

have earned high praise from numerous attorneys who have entered his courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of Judge William MacLaughlin. Truly, his even-handed administration of justice is an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KATZBERG

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Katzberg for being honored by the Middle East Network on the occasion of his 1,000th weekly, consecutive column for the Jewish Journal. For the past 20 years, William Katzberg has provided his readers fair and objective literary works on issues relating to Israel and the Jewish community. His journalistic contribution stems from his dedication to straightforward journalism and enduring love for the State of Israel.

In 1987, the Middle East Network in south Florida, formerly known as the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, was concerned about erroneous news reports the American public was receiving regarding the Arab Infatada. The media reporting from the Middle East had fabricated the news in an attempt to capture America's interest in the battle transpiring in the Middle East. The media's deception was widely considered as a war of information—a war as devastating as the war being fought between Israel and the Arabs because it was turning world opinion against Israel. The Middle East Network held an organizational meeting to put an end to the fictitious news reports and generate fair and impartial reporting regarding Israel. William Katzberg was an invited guest because of his journalistic integrity and support of Israel. He immediately recognized the grave impact of the deceptive reports and called on the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale to help promote accuracy in Middle East reporting.

Over the years, William Katzberg has written a great deal about Israel and the Jewish community. His column appears in the Jewish Journal, and, on occasion, in the Miami Herald and the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. He has become quite popular among residents in south Florida as a media journalist, a speaker, and a leader. In addition to his column, William Katzberg has helped organize mass meetings for the Middle East Network, has acted as a meeting moderator, and has produced a series of documentary films on Israel including: "Israel Under Siege," "the Hope, the Struggle, and the Miracle," "From Ellis Island to Jerusalem," and "Israel, Between Terror and Peace." These films have been shown to synagogues, churches, and colleges and universities in south Florida to help increase awareness of Israel and her people.

William Katzberg remains actively involved in the Jewish community in south Florida. He is a member of the board of directors and on the executive advisory community of the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale. Through his involvement at the federation, he has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the United Jewish Appeal. He also participates in leading group trips to Israel for

the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale and for the Temple Beth Torah, where he is also a member of the board of directors. His activity in both Jewish affairs and journalism has earned him a seat on the Jewish Telegraph Agency Board of Directors as well.

I wish William Katzberg the best on receiving this prestigious honor from the Middle East Network. I know he will continue to be an effective voice and journalist for the Jewish community in south Florida and in Israel.

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support legislation regarding one of this Nation's most important and effective conservation programs, the Conservation Reserve Program.

Under the Conservation Reserve Program Flexibility Act, H.R. 861, producers whose contracts expire and whose bids to re-enroll are not accepted under new USDA rules for the CRP, will be allowed to extend, for up to 1 year, their existing contracts at the county-wide rental rate as established under the new enrollment criteria.

In Kansas, the Conservation Reserve Program protects 2.9 million acres of environmentally sensitive land by encouraging farmers to dedicate this land to conservation use. Contracts covering almost 2 million acres of Kansas CRP land will expire by September 31, 1997. Unfortunately, the timing of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rulemaking process does not always coincide with needs of farmers. For producers of fall crops, like winter wheat, the enrollment decision date is simply too late.

This legislation would allow producers to explore the full range of grazing and cropping options as they bring their CRP land back into production. Due to extensions over the last 2 years, contracts representing nearly 22 million acres of this program are now expiring at once. At this point, we do not know exactly what land will be accepted, but it is estimated that 20 to 25 percent of the currently enrolled acres will not even be eligible. This represents around 4 million acres that we know will not be in CRP and will be back into production.

Mr. Speaker, adding 4 million acres into production with a limited range of planting options could be disastrous. This sort of market disruption can be avoided if we allow producers across the country to explore all of their options on how to bring this land back into production.

There are several important realities that this bill acknowledges. Under this legislation, the enrollment cap is not changed. As sign-up progresses, 36.4 million acres will still be the statutory limit on acres in the program. Even with the continuous enrollment for filter strips, riparian areas, and other high-priority areas, the current enrollment is only 32 million acres. Allowing a 1 year extension would not limit sign-up of new acres going into the program.

Another important factor is the payment rate. Under this 1 year extension, the payment will be either the new enrollment rate or the

current rate, whichever is lower. This bill is not designed to give farmers the incentive to extend for 1 year at a substantially higher rate, it is designed to keep CRP benefits enrolled in a cost-effective manner and allow for an orderly return of this land back into production.

Mr. Speaker, massive changes have occurred in this Nation's agricultural programs within the last year. With any program changes, a smooth transition is both necessary and desired. This legislation will allow producers to make sound, market-based decisions as they bring their land back into production. Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this much needed legislation.

DELAURO HONORS SAGE SERVICES OF NEW HAVEN

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 25, 1996, Sage Services will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The organization serves people over the age of 55 with a number of different programs. I am delighted to rise today to honor Sage Services and to recognize the important work they are doing.

The mission of Sage Services is twofold. The organization aims to enable older people to maintain their independence, to continue to develop their skills and abilities, and to help them feel that they are valued members of the community. In addition, Sage Services educates the community to value older people, to benefit from their contributions, and to understand and address the concerns and issues older people face.

Sage Services provides a number of valuable job training and job placement programs. The organization is committed to keeping the skills older people possess up to date. For example, several computer training classes are offered which teach word processing, keyboarding and data base, and spread sheet skills. I can imagine that it gives participants a great deal of self-confidence and self-esteem to be able to keep up with the information age and the proliferation of computers.

Sage Services also offers all sorts of job placement programs. Older people are hired by local businesses for everything from office work to repairs and maintenance work. I am so pleased to see local businesses working with the organization because older people have so much to offer. If we do not reach out to them we are losing a great resource. Their talents, abilities and experiences remain relevant to the job market and it is to our advantage to tap this resource.

In addition to these great programs, Sage Services links older people with all sorts of services and assistance. I am impressed with the Sage Home Share Program which helps people remain in their homes by putting them in touch with someone who is in need of housing. Older people receive companionship and assistance and those sharing housing are able to find reasonably priced housing. I think this program goes to the heart of what Sage Services is all about; people helping each other. Sage Services keeps the idea that we are all family and we are all responsible for each other at the heart of everything it does.

I am proud to have this opportunity to congratulate Sage Services and to recognize all those who work there or volunteer their time to helping others. They are truly making an incredible difference in the lives of so many people. Sage Services is a remarkable organization and I commend everyone involved for making it such a success and for ensuring that our older citizens remain active, independent, and that they are valued by the community.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF
GUATEMALA ON SUCCESS OF RE-
CENT NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTAB-
LISH PEACE PROCESS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my fellow colleagues from both sides of the aisle in support of House Concurrent Resolution 17, congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala.

On December 29, peace accord ended 36 years of civil war the Government negotiated directly with the rebels.

The United States over the last 6 years participated in the peace negotiations for Guatemala as a member of the Group of Friends in conjunction with Norway, Mexico, and Spain. The group supported the work done by the United Nations to broker a peace in that war torn country. In this regard, the Guatemala peace accord is both a United Nations success story and an example of the benefits of sustained United States diplomatic engagement.

The peace accord includes the creation of a commission to implement a wide range of reforms to the political, economic, social, and judicial systems of Guatemala, including an enhanced respect for human rights and the rule of law, improved health and education services, attention to the needs of refugees and displaced persons and the role of the military in a democratic society.

Lasting peace, political stability and economic development in Guatemala is in the best interest of all nations of the Western Hemisphere, therefore, we should all be hopeful at these accomplishments made in the name of peace for the Guatemalan people.

LET ME LIE WITH SOLDIERS

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I wanted to submit the following poem as it was read by its author at the annual POW/MIA Candlelight Ceremony March 2, 1997, held at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, GA. The poem is entitled "Let Me Lie With Soldiers," by Lt. Col. Clyde M. Reedy, U.S. Army (retired), Vietnam 1963 and 1972.

LET ME LIE WITH SOLDIERS

Let me lie with soldiers when God my spirit
calls. Let me walk with warriors down
heaven's hallowed halls.

Please bury me with soldiers, and let my
spirit soar with kindred souls with
whom I shared the brotherhood of war.
Yes, lay me down with soldiers in con-
secrated ground, made holy by their
sacrifice, and bravery without bound.
It matters not the color of the uniform they
wore, nor who sounded loud the trump-
pet that summoned them to war.

It matters not their era, nor weapons which
they bore, nor banner which they fol-
lowed into that hell called "war."

Abdutor Ivan, Hoang or Heinz, their
names??? . . . I do not care. The tie
that binds us all as one: the horrors
that we shared.

The color their skin counts not, be it yellow,
black or brown. For all of us are broth-
ers up in God's holy ground.

The cause for which they struggled, that also
matters naught. For when we're all in
heaven none will ask for whom we
fought.

And though our bodies crumble once are
souls have gone on high, let memory of
our sacrifices never never die.

Yes, let me stand with soldiers, hand-in-hand
on heaven's shore, and gaze together on
our homes Forever free of war.

This poem captures both the sadness and
pride of America's fighting men, as well as the
hope of every soldier: that the war they fight
will be the last. It is an eloquent testimony to
America's MIA's and POW's, who we must
never forget.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MAJOR

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. BERMAN and I are honored today to pay tribute to Judge John Major who last week was recognized by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association with the Distinguished Service Award. When Mr. Major recently stepped down from the bench, our area sustained the loss of an individual that went out of his way to make the courtroom a place where both litigants and defendants were at ease and justice was served in a way that was best for all involved.

Mr. Major's early career involved a period in the Army and work in the aerospace industry. As John's professional career developed, his interest in government and law increased, leading him to enroll in law school. John's time at UCLA School of Law was difficult, as he was forced to balance school and work while holding down three jobs. Even with these adversities, John's determination to become a lawyer only increased. He completed his final 2 years of study on his own at night while working full time. He saw the fulfillment of his dreams in 1957 when, on his first attempt, he passed the California bar exam. The obstacle he overcame in his time studying law affected his later career as a judge. Whenever he saw people struggling, he told them, "you can accomplish whatever you choose to in life."

As a young lawyer, John worked for the Legal Aid Society in Santa Monica for 2 years. Shortly after that he opened his own practice that he maintained for 12 years. His career changed when he took a case defending a

minor he enjoyed the tremendous positive impact he had on the young man's life. In defending the youth of our area, John found a challenging and rewarding career. Through his endeavors he became a juvenile court referee and eventually was appointed a Superior Court Commissioner. As a commissioner he worked in almost every juvenile court in Los Angeles County.

In 1984, Mr. Major was appointed to the superior court bench by Governor Deukmejian. His years on the court were his way of leaving a positive impact. According to many attorneys, he put people at ease with his humor and easy going demeanor. In handing down decisions, Judge Major did not hesitate to take into account the particular circumstances, at times straying from the usual sentence, especially in dealing with young people. The judge's calming influence and experience in dispute resolution will be sorely missed as he is an excellent communicator with a gift of engendering himself to all sides in a dispute.

When Judge Major stepped down from the bench last week, our community sustained a substantial loss. The effects of his service have reached well beyond the courtroom, as he has had a tremendous positive impact on the surrounding community. The legacy of his work will continue on for years to come in the lives of the many individuals he touched.

SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States will continue its leadership in the United Nations by honoring the financial obligations to that institution.

Everyone agrees that United Nations is in need of reform. In fact, Joseph Connor, the Undersecretary for Administration and Management, announced yesterday that the U.N. budget will come in under its estimated 1998 budget, and the 1997 budget was a cut from the previous year.

But, if the United States continues to be a global deadbeat, the United Nations will lose its ability to carry out missions important to American foreign policy, such as promoting human rights, controlling the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, spreading democracy, and preventing global conflicts.

The United States was a founding member of the United Nations. Throughout its half century of existence, through times of war and peace, the United Nations has stood as a pillar of stability. That is why Republicans and Democrats alike have supported not only its existence but American financial obligations. Now 61 percent of arrears to the United Nations are owed by the most powerful Nation on Earth. This is wrong. We can't allow short-term thinking in Congress to jeopardize our long-term security.

Please join me in sending a strong message to the world that the United States will lead and the United States will keep its word.