

in advancing the retirement security of the American people. Our Nation has lost a valuable ally in the critical struggle to achieve economic security for our Nation's retirees.

Fortunately for our Nation, however, Director Slate's 4 years of success at the PBGC were not a temporary foray into government service but the capstone of a lifelong career of service to the public. Prior to coming to the PBGC, Mr. Slate oversaw employee benefit plans for the Internal Revenue Service and served in a variety of capacities at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Marty's lifelong dedication to ensuring equal opportunity and preserving workplace benefit security brought tangible results to millions of working Americans. His life stands as a testament to the fact that one can achieve great good in service to one's country.

Mr. Speaker, this past Thursday I attended a memorial service for Director Slate. While this required me to miss several recorded votes here in the House, I was proud to count myself among the hundreds of colleagues and friends who gathered to pay tribute to this exceptional man. Speaker after speaker rose to celebrate the life and mourn the passing of this quintessential public servant and vibrant friend. For those of us who had known him only professionally, we learned in moving terms that Marty's dedication to his country was matched by dedication to his friends and family. Country, colleagues, family, friends—all will miss him terribly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in this Chamber to join me in sending heartfelt condolences to Marty's wife, Dr. Caroline Poplin, and to the other members of Marty's family. At this difficult time, I know that we all join in expressing our sincere gratitude for Marty's many years of dedicated service to this Nation and his fellow citizens.

DECERTIFYING MEXICO

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter to President Clinton from Grant Woods, attorney general from the State of Arizona; and Daniel E. Lungren, attorney general from the State of California. I call our colleagues' attention to the important message conveyed in this letter from two leaders on the frontlines in the struggle against illegal drugs.

Their message is clear: United States law enforcement resources have been compromised by corruption among their counterparts in Mexico. They call upon this Congress to decertify Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, in consultation with our colleagues, we will present legislation on Thursday that will decertify Mexico and send a bipartisan message to President Clinton and to the Mexican Government on steps that should be taken to stem the flow of drugs into the United States from Mexico.

I commend our friends from California and Arizona and urge my colleagues to study the wise counsel conveyed in their letter.

STATE OF ARIZONA,
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, DC, February 27, 1997.
Hon. BILL CLINTON,
Office of The President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: As the chief law and law enforcement officers of our respective States, we are gravely concerned with recent reports that our cooperative efforts with law enforcement officials of the Republic of Mexico in the fight against illegal drugs may have been seriously compromised. This is intolerable. It threatens the integrity of our own enforcement efforts in our respective States, States which border Mexico and which are heavily impacted by the devastating cross-border illegal drug trade. Frankly, we are concerned about the consequences to state and national drug enforcement personnel, programs, strategies, data, equipment and criminal intelligence sources.

Accordingly, we urge you to take the appropriate action under sections 489 and 490 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to decertify the Republic of Mexico as a country "fully cooperating" with the United States to end drug production, trafficking and related activities. While this step appears to be drastic, we are unaware of any credible alternative means of impressing upon the appropriate agencies of national authority in Mexico the seriousness of these breaches of security. We cannot continue to cooperate in sensitive operations fighting drugs under these circumstances.

Sincerely,

GRANT WOODS,
Attorney General,
State of Arizona.

DANIEL E. LUNGREN,
Attorney General,
State of California.

HONORING BILL HARDMAN, SR.,
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE STATE
OF TENNESSEE AND OTHER
SOUTHEAST STATES IN THE
AREA OF TOURISM

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bill Hardman, Sr., and his service to the State of Tennessee and other Southeast States in the area of tourism.

Mr. Hardman, who has served as the president and CEO of the Southeast Tourism Society [STS] since its inception in 1983, is relinquishing his duties on March 15, 1997. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Hardman is a legend in the tourism industry. He began his career in 1959 when he became Georgia's first tourism director, a position he held for 12 years. One of Mr. Hardman's first projects was to construct welcome centers at Georgia's State borders. The State was the first in the Southeast other than Florida to form a welcome center program. Before he left, he had planned and coordinated eight welcome centers. Following his successful program, other Southeastern States began constructing welcome centers and today, all Southeastern States have strong welcome center programs.

Mr. Hardman instituted the first Governor's Conference on Tourism in the United States in Georgia and other States followed. In 1965, he created and served as the first president

for the Southern Travel Directors Council, which later became known as Travel South USA. He developed a high impact advertising program in television, radio, and newspaper and attended trade shows for the State of Georgia all over America and Europe.

Mr. Hardman was involved in Presidential Inaugurations and entered Georgia floats in the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon inaugurations. He was instrumental in obtaining favorable legislation for tourism in Georgia. For several years, he had Georgia floats in the tournament of Roses Parade. He won a number of awards including the Sweepstakes Award. Hardman organized the Jimmy Carter Inaugural Special train to Washington for the inauguration of his home State President Jimmy Carter. The special train sold out in 2 days and several cars on the regular train from Atlanta to Washington were sold to the Jimmy Carter group.

Mr. Hardman left his State of Georgia employment in 1971 to go into his own business, a travel agency, travel advertising and promotion accounts, attraction development, trade show management and other areas of the tourism industry. In 1983, he got the idea for a regional travel organization. In September 1983, 21 people from 7 Southeastern States met in Atlanta to determine if there was a need for such an organization. The result was the formation of the Southeast Tourism Society, which currently has a membership of 450 people representing 10 Southeastern States. STS is the strongest regional travel organization in the nation. The purpose of STS is to market and develop tourism and travel to and within the Southeastern States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Mr. Hardman currently serves on the White House Conference Travel and Safety Committee. He has won numerous awards including the coveted Travel Industry Association of American Knight of the Golden Horseshoe Award in 1973.

Mr. Hardman's organizational and people skills have been the key to 10 States working together as though there are no State borders and working for the good of the region as a whole. The Southeast States enjoy an abundance of tourism, due, in part, to the efforts of Mr. Hardman. He is a good friend, not only to the States represented by STS, but also to me personally. Tennessee has been served well by his many successes. But, I don't expect him to sit idly by, so I hope we will be hearing from him often. Mr. Hardman will certainly be missed in his position at STS. I wish him the best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO MARYANN MEDINA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maryann Medina, a dedicated community leader who is being honored as an inductee into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Maryann Medina, one of the few Latina women working for the San Francisco Post Office in 1966, recognized the importance of

lending a helping hand and became the first woman president of the Latin American Postal Workers. While continuing to work full time, she earned her AA degree in 1981 and a BS degree in public administration in 1985. In 1989, she was elected Western region coordinator of the APWU Post Office Women for Equal Rights. She organized her union's Childcare Committee and worked for a 24-hour childcare facility for postal workers. She joined Toastmaster International, became a public speaker, and attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and she now makes frequent public presentations about the conference. She is a member of the Soroptimists and volunteers as a facilitator in the Women's Financial Information Program.

Mr. Speaker, Maryann Medina is an outstanding citizen and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

WE DON'T ALL DO IT

HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, the most disappointing phrase anyone serving in public office can hear today is they all do it. That is, essentially, the White House defense of the crass sale of Presidential perks to major donors to the President's party. From the public polling data, it appears the President and Vice President are winning with this defense. Since everyone does it, it sounds almost hypocritical for critics to point out the unique venality of the White House political machine. There is a surmise that Members of Congress also sell perks of office for campaign advantage. In fact, we do not.

Let me contrast what we have learned about the President and Vice President with what is typical of a congressional office. In my congressional office, I receive letters of praise and letters of criticism. I do not send the letters of praise over to my campaign office so that funds can be solicited from those who wrote. I receive an extra ticket to the State of the Union address and to speeches by visiting heads of state to Congress. I do not auction those off, but give them to my staff. When people ask to get on my schedule to talk about a political topic, I schedule the meetings for the coffee shop across from my district office in California; in Washington, I schedule them at the private Capitol Hill Club. I don't make fundraising calls from my congressional office—and I don't know any Members of Congress who do. I know that Government locations are for carrying out the Nation's business, not for dialing-up contributors. So does everyone with any ethical sense above numbers.

That's why I found the Vice President's excuse that he thought the law didn't apply to him so bizarre.

In his White House news conference, which some in the press called surreal, the Vice President stated—no less than seven times—that counsel had advised him that “there was no controlling legal authority” showing him in violation of the law.

First—there is such “controlling legal authority.” It's called the U.S. Code.

Section 607, of title 18, of the United States Code states that, “It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit or receive any contribution * * * in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by any person mentioned in section 603 * * *.” Section 603 of Title 18, defines “any person” to include “an officer or employee of the United States or any department or agency thereof, or a person receiving any salary or compensation for service from money derived from the Treasury of the United States * * *.” Violators of section 607 can be fined and/or imprisoned for up to 3 years. How much more clear can it be?

Second—put the law to one side. What about a sense of personal ethics? Do we really need a law to say—“Don't use the public's money for personal political gain?”

Mr. Speaker, in light of the President and Vice President's actions, Congress needs to send a signal of hope and self-confidence to the entire country that we don't all do it. Regrettably, many people looking at Congress think each of us does pretty much the same sort of thing, or at least looks the other way when one of our colleagues does. Well, as a matter of fact, not everyone does use public office for personal political gain. And not every one of us looks the other way, either.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON MOVIN' MAVS AND DUNCANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two amazing athletic achievements that were recently accomplished by basketball teams in my district. On March 2, the University of Texas at Arlington wheelchair basketball team, the Movin' Mavs, captured their fifth National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Championship. They were the first wheelchair basketball team to visit the White House.

I am also very proud of the Duncanville High School's girls basketball team. The girls team recently won their 18 State tournament title after finishing the season with a 38-0 record.

Both of these extraordinary teams deserve both praise and national recognition of their achievements. Each individual member of the Movin' Mavs has waged a personal battle to overcome disability and become a champion. And the Duncanville team's incredible run of 38 consecutive wins makes it a team for the record books.

My congratulations go to the 1996-97 UTA “Movin' Mavs” wheelchair basketball team: James Hayes, coach; Adrian Casell, manager; Jackie Middleton, trainer; Javier Gonzalez, Danny moor, Cezar Olivas, Enoch Abloh, T.K. Dannelley, Takk Kerst, Jack Ricks, Jon Rydberg; and to the 1996-97 Duncanville High School girls basketball team: Sara Hackerott, coach; Christie Sparks, assistant coach; Andrea Bentley, Kenya Larkin, Remy McElroy, Dawn Owens, LaDonna Palmer, Tanika Catchings, Shunda Murray, Portia Lowe, Alana Griffin, Julie Jesperen, Angela

Francis, Jalle Mitchell, Dana Godfrey, Jessica Barr-Long, Brianna Brown.

THE HOMEOWNERS CAPITAL LOSS RELIEF ACT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, current tax laws discourage homeowners from selling their homes. By keeping them in homes they can't afford to lose money on, we are making it harder for families just starting out to purchase their first home. My bill will free up those homes for first-time buyers. I am working to make the American dream a reality for as many families as possible.

Recently, I introduced bipartisan legislation which would allow homeowners to deduct losses taken on the sale of their home from their taxes. The Homeowners Capital Loss Relief Act would enable many homeowners to sell their homes below the price they paid and deduct this loss from their taxes. I know that our families work to scrimp and save for their piece of the American dream. They should not be penalized for a depressed real estate market and a drop in the value of their homes.

Mr. Speaker, this pro-homeowner provision was originally passed as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. I was disappointed that this provision did not become law. Today, I am working to change that and provide much-needed tax relief to America's homeowners.

This bill recognizes that owning a home is more than just an investment—it is an important goal for many Americans. In addition, by enabling more families to purchase their first home, my legislation will encourage more investments in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have looked to us again and again for tax relief. It is time to give them the results they deserve. We must provide for our current and future homeowners.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA FRANK

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jessica Frank, a dedicated youth leader who is being honored as an inductee into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Jessica Frank is a recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English Writing Award and has won accolades from her teachers for her creativity and determination. She has volunteered as a teacher's aide with emotionally disturbed third and fourth graders, has tutored a runaway youth who speaks English as a second language, and is a member of Moving On Racial Equality. Jessica has created projects that combine community service and social justice for her 400-member church youth organization and helped renovate an elementary school in a low-income area in San Francisco. She has organized and conducted a workshop on homelessness and spent last summer tutoring on a Navajo reservation. She