR OF MARGIE WAGONER
OF HOUSTON

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Margie Wagoner, a teacher at Corpus Christi Catholic School in my district, who this Thursday will be awarded a \$2,500 grant by the Children's Television Workshop and Creative Classroom magazine to implement an innovative school project. Her creative and innovative teaching methods bring education to life for her students, and her outstanding efforts have now been nationally recognized.

Ms. Wagoner is one of only three teachers chosen to receive a grant in the second annual "Plan a Dream" program. She will use her grant to establish a "global garden" to give her students a better understanding of the world in which they live. Sixth grade students will research, plan, and build a greenhouse to support the global garden. Second graders will explore and grow plants from different areas of the world focusing on their ancestors' country of origin. Students will learn about the different plants in the garden, as well as the customs and folklore of the nations from which they originate.

Parents will recognize the Children's Television Workshop as the men and women who make educational shows such as "Sesame Street" and the "Electric Company" possible. But they also work with educators to help them improve both the way we teach our children and the environment in which we teach them. The "Plan a Dream" program recognizes the efforts of teachers like Margie Wagoner and tries to build on their success.

Open to all teachers of kindergarten through sixth grades, ideas were submitted in the areas of technology, math, science, language arts, social studies, and the arts. Projects

were judged by an expert panel on originality of the idea, explanation of education value, effective classroom planning, exemplary use of materials, ability to motivate students, and innovative lesson presentation.

I salute Margie Wagoner for her accomplishments and her commitment to teaching. She is an outstanding role model for her students, parents, and other teachers. Her national recognition is well-deserved.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 17, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

A Hoosier friend asked me the other day what's the most important thing to do to restore the confidence of people in the federal government. My response was that we have to make government accessible, responsive, and workable.

The critics of government certainly have a point. Government can be inefficient, inaccessible, and unaccountable. It is not hard to understand why government, especially the federal government, is under attack. But it has always seemed to me that the best answer to the critics of government is to make government work better.

COMPLICATED COUNTRY

Under our system of government we have a representative democracy—a government in which decisions are made by the people through their elected representatives. It is far from a perfect system. It can be difficult to understand, chaotic, slow, and frustrating. But I believe it is the best way for us to deal with our nation's challenges and problems.

We live in a complicated country of vast size and remarkable diversity. Since World War II the population of our country has more than doubled. Our citizens are spread far and wide, and they represent a great variety of races, religions, regional interests, and national origins. It is not easy to develop a system to enable such a country to live together peacefully and productively, but representative democracy allows us to do it. Representative democracy, for all its faults, is our best hope for dealing with our problems through a process of compromise, negotiation, and deliberation. Our system gives people an opportunity not only to speak but also to participate in the decision-making process and to engage with others in open discussion and debate. At its best, representative democracy gives us a system whereby all of us have a voice in the process and a stake in the product.

Many people think that the way to deal with their problems is to abolish politics. But politics—the process of compromise, negotiation, and deliberation—is the essence of how we make our system work. Politics may be unpopular but it is also indispensable. It is the way that we express the popular will of the people. We need to strengthen representative democracy, not enfeeble it.

ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT

In many ways we have lost what was the premise of government in this country when it was formed—the belief that government can work. The widespread public contempt