

project into an appropriation bill in the dead of night.

Clearly, this is not the case with the 38 military construction projects we are considering today. The White House admits that many of these projects were canceled in error on the basis of inaccurate information. Further, nearly all the projects were included in the Pentagon's long-term defense plan. These projects are not examples of the type of wasteful and excessive spending that the line-item veto was intended to address.

I have long supported giving the President the tools necessary to root out wasteful spending projects. In previous years I voted to grant the President a form of the line-item veto to rescind unnecessary spending; under this version, it would take a majority of the House and Senate to disapprove the President's veto. I continue to believe that it is inadvisable to give any President a line-item veto that requires two-thirds of both Houses of Congress to override. The requirement for a supermajority to override unwisely shifts too much power to the executive branch.

Despite this concern, I intend to fully support the President's veto of truly wasteful spending projects. As I have indicated, the 38 military construction projects before us today do not meet that test.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2631.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ACT OF 1997

##### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation calling for President Clinton to submit to the U.S. Senate and for the U.S. Senate to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. America needs to affirm these fundamental human rights for all children. Our Nation remains one of a handful of nations that have not seen fit to affirm civil, political, economical, social, and humanitarian rights for children.

Why should we do this? Let me cite just one example.

It is wrong that at least 200 million defenseless children are working around the world today without any hope of ever seeing the inside of a classroom. Many of these abused children are making products exported for sale in our shopping malls, sporting goods stores, and oriental rug shops all across America.

Consider the plight of millions of child laborers, some as young as 4 years old, who are sold into virtual slavery; that is, bonded and indentured servants, and chained to looms for 14 hours a day hand-knotting the oriental rugs that grace the foyers and living rooms of countless homes and offices all across our country.

Exploited children toil in factories, mines, fields, at looms, and even in brothels, sacrificing their youth, health, and innocence for little or no wages.

They are hand-stitching the Nike and Adidas soccer balls that our kids practice with every day. The very same soccer balls that were used at the Atlanta Olympics last year.

They are sewing the blouses and slacks that Kathie Lee Gifford was paid \$7 million a

year to promote for Walmart stores until she was embarrassed last year.

They are making Mattel Barbie Dolls that little girls across America play with every day.

They are even sharpening the surgical instruments used in our hospital operating rooms.

This situation is totally unacceptable and there are actions that must be taken to stop this affront to basic human decency. That is why I authored the recently enacted law to prohibit the importing of any products made by forced or indentured child labor for the first time in our Nation's history.

At the same time, our standing to push for a crackdown on child labor around the world would be strengthened if we would ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I firmly believe trade is not an end in itself, but a means toward attaining more economic justice, social responsibility, and environmental sustain ability in the United States and the global economy.

The fact that current trade rules go to great lengths to protect property rights, while ignoring the rights of working people—especially children—says much about the absurd priorities of our current trade policies.

Inside and outside the halls of government, we have the power to change this sorry state of affairs. Access to the American marketplace and consumer purchasing power are powerful sources of leverage that should be used to encourage foreign producers and importers to treat defenseless children and all workers with dignity and respect.

We need a trading system that protects the fundamental rights of children and all working people and not just the property rights of corporations and financiers. I am especially delighted that some Vermont teenagers have already begun to speak out and demand action in defense of kids overseas who cannot help themselves. I applaud their human rights leadership and I hope this Congress will go beyond the recently enacted ban that I authored to cut foreign aid to countries that fail to enforce their own child labor laws and to keep any imports made by children under 14 who are employed in manufacturing or mining out of the U.S. marketplace as has been proposed by Senator HARKIN, Congressman FRANK, and myself.

Mobilizing the global community against the scourge of child labor is critically important. Certainly, this effort will be greatly enhanced if America joins 169 other nations that have already ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### CONGRATULATING AMERICAN LEGION LEON BURSON POST NO. 395 OF PLANO, IL

##### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members and auxiliary of American Legion Leon Burson Post No. 395 in Plano, IL, on the post's 78th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the Leon Burson Post No. 395 of the American Legion was granted its charter in 1919, shortly after the guns fell silent in World War I, and the Legion auxiliary was

chartered in 1920. The servicemen and women who banded together to form this post shortly after our soldiers and sailors returned home were interested in keeping their spirit of camaraderie alive. They came together through the American Legion with a goal toward serving their community and their fellow veterans, and they have been meeting that challenge ever since.

Working with other community organizations, including other service clubs, civic groups and churches of varied faiths, the men and women of the Leon Burson Post have served their community faithfully and well. They participate in programs to benefit hospitalized veterans, they support the Illinois Boys and Girls State programs, sponsor Boy Scout and Cub Scout organizations, work with the local Mothers Against Gangs group, and host the annual Plano Youth Tackle Football banquet. They have held fundraisers for local residents who have needed assistance in meeting long-term health care needs and have even provided scholarships for local students. I could go on and on with the projects and programs these men and women have participated in, but let me just say that those that I have mentioned are but a brief sample of the fine efforts displayed by these dedicated post members.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations such as these that continue to make our Nation strong. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the post's anniversary, and to congratulate American Legion Leon Burson Post No. 395 of Plano, IL for their efforts on behalf of their community and our Nation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO HOLD OWNERS OF PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION LIABLE FOR UNPAID REFUNDS OF UNEARNED INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES

##### HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation which would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Education to hold owners of proprietary institutions liable for unpaid refunds of unearned institutional charges.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is necessary to protect students caught in the occasional mismanagement of higher education institutions. Students should be able to attend an educational institution and trust that their tuition and financial aid dollars are being handled properly. When this is not the case, the Secretary should have the power to impose appropriate sanctions not only against the proprietary institution involved, but also against the owner of the institution.

This legislation covers owners of for-profit institutions. I want to be clear that public and private non-profit institutions would not be affected by this legislation. Trustees of public and private colleges and universities would not be considered as owners or proprietors of an institution for the purposes of this legislation.

My bill will solidify the Secretary's power to hold the owner or owners of a proprietary higher education institution liable for financial

losses to the Federal Government and student assistance recipients. Presently the Secretary has the general legislative power to do so, but there is no meaningful mechanism in place to collect funds owed. Therefore, the Secretary has only been able to seek recourse from institutions, not their owners. Many institutions fail to make unearned refunds because they are bankrupt. My bill provides the Secretary with the mechanism to collect the funds. It does so by holding the owner liable in the same way that an individual would be responsible for penalties for the nonpayment of taxes.

Taxpayer dollars should be protected to ensure the continued availability and viability of student financial aid programs. A person who has left one proprietary institution without the resources to pay refunds due and owing to students should not be able to start another school without compensating students who are owed refunds. Yet this can happen now. My legislation corrects this problem by requiring that a proprietary institution of higher education may be provisionally certified only if the prospective owner provides the Secretary with financial guarantees.

Mr. Speaker, next year when we consider the Higher Education Reauthorization, I expect that interest in this legislation will grow. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in the months to come.

#### COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1997

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am very pleased to join my good friend and colleague from Connecticut, Mrs. JOHNSON, in introducing the Community Employment Partnership Act of 1997. This bipartisan legislation will provide communities across the country with a significant new tool in moving millions of Americans from welfare to work by establishing tax incentives for not-for-profit employers.

The central challenge of the new Federal welfare reform law is to help millions of public assistance recipients enter the work force. However, currently only profit-making employers are provided with the tools, principally in the form of the work opportunity tax credit, to recruit, hire, and train long-term welfare recipients.

Across the Nation, not-for-profits such as hospitals, nursing homes, universities, and community-based organizations remain a major untapped resource for hiring people on welfare. Many not-for-profit employers that are in need of entry-level workers are located in cities with high concentrations of welfare recipients and easy access to mass transit. This helps eliminate one of the major impediments to welfare recipients keeping a job: the cost and time of getting to and from work.

It is clear that if we want to ensure the maximum level of participation from all employers in moving people from welfare to work, we must pass legislation that expands the work opportunity tax credit program to include not-for-profit employers. Our legislation will do just that through a graduated tax credit to reduce not-for-profits' Federal payroll tax liability. Specifically, this legislation will provide a 20-per-

cent tax credit on payroll taxes from the date of hire for the first \$6,000 in wages for those working 120 to 399 hours each calendar year quarter and a 30-percent credit for the first \$6,000 in wages for people working 400 hours or more.

I know first-hand that in the New York metropolitan area, including hospitals, universities, and other not-for-profits in the welfare-to-work effort will not only help tens of thousands of welfare recipients become self-sufficient, it will also give these institutions the financial means to better support their communities and meet their own pressing labor needs. That is why the Community Employment Partnership Act has been endorsed by the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation is clearly a win-win situation for communities across the Nation. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LT. TRACY A. BARKHIMER

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding naval officer, Lt. Tracy Anne Barkhimer, U.S. Navy. Lieutenant Barkhimer will soon be completing her assignment as liaison officer in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building. It is a distinct pleasure for me to recognize a few of her many outstanding accomplishments.

A native of Staten Island, NY, Lieutenant Barkhimer received a bachelor of engineering degree in electrical engineering and an unlimited tonnage/any ocean third mates' license in the U.S. Merchant Marine from the State University of New York Maritime College and was commissioned an ensign in August 1988. Lieutenant Barkhimer completed naval aviation training in the T-34C airplane and in the H-57B helicopter in Pensacola, FL, and was designated an unrestricted naval aviator in June 1990.

After receiving her wings of gold, Lieutenant Barkhimer was transferred to the H-46 Helicopter Fleet Replacement Squadron in San Diego, CA for training in the Sea Knight helicopter. In August 1991, she reported to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eleven [HC-11] as an operations officer. During her tour, she deployed as a copilot for 6 months aboard U.S.S. *Wabash* [AOR5], participating in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Lieutenant Barkhimer also flew marines under combat conditions to the shores of Mogadishu, Somalia as U.S. forces worked to secure the airport and the U.S. Embassy. While on shore, Lieutenant Barkhimer performed duties as the squadron NATOPS officer, nuclear safety officer, assistant administrative officer and administrative department head for 3 months.

Lieutenant Barkhimer then deployed aboard U.S.S. *Camden* [AOE2] as assistant officer in charge/operations officer of a two-plane detachment with a complement of 30 maintenance personnel. During this 6-month deployment, she participated as an aircraft commander in Operations Desert Storm and Re-

store Hope. Upon successful completion of her second deployment, she returned to PC-11 as administrative officer and reached the 1,000 flight hours in model milestone. In January 1995, Lieutenant Barkhimer was hand-picked as a liaison officer to the House of Representatives for the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs.

Lieutenant Barkhimer has made a lasting contribution during her 3-year tenure at the Navy Liaison Office. She has processed thousands of sensitive constituent inquiries for the 104th and 105th Congresses in a timely, highly efficient, and caring manner.

Lieutenant Barkhimer planned and escorted numerous staff delegation orientation trips to various Navy and Marine Corps units and installations across the United States, introducing key congressional military advisors to the issues and challenges facing the sea services. Her extensive professional knowledge of aviation, surface and submarine programs, and impressive ability to communicate Navy legislative priorities.

Lieutenant Barkhimer flawlessly planned and executed three major overseas congressional delegation trips, two of which were led by myself. Her meticulous attention to detail and outstanding organizational skills were absolutely essential to the success of these trips.

Mr. Speaker, Tracy Barkhimer and her husband Eric have made significant sacrifices during her 9-year naval career. Tracy has spent a significant amount of time away from her family to support the vital role the U.S. Navy plays in executing our national security strategy. Lieutenant Barkhimer is a great credit to the U.S. Navy and to this great country she so proudly serves. Recently selected to the highly competitive Aviation Engineering Duty Officer Program, she now departs Capitol Hill to take on a new challenge at the Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River, MD as the V-22 Osprey Avionics Systems Project Officer. I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish her every success as well as fair winds and following seas, always.

#### THE WELFARE REFORM PROGRAM IS SUCCESSFUL IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the welfare reform that we have enacted is achieving the results that we intended in South Carolina. When I was in my district recently I met with Mr. Chester J. Tomson, Jr., who is the director for Orangeburg County of the South Carolina Department of Social Services [DSS]. During that meeting, and in a subsequent letter, Mr. Tomson relayed to me the success that he is experiencing in his County as a result of the welfare reform that was enacted by the Congress. Since the welfare reform initiative began in South Carolina, in January of 1996, the Orangeburg County DSS Office has placed 985 heads of households in full time employment at minimum wage. It is estimated by the staff of that Office that nearly 85 percent of those who were placed in jobs have stayed in that employment for at least 30 days