

support regardless of what Congress does. Instead of taking tax dollars out of the DC schools and placing those schools at risk of even greater disrepair, we must direct funds to fix the problems so all of the children in the District have an opportunity to learn in a safe, well-equipped public school. The \$45 million in question would be much better spent on school renovation, basic repairs, and improvements in academic performance.

General Becton—who was appointed by the Control Board created by Congress only last year—is implementing a program to improve academic quality, corporate and community relationships, infrastructure and management in the District's schools. The five schools where the reforms are in place have shown dramatic improvement in only 6 months. The public schools in our Nation's capital should be a shining example for the rest of the country, but they will never be if we do not give the programs already in place a chance to work.

Second, the Moran substitute eliminates the provisions of the committee bill that allow for the waiver of the Davis-Bacon Act. The Republicans are once again using the unions as a straw man to gain support for their position. They are trying to say that the Democrats are bowing to the pressure of the union bosses. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't even know what a union boss is. The union members I know are hardworking men and women working for a boss. I oppose this provision because it just doesn't make good economic sense.

Research has shown that construction costs in States with prevailing wage laws are lower than in States without such laws. In addition, Davis-Bacon ensures that we have a skilled workforce that produces a quality product that will last for many years. This year, the District's schools were 3 weeks late opening because of the crumbling schools. Why would we want the District schools to go through this ordeal again a few years down the road because their schools were rebuilt with shoddy construction?

Third, the Moran substitute eliminates the provision that sets limits on punitive damages in medical malpractice suits in the District. When people go to the doctor, they place their trust in that doctor. They expect and deserve to receive competent, ethical, professional treatment—and most receive it. Clearly, we have the finest medical professionals in the world. However, when citizens are maimed or killed due to medical malpractice, they or their survivors deserve a remedy.

The District ranks 45th nationwide in doctor discipline records—one of the worst in the country. Without an effective disciplinary board, punitive damages are the only means to punish physicians for egregious wrongs. By capping punitive damages, we dramatically reduce the ability of the District's civil justice system to deter wrongdoing by negligent doctors. The citizens of the District deserve better.

Mr. Chairman, today I stand with the members of the Black Caucus in opposition to this bill. We cannot continue to ignore the needs of the District. Now is not the time for this ill-conceived, irresponsible plan to advance the Republican legislative agenda to a simple appropriations bill. I urge my colleagues to support the Moran substitute and stop this social experimentation.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP LARRY D. TROTTER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 1997, the Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptist Church will come together to honor a great man. Their senior pastor, Bishop Larry D. Trotter, will celebrate 16 years of leadership within this august body and almost a lifetime of service to the community as well.

As a child, Bishop Trotter had an extraordinary desire to serve God. He attended Sunday school regularly and dedicated his life to Christ at the young age of 12. His unwavering dedication continued throughout high school and into adulthood.

It was not until 1981 that Bishop Trotter was called to minister at Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptist Church. Once there he led the body from a membership of only 20 active parishioners to one with over 3,000 parishioners.

Bishop Trotter's work extends far beyond the church. His ministry has taken him around the world to countries such as Uganda, Kenya, Belgium, and Israel. Bishop Trotter developed a C.A.R.E.—Counseling, Activity Resource and Education—Center and organized several antidrug and anticrime marches throughout the city. Bishop Trotter has maintained these and other commitments while having time to reach out to thousands through his weekly radio and television broadcasts.

I am pleased to be here today in honor of Bishop Larry D. Trotter. I with the bishop and the Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptist Church many continued years of growth and success.

TRIBUTE TO VA-HACU HEALTH CARE INTERN PARTNERSHIP

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Veterans Administration and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities [HACU] for undertaking a new partnership aimed at increasing Hispanic participation in health care professions. The program is being launched this morning at the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio. VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Kenneth Kizer and HACU President Dr. Antonio Flores will be present at the kick-off ceremony.

The program's goal is to place Hispanic interns in VA facilities across the country, providing them hands-on experience in a variety of VA health care settings. Students accepted into the summer internship program will work at medical centers, outpatient clinics, nursing homes and community-based clinics, thus providing a broad spectrum of experience opportunities.

The interns will complement over 100,000 health care professionals who are trained at VA facilities across the country. This experience is designed to educate interns who are pursuing careers in health care services, rang-

ing from physical therapy to health care administration. I commend the VA for its commitment to develop a workforce which reflects the communities served by the VA health care system.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN MCCARTHY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend CAROLYN MCCARTHY, and her son Kevin who will be getting married very soon.

Each of us are familiar with the circumstances that inspired CAROLYN to seek election to this House. Since the day she arrived, her commitment to making our society safe and to improving the lives of those she represents has been an inspiration to us all.

I know that CAROLYN is immensely proud of her son, who has demonstrated remarkable strength in overcoming odds most of us would find insurmountable.

Kevin McCarthy is truly a "profile in courage," and I am proud today to join those from our class in wishing he and his fiancée Leslie Nolan all the love and happiness in the world on their wedding day.

One phrase that is too often thrown around these days is "family values." If anyone really wants to know the meaning of that phrase, they need to look no further than CAROLYN and Kevin McCarthy.

It is a privilege to serve in this body with CAROLYN, and to honor her son Kevin for the life he has led—and wish him all the best in his new life with Leslie:

BACKGROUND ON THE WEDDING OF KEVIN MCCARTHY AND LESLIE NOLAN

Kevin McCarthy and Leslie Nolan met last fall during his mother's successful 1996 Congressional campaign. Previous to her employment with NASA, Leslie had worked for 10 years on Capitol Hill. With the political season heating up, she got the itch to get back into the game and contacted a friend at EMILY's List, a campaign resource group for female candidates, where she was hooked up with the McCarthy campaign. She arranged to take 6 weeks of vacation and came to Long Island to volunteer for the campaign. She became the candidate's travel assistant.

Leslie returned home in November to her job as a Senior Policy Analyst at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The couple began a long distance relationship via the telephone, train and New York shuttles. They became engaged on April 26, 1997 at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Kevin got down on one knee and proposed with a diamond engagement ring and a card in front of Longwood's beautiful waterfall. Leslie received a dozen roses each day the week before the engagement!

Their wedding will be celebrated by Deacon John Reinhart at the Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Mineola. 225 guests are expected. The couple will celebrate their nuptials with a wedding ball at the historic Ohoka Castle in Huntington. They will honeymoon in the Caribbean and are planning to make their home on Long Island.

Kevin McCarthy is the only child of Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy and the late Dennis McCarthy. Kevin is a Mutual Funds Clerk with Prudential Securities in New

York City. He is a graduate of the New York Institute of Technology and is presently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration in International Business at the same school.

Leslie Nolan is the oldest child of Mary and Nicholas Nolan, Sr. of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Until recently she resided in Bowie, Maryland. Leslie is employed by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies as Assistant Chief for Outreach in New York City. She has 2 sisters & 1 brother, as well as 3 nieces and 1 nephew. Leslie is a graduate of the University of Maryland. Her paternal grandparents, John and Mary Nolan of Venice, Florida, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Her maternal grandparents, Jules & Iola Jorgenson, reside in Fremont, Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO GOLDA GILCREASE
HENGST

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Golda Gilcrease Hengst on the occasion of her 100th birthday. The event will be celebrated on October 26, 1997.

Ms. Hengst was born on October 28, 1897 in Lemoore, CA. She had a romantic childhood playing in the orchards and vineyards of the rich California countryside before attending Lemoore Union High School. After studying at the University of California at Berkeley, she returned home and fell in love with William E. Hengst, a very successful car dealer. In those days, Mr. Hengst served double duty as a driving instructor, as most buyers of new automobiles had never even driven before.

William's skills were in great demand during World War I, so he answered our Nation's call by serving as an airplane mechanic in France. After the War, William and Golda were reunited and moved to Exeter, CA. Exeter brought the Hengst's more good fortune as they tried their hand at the plum farming business. The Hengst's plums soon became known for being of such high quality that they decided to patent two of their varieties. Today, their Golden Nectar and October Gem varieties remain industry leaders in taste, size, and pulp.

Along with ranching, Golda performed bookkeeping, served on the local school board and was a member of the Exeter Women's Club. She has been blessed with 5 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and 12 great-great grandchildren. Currently, Golda remains fairly active and enjoys spending time with all members of her family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the 100th birthday of Golda Hengst. Ms. Hengst's entrepreneurship serves as a model for all Americans. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Golda Hengst all the best.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 1534) to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the U.S. Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other Government officials or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions where no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to resolving Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and to clarify when Government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution:

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Chairman, earlier this week, I voted in support of H.R. 1534, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act.

As with most measure this body considers, the bill is a first broad stroke at a very important problem—helping property owners resolve as quickly as possible issues related to land use. The bill is intended to afford property owners access to Federal courts when constitutionally protected rights have been taken or affected by government actions.

To be sure, the bill needs some tailoring of its provisions and, as it moves forward, I believe that in working with landowners, environmentalists, and local officials such tailoring will occur. But to vote down the bill is a mistake. It is a mistake. It is a mistake because reforms need to be made in this area of our law and we need to begin the process by which these reforms can be made. H.R. 1534 is that beginning.

I very much appreciate the concerns raised by local elected officials. Dee Hardison, the mayor of Torrance, the largest city in my district, outlined in a letter to me the effect city officials believe H.R. 1534 might have. But let me point out that local governments will have no new limits imposed on their ability to zone or regulate land use. Local agencies will still have at least two and up to three opportunities, including one involving elected officials, to resolve land use controversies before their decision will be defined as final.

At that point, under the bill, landowners will be afforded recourse to file private property takings cases in Federal court. Takings cases, or claims that a State or local government action reduced the value of property, take on average over 9 years of litigation before conclusion, yet it is important to point out that the legal basis for takings cases is the fifth amendment prohibition against taking private property without just compensation.

Because some landowners do not have the resources to defend their cases for so long and that the current situation causes unreasonable delay in resolving takings cases, the bill allows property owners to take their cases directly to Federal courts, thereby circumventing the more lengthy and often disadvantageous State courts or local resolution processes. Under current law, the cases cannot go

to Federal court until it is ripe, or local resolution processes and State court appeals have been exhausted. This bill shortens the period after which ripeness occurs.

Property use decisions are appropriately the province of local communities and States. H.R. 1534 is intended to affect a streamlining of a time-consuming process where landowners are denied a requested use but where the ultimate question is a constitutional one—has there been a taking. In my view, the opportunity to answer that question is appropriately accelerated under the bill and appropriately raised before the Federal courts.

I support H.R. 1534 and look forward to making such changes as necessary to ensure it protects property rights consistent with the Constitution.

THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, to say I am disappointed with the outcome of the Interior Appropriations Conference Report as it pertains to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Corridor would be an understatement. The level of funding agreed to by the conferees does not in any way reflect the priority this is to the administration, to the House, and most importantly to the Nation.

The administration requested \$2.8 million for the wildlife corridor, which is truly a national treasure. I wholeheartedly supported this \$2.8 million request, and was successful here in the House in securing this amount. To see this amount reduced by \$1.9 million in conference reflects a true lack of vision not to mention a lack of commitment to preserving one of America's most priceless legacies.

By providing only \$900,000 for land acquisition, the conferees have ignored the importance of acting now to purchase lands from individuals willing to sell valuable wildlife habitat to the refuge. And let me point out that this is not a parochial issue. For years the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR has ranked first among the Nation's wildlife refuges. It is famous for its wealth of birds. Half of all bird species in the United States are found here.

The unparalleled wildlife richness is in danger. Twenty-one species in the Valley are federally listed as endangered or threatened, and another 3 species are considered imperilled in Texas. More than 100 of the 465 bird species found in the Valley are considered by the Texas Partners in Flight program to be "species of special interest."

Funding for the conservation land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has fallen short of the existing need for years. This year, the President and the Congress agreed in the Balanced Budget Agreement to provide an additional \$700 million for the LWCF. This was to be in addition to the \$166 million included in the President's request for fiscal year 1998. While the conferees have retained the total request, restrictions have been imposed that directly undercut funding for high-priority land acquisitions such as the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Diverting these already scarce funds to other uses, including