

no law, no court can save it." Only with a eminent desire to right what is wrong, to make just what is unjust, to equalize what is unequal, and to improve what is imperfect can man truly make a difference. Citizens must passionately believe in a cause and do their best to make sure that their dream is fulfilled. If, and only if, the hearts of man bubble with painstaking ability to fight for the liberty ingrained in the stars and stripes of America, then we can proclaim that no barrier is unbreakable, no problem is unsolvable, no aspect of moral degradation is unstoppable.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO ALLOW EMPLOYERS OPPOR-
TUNITY TO PROVIDE ALTER-
NATIVE MEANS OF PROTECTION
IN MEETING SAFETY AND
HEALTH RULES

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, when President Clinton promised to "reinvent" OSHA, he promised "to make sure that worker safety rules [would be] as simple and sensible and flexible as they can be." I think we all appreciate the President's goal. Certainly anyone who has had to deal with OSHA's rules would not describe them as simple, sensible, or flexible.

Unfortunately, OSHA has made little progress in addressing this aspect of reinvention. The Subcommittee on Workforce Protections recently completed hearings on the progress made in reinventing OSHA. It was apparent that little progress has been made in changing the regulatory progress. Even OSHA's Director of Regulatory Affairs was recently quoted as saying that "regulatory reinvention is not a subject that has gotten much attention."

The legislation which I am introducing will go a long way to make OSHA's rules "simple, sensible, and flexible"—without any diminishing of employee's safety. This legislation simply allows an employer to meet the same level of protection of employees that is mandated by OSHA's rules, but allows employers the flexibility to do so through means, methods, processes, or operations that are different than those which may be mandated by OSHA.

It may be argued that the Occupational Safety and Health Act already provides flexibility to employers in meeting occupational safety and health standards, by providing that employers may apply for a variance from any standard. In reality, OSHA's variance process is unwieldy, lengthy, and expensive. But the test for granting a variance—that the employer's alternative method of protection will provide protection of employees equal to or greater than that provided by the standard—is the same test as would apply under my legislation. What my legislation in effect does, is make the variance process more useable and useful for employers.

In short, this legislation gives employers precisely what the President promised: flexibility in worker safety rules without diminishing worker protection. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this step forward in reinventing OSHA.

REBUILDING AMERICAN SCHOOLS
ACT OF 1997

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot ignore the needs of our students any longer when it comes to the poor physical condition of our schools. We can see that many schools throughout America need assistance in continuing to educate our children.

We cannot allow our schools to continue with inadequate buildings, inadequate building features, and unsatisfactory building conditions. We can't sit by and watch our schools crumble. Congress needs to recognize that the quality of their learning environment affects the education children receive.

Our children need a strong foundation—better physical conditions—in the schools they attend. In some parts of the country the problems facing our schools' infrastructure have reached crisis proportions. Poor infrastructure is often a barrier to schools being wired to the Internet among other things.

We need the proper school facilities to deal with the surge of enrollment that is occurring right now. In the next 10 years, many school districts will have to cope with the need for more space to accommodate 55.9 million students, a jump of 9.4 million since 1990. New Jersey public elementary and secondary schools will see an increase of 109,000 students in the next 10 years, requiring 4,360 additional classrooms.

For all these reasons, I have introduced the Rebuilding American Schools Act of 1997, with Representative ROB ANDREWS. This legislation will assist local school districts finance the repair, renovation, alteration, and construction of public elementary and secondary school facilities.

A General Accounting Office report last year drew alarms in Congress about the need to repair and upgrade school facilities across the country. The GAO study stated that one-third of schools, serving over 14 million students nationwide, reported needing extensive repair or replacement of at least one building and 60 percent of schools, many in otherwise decent condition, reported at least one major building feature, such as plumbing, in disrepair. In addition, about half the schools reported at least one unsatisfactory environmental condition, such as lighting problems or poor ventilation.

According to the GAO, 19 percent of New Jersey schools reported one inadequate building, 53 percent reported at least one inadequate building feature, and 69 percent reported at least one unsatisfactory environmental factor. In total, 87 percent of New Jersey schools reported a need to upgrade or repair buildings to good overall condition.

Local schools rely on property taxes to support our country's public elementary and secondary schools. But communities everywhere are finding it increasingly difficult to support their academic programs much less their school facilities with local property taxes. The Rebuilding American Schools Act of 1997 would help communities support the repair, renovation, alteration, and construction of our Nation's public elementary and secondary school facilities. States and local governments would continue to maintain full responsibility

for determining their school construction needs and administering their infrastructure programs.

This legislation authorizes \$200 million in fiscal year 1999 to help States increase school construction and renovation targeting school districts that enroll the greatest numbers of children living in poverty. The loans and bond guarantees in the bill will apply to a wide range of improvement projects.

It leverages additional spending on school construction and renovation. And it applies to a wide range of improvement projects, including construction of elementary and secondary facilities, renovation to ensure health and safety of students, improvements of the basic infrastructure, increases in energy efficiency, and construction that prepares facilities for installation of modern educational technology.

This bill goes a long way to providing the proper infrastructural our children need to enter the 21st century. While many of the most desperate repairs and needed improvements are being met, these funds could help our schools meet additional needs. I look forward to the day when I can see the physical manifestation of this bill in better facilities for our children to learn and grow.

HONORING THE BRAVERY AND
SERVICE OF THE U.S. NAVY ASI-
ATIC FLEET

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Veterans Day, I am proud to introduce legislation honoring the bravery and dedication of the sailors and marines who served with the U.S. Navy Asiatic Fleet.

Formed in 1910, the Asiatic Fleet patrolled the waters of the Far East for 32 years, defending the interests of the United States and ensuring the safety of our citizens abroad during various regional conflicts and natural disasters.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the personnel of the Asiatic Fleet courageously opposed Japan's continued aggression in the South Pacific. Outnumbered and outgunned by a modern Japanese armada, the aging ships and submarines of the fleet fought valiantly, relying on wits, courage, and sheer determination.

Despite incredible valor and the help of our Australian, British, and Dutch allies, the sailors and marines of the Asiatic Fleet ultimately succumbed to the Japanese on March 1, 1942, when the flagship U.S.S. *Houston* was sunk near Indonesia. The total losses suffered by the fleet were staggering: 22 ships sunk, 1,826 men killed or missing in action, and 518 men captured, many of whom did not survive their internment.

Yet, the spirit displayed by those who served with the Asiatic Fleet was equally stunning. Charged with a near-impossible task from the very start, the Fleet "fought like hell," as one survivor recently put it. That these particular veterans have received little commendation is especially disappointing, for their cunning and fortitude in the face of such overwhelming odds is one of the finer moments in defense of democracy. We can begin to rectify

history's oversight with this resolution, and I encourage all my colleagues to support its passage.

HONORING A DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE, ANDREW P. O'ROURKE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Andrew P. O'Rourke, a public servant who has distinguished himself as one of New York's most outstanding community leaders.

With his recent decision to retire from his position as Westchester County Executive, Andy O'Rourke leaves a legacy of goodwill, Responsiveness and genuine concern for the citizens of Westchester. This is highlighted by the many community groups, such as the Westchester Arts Council, that are now calling attention to the success of Andy's 14-year administration as county executive.

The people of Westchester have been privileged to have had a stellar county leader like Andy O'Rourke. Since he began his public career in 1965 as a representative on the Yonkers City Council, through his time as chairman of the board of county legislators, and finally his tenure as Westchester's county executive, it is clear that Andy has maintained a sincere desire to serve the best interests of his constituents. Every resident of Westchester County can take pride in knowing that such a concerned leader was looking out for them.

However, Andy is not just a public servant. He is a playwright and author, having published two novels and is recently finishing a third. Andy is also an educator, having taught students in the 1970's as a law professor at Fordham University. He has also served in the important role of humanitarian in his work with the Cardinal Newman Foundation of New York, Big Brother-Big Sisters, and campaigns to fight AIDS, drunk driving, and racism.

It is the humanitarian role that has possibly drawn the greatest and most rewarding accolades for this great citizen. The outstanding service of Andy O'Rourke has been recognized over the years by the Jewish National Fund with the tree of life award, and as the 1986 B'nai B'rith man of the year. Other honors have been bestowed by Long Island University, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Greater Westchester Human Rights Fund, Bar-Ilan University of Tel Aviv, and the Westchester-Putnam Affirmative Action Program.

While this list is long, it is also diverse and well deserved. Andy O'Rourke has demonstrated love and compassion for his neighbors and their communities. I am proud to have known and worked with Andy O'Rourke. Having represented a portion of Westchester County since 1982, I know how committed Andy has been to the citizens of Westchester. We all regret that he is retiring from his position as County Executive, but we can look back with admiration at the significant work he has accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with me in saluting the Honorable Andy

O'Rourke and wishing him and his family continued success and good health in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS J. CARSON

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lois J. Carson's years of outstanding achievement and service to the San Bernardino and Riverside communities, and to bid her a fond farewell as she retires from more than 20 years of service on the board of trustees for the San Bernardino Community College District.

Mrs. Carson has dedicated her professional, and much of her personal life to helping improve the lives of those most in need in our community by promoting education and fighting poverty. Her early days as a teacher in San Bernardino County marked the beginnings of an admirable and illustrious career that has truly made a difference in the lives of many.

Mrs. Carson, the first African-American to be elected to the San Bernardino Community College District board, has served since 1973. During her tenure, she has served twice as clerk, vice-president, and president, and as a result of her leadership, the college district now offers a child care center, the Minority Transfer Center, and Community Forms—Vision 2001. She has greatly impacted higher education not only in her district, but also on the national level, serving on the board of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). In 1991, Mrs. Carson was recognized by ACCT as the top trustee in the U.S. with the M. Dale Ensing Award.

In addition to her work in the San Bernardino Community College District, Mrs. Carson served as the director of Project Upward Bound at the University of California at Riverside from 1972 to 1976, and, since 1980, has served as the director of the Department of Community Action for Riverside County. She has led the agency, whose mission is to move families out of poverty, in developing innovative, high quality community action programs for female-headed households, for minority males, for the homeless, and for all low-income residents of Riverside County.

Mrs. Carson's dedication to promoting education and fighting poverty also involves extensive community involvement. She is one of the founders of the San Bernardino Commission on the Status of Women, the Inland Empire chapter of the National Council of Negro Women [NCNW] and the Diocesan Assembly for African-American Catholics.

While she will be sorely missed on the San Bernardino Community College District board, Lois Carson has left a remarkable legacy and her work will benefit the district for many years to come. She has given, and continues to give, an invaluable amount of dedication and expertise to the people of the San Bernardino and Riverside communities, and serves as an example for us all.

SALLIE WILLIAMS, A GOOD CHRISTIAN WOMAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, October 26, marked the Annual Women's Day program at my church, Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. The church and its faithful congregation are led by our progressive pastor, Rev. Toney Jackson. Occasions such as this are used to recognize those persons who make a positive difference in the lives of a church family. I am proud to inform you that Mrs. Sallie P. Williams, my aunt, was afforded this honor this year.

Aunt Sallie, as she is known by both her relatives and her church family, has been a member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church for 65 years, since 1932. A deaconess since 1951, she has served as a member of the Willing Workers, the Progressive Women's Guild, and head of the church kitchen.

As a young woman, Aunt Sallie learned photography and that was her career for over 30 years. She is a good Christian woman who has served as a stalwart role model for many young people.

Aunt Sallie has always been deeply respected as the matriarch of our family, a kind-hearted and generous person with a special love of children. Following the untimely death of my mother during my boyhood, Aunt Sallie welcomed me into her home, along with my siblings.

She and her late husband, Lincoln, had a strong and beautiful marriage spanning many decades. They were totally devoted to each other, the embodiment of true family values.

Aunt Sallie has won the respect of all who know her through her strength of character, sense of purpose and commitment to her community.

I know my colleagues join me in extending congratulations and best wishes to a person of whom I am so proud, Sallie P. Williams.

COLD WAR MEMORIAL

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation creating a cold war memorial. This bill will authorize a commission to establish a memorial to honor the military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense, members of the intelligence community, members of the foreign service, and others who served the United States in pursuit of its cold war aims. This legislation will also commemorate the involvement of the United States in that conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this legislation is important, not only because it honors the people who valiantly fought the cold war, but will help future generations understand and learn about one of the most dangerous times in American history. The cold war may not have been as intense as World War II or as widely viewed as the Vietnam war, but it was just as real and just as dangerous. The United States