

clause's requirement that "Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States" does not provide an exception for such circumstances. I am unaware of any Constitutional authority for a measure passed in identical form by both the House and Senate to be selectively withheld from presentment to the President for his approval or veto.

It seems to me that any failure to fulfill the requirements of the Constitution in this case would set a troublesome precedent. While it has no practical consequence in this instance, a decision here not to complete the mandated administrative steps after passage could be cited later as precedent for a similar inaction carrying more problematic results. Therefore, I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that H.R. 4278 can be properly enrolled and presented to the President, as required by the Constitution.

Thank you very much for your attention and assistance.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

DAVID E. SKAGGS.

PERSIAN GULF SYNDROME
HEALTH BENEFITS EXTENSION
ACT OF 1997

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which extends priority healthcare to Persian Gulf war veterans who served in Israel and Turkey. My bill is entitled the "Persian Gulf Syndrome Health Benefits Extension Act of 1997." The bill has received bipartisan support and passed the House of Representatives by voice vote in 1996.

Men and women who served during the Persian Gulf war in Israel and Turkey were originally excluded from the definition of in-theatre operations. Many of these soldiers suffer from similar undiagnosed medical problems that may be related to service during the Persian Gulf war.

Throughout my service on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have emphasized the need to alleviate the suffering of those individuals afflicted with Persian Gulf war illnesses. It is time to simply care for our veterans who so bravely fought for our country.

CHRIS LEWIS—A POSITIVE FORCE
IN OUR COMMUNITY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Chris Lewis, president of the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce for this past year, 1996.

Throughout the past year, Chris urged local business and community leaders to "accentuate the positive." That spirit helped bring more than twenty new businesses to the city of Chula Vista in 1996, and it laid the groundwork for continued economic development.

During Chris' term as president, the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce expanded its in-

volvement in the education of our children, the training of our Olympic athletes, and the training of our future civic leaders.

Indeed, Chris Lewis has accentuated the positive by creating and fostering a positive atmosphere for local residents and local businesses. The Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce has laid the framework for long-term economic expansion with the founding of the Chula Vista Convention and Visitors Bureau and the renovation of the Chula Vista Visitors' Information Center.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Chula Vista and the 50th Congressional District, I thank Chris Lewis for his service to our community, and I ask the citizens of our community to continue to work for its betterment.

REDUCE LEGAL IMMIGRATION
LEVELS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, a reduction in immigration is essential to improving the country's economy and social weaknesses. With this in mind, I am today introducing legislation to cut the number of legal immigrants who enter our country each year.

Once again, I am sponsoring the Immigration Moratorium Act. The legislation provides for a significant, but temporary, reduction in legal immigration levels. Under my bill, immigration would be limited to the spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens, a reduced number of refugees and employment-based immigrants, and a limited number of immigrants who are currently waiting in the immigration backlog. Total immigration under my proposed moratorium would be less than 300,000 per year. The moratorium would end after approximately 5 years, provided no adverse impact would result from an immigration increase.

A temporary moratorium is a sound response to our present situation that allows for unprecedented and unmanageable levels of immigrants. Currently, the United States admits about 1 million legal immigrants annually, more than any other industrialized nation in the world. Based upon recent trends, this number will continue to climb unless we take the necessary steps to restore immigration to reasonable levels. I am extremely troubled by the fact that study after study has shown that the excessive immigration we are experiencing exacerbates many of the country's most disturbing problems, such as overcrowded jails, inadequately funded schools and hospitals, violent crime and unemployment. Moreover, legal immigration is costly and has a significant impact on our ability to balance the budget. For example, the projected net cost to taxpayers of legal immigration will be \$330 billion over the next 10 years.

Mr. speaker, Americans have repeatedly voiced their concerns about the potentially grave consequences associated with unrestrained immigration. A recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll showed 52 percent support a 5-year moratorium on legal immigration. A Roper poll shows the majority of Americans prefer no more than 100,000 annually. A host of additional polls consistently show a

similar sentiment. We would be negligent in our roles as Federal legislators to ignore such compelling public demand for change.

Last Congress, we enacted legislation that addressed some of the country's most pressing illegal immigration problems. Unfortunately, an attempt to improve our legal immigration policies was thwarted. The 105th Congress should not repeat last year's mistake. We should, instead, finish the immigration reform job by evaluating America's immigration needs and devising a policy that will allow us to meet these needs without further burdening American taxpayers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HMONG
VETERANS NATURALIZATION ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 7, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act, which would ease naturalization requirements for the Hmong, of Laos, who fought alongside the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam war. Hmong of all ages fought and died alongside U.S. soldiers, and as a result of the brave position they took and their loyalty to the United States, the Hmong, tragically, lost their homeland. Between 10,000 and 20,000 Hmong were killed in combat and over 100,000 had to flee to refugee camps to survive.

Although it wasn't apparent then, their actions had a major impact on achieving today's global order and the positive changes of the past decade. Extreme sacrifices were made by those engaged in the jungles and the highlands, whether in uniform or in peasant clothing and for those whose homeland became the battlefield. For their heroic efforts, the Lao-Hmong veterans deserve this recognition and consideration.

Many Hmong who survived the conflict were welcomed to the United States and today should be honored for the contributions they are making to our communities in my Minnesota district and to our Nation. Their success in rebuilding their families and communities in the United States stands as a tribute to their strength, but their cause would be greatly helped by passage of the legislation I am introducing today, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act.

While it is clear that the Hmong served bravely and sacrificed dearly in the Vietnam war, many of those who did survive and made it to the United States, are separated from other family members and are having a difficult time adjusting to life in the United States. Fortunately, there is something we can do to speed up the process of family reunification and ease the adjustment of the Hmong into U.S. society, at no cost to the Federal Government.

My legislation makes the attainment of citizenship easier for those who served in the special guerrilla units by waiving the English language test and residency requirement. The greatest obstacle for the Hmong in becoming a citizen is passing the English test. Written characters for Hmong have only been introduced recently, and whatever changes most Hmong who served may have had to learn a written language were disrupted by the war.

This bill would also waive the residency requirement for those who served in order to speed up the process of family reunification. Current law permits aliens or noncitizen nationals who served honorably during World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam war to be naturalized regardless of age, period of residence, or physical presence in the United States. There is a well-established precedent of modifying naturalization requirement for military service, recently reaffirmed by passage of legislation granting citizenship to those who served in the Filipino Scouts during World War II.

The Hmong stood by the United States at a crucial time, and that service deserves recognition. Today we should stand with the Lao-Hmong in their struggle to become citizens and to live a good life in our Nation.

THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE REFORM INITIATIVE

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 7, 1997

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Presidential Debate Reform Act. The situation surrounding the current Presidential election has highlighted some of the flaws in our current method for selecting a President and Vice President of the United States of America. One critical flaw involves the way Presidential debates are scheduled.

My legislation would create the framework for deciding the participants and structure of Presidential debates. This framework would include a commission of three people nominated by the President. The President would nominate one person from a list submitted by the Republican National Committee, one person from a list submitted by the Democratic National Committee, and one person who is unaffiliated submitted jointly by the RNC and the DNC. These commissioners would then schedule several debates.

One such debate would be optional and include any candidate who is on the ballot in 50 States or polls at 5 percent in popular polls among likely voters. This could include major party candidates, although it would provide a forum for lesser known candidates to express their views.

The commission would also establish debates for the Vice Presidential and Presidential candidates. These would be for the major party candidates as well as anyone polling over 5 percent in polls taken after the optional debate. Participation in these debates would be mandatory. The penalty for not participating in the debate, other than perhaps embarrassment, would be a reduction in the amount of Federal funds that candidate's party will receive to run the next convention. The reduction would be equal to the fraction of mandatory debates missed. I cannot imagine that a party would want to miss out on \$3 million—approximately the amount that would be lost to pay for the 1996 conventions through missing one debate.

This has nothing to do with whether I think certain people should or should not participate in debates. I do think that we need to have an established framework with defined ground rules to ensure the fairness in the system.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good bill and I look forward to hearing feedback from my colleagues. I expect to offer this legislation at the beginning of the next Congress and hope to hear meaningful debate.

INTRODUCTION OF GUN SAFETY ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this bill addresses the problem of the proliferation of cheaply made, easily concealed weapons. This is particularly critical in dealing with our juvenile crime problem. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that most juveniles who purchase guns obtain them from informal sources for less than \$100.

This bill would put an end to the proliferation of these cheap and dangerous guns by requiring States to set up criteria for guns to be sold within that State's borders. The criteria to be considered would include concealability, safety, quality, and utility for legitimate activities. Any State that chooses not to participate in the program would simply lose some of its Byrne grant money for crime problems.

In addition, in an effort to prevent the numerous accidental deaths of children every year, this bill would require gun manufacturers to install magazine safeties in every gun so that adults can be sure that they have not accidentally left a bullet in the chamber of a gun, even when the magazine is not in the gun.

Because cheap and poorly made handguns are dangerous—and even more dangerous in the hands of the serious juvenile offenders who have easy access to them, and because we need to make certain that guns include all possible safety precautions—I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MURIEL GOLDHAMMER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the outstanding contributions of Muriel Goldhammer to the community of San Diego and to the entire southern California region.

Muriel Goldhammer, a native San Diegan, is now retired and is planning to reside parttime in Israel, beginning on January 14, 1997. Before she makes this move, it is fitting that she be recognized for her work in Jewish community relations, in health issues, and in political and civic activities in San Diego, CA.

Before her retirement, Muriel served as director of urban affairs at the University of California, San Diego Extension and as faculty at the School of Public Administration at San Diego State University. She is the author of several publications on public policy issues.

She is currently serving on the steering committee of the San Diego Area Resource Center and on the past presidents council of Hadassah of southern California; on the insti-

tutional review board of the Children's Hospital and Health Center; and on the board of directors of the American Jewish Committee.

She was formerly president of the California Southwest Region of Hadassah and a member of their national board. She was the founder and former president of the San Diego chapter of Parents of North American Israelis, as well as executive vice president of their international board of directors and international convention chair. Muriel was founder and chair of the San Diego Zionist Council, which from 1948 to 1958 set up a speakers' bureau on issues of concern to Israel and sent several non-Jewish civic leaders on study tours to Israel.

She has also been deeply involved in health issues, serving on the Coordinating Council for Education in the Health Sciences; as president of the Comprehensive Health Planning Association for San Diego, Imperial, and Riverside Counties; and the board of directors of the San Diego Mental Health Association; and on the Governor's advisory board of the San Diego Treatment Center for the Mentally Ill.

As a member of the political and civic community of San Diego, Muriel served as president and on the board of directors of the League of Women Voters in San Diego and California; on the civil rights committee of the National League of Women Voters; on the boards of directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the San Diego Urban League; on the United Way allocations committee; on the Mayor's committee on uniform hearing procedures; and on the blue ribbon committee on restructuring the San Diego Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, these worthy contributions by such an intelligent, dedicated, and motivated woman were recognized by the celebration of "Muriel Goldhammer Day" on January 5, 1997, an event sponsored by the Point Loma Hadassah and Hadassah Southern California.

It is truly fitting that the House of Representatives join in this recognition, and I appreciate the opportunity to call attention to the life-long work of Muriel Goldhammer toward making this world a better place.

LIMIT CONGRESSIONAL TERMS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, as one who has consistently maintained that term limits are an integral part of congressional reform, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution to limit Representatives to three 4-year terms.

The current system of unlimited 2-year terms hinders the advancement of legislation that is in the Nation's best interest. Members are distracted by reelection concerns and often sacrifice what is best for the country in favor of parochial interests. Under a system of limited terms, the Congress would be a citizen legislative body as the Framers of the Constitution intended. Moreover, congressional term limits promote government efficiency and are conducive to a smaller Federal Government, as Members would be less compelled to support unnecessary port-barrel spending.

Although the 104th Congress was not successful in advancing a term limits amendment,