

with comparable qualifications. Women complete more schooling than men but earn only 72 cents for each dollar earned by men. Although the wage gap has slowly narrowed over the years, much of the gap is not closing for women at all but is due to the decline in men's wages. Much of the rest of the progress can be traced to earnings of a small group of professional or highly skilled women. The average woman has seen little if any progress. Over her lifetime, a woman loses over \$420,000 due to pay inequity, and collectively, women—and therefore often their families—lose more than \$100 billion in wages each year because of wage discrimination.

The Equal Pay Act (EPA) was passed in 1963, and by focusing on pay disparities where men and women were doing the same (or similar) jobs, its enforcement has helped narrow the wage gap between men and women. The Fair Pay Act takes the Equal Pay Act one step further and seeks to confront the pay disparity problem of the 1990's the way the EPA confronted the equal pay problem in the 1960's.

The FPA recognizes that if men and women are doing comparable work, they should be paid the same. If you are an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, for example, you should not be paid less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because you are a woman and he happens to be a man. If you are a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, you should not earn less than a probation officer simply because you are a woman.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the market system. As with the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. She must show that the reason for the disparity between herself and a man doing comparable work in her workplace is sex—or race—discrimination, not legitimate market factors.

As women's employment becomes an increasingly significant factor in the diminishing real dollar income of American families, fair pay between the sexes for comparable employees escalates in importance. This new paycheck frontier must be conquered for women and their families. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO LOS LOBOS

##### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the internationally acclaimed musicians Los Lobos for sharing their remarkable talents and their spirit of generosity with the people of America. The quintet has steadily gained fans internationally and earned a place as one of music's most uncompromising innovators. What is less known but equally as valuable about Louie Perez, Cesar Rosas, David Hidalgo, Conrad Lozano, and Steve Berlin is their roles as Ambassadors of goodwill. Los Lobos have become inspirational role models for the greater Los Angeles community, especially for our children.

Messrs. Perez, Rosas, Hidalgo, and Lozano were born and raised in east Los Angeles and

were friends at Garfield High School. They came of age during the 1960's rock movement but have never abandoned their Mexican folk music heritage. The band's 20-plus-year history incorporates traditional rhythms, American folk, rock-and-roll and R&B among its influences. However, the strongest pull for Los Lobos derives from their east Los Angeles roots.

Los Lobos have released 10 albums and collaborated on numerous film, television, theatrical, and commercial productions. In 1985, the group received the distinction as "Band of the Year" by Rolling Stone. It was their hit "La Bamba," one of eight Ritchie Valens remakes recorded for the namesake movie soundtrack, that thrust them into America's eye and brought the band international acclaim. The song was Billboard's No. 1 pop single in 1987.

In 1988, Los Lobos received a Grammy Award for "Best Mexican-American Performance" for "La Pistola Y El Corazon." They have received other accolades ranging from MTV Music Video Awards to "L.A. Times Album of the Year."

All of what I have just recited explains the fame. But, one of Los Lobos' most recent perhaps most cherished achievements has been their support of Broadoaks Children's School in Whittier, CA. The group has raised considerable funds during three sold-out benefit concerts at Whittier College. All of these funds have enabled the school to expand its services to children, families, and teachers throughout Los Angeles.

In 1996, Broadoaks dedicated its newest building the "Los Lobos Learning Center," honoring the groups commitment to this first through sixth grade elementary school. The Los Lobos Learning Center includes two classrooms for fourth through sixth grade students, many of whom require special education services. All students in this center are required to participate in public service projects to instill the value of volunteerism—a reminder and tribute to their benefactors.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 11, 1997, friends and family will gather at a dinner to pay special tribute to Los Lobos to acknowledge the group's commitment and generosity toward the children at Broadoaks Children's School. It is with distinct pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting these exceptional individuals for their outstanding contributions to the music world and for their lasting gesture of goodwill toward our community.

#### THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA

##### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association and all health care providers should be alerted that legislation I am introducing today will require the Attorney General to revoke the Federal license to prescribe medication to any health care practitioner who recommends to a patient the use of smoked marijuana. This bill is a response to the fraudulent efforts of the pro-drug crowd in the States of California and Arizona where they

now allow for the medical use of marijuana. This bill will be offered as an amendment to the first available authorization or appropriations bill.

The organizations which promoted the California and Arizona medical marijuana initiatives—Drug Policy Foundation/NORML—intentionally exploited the pain and suffering of others as part of their back door attempt to legalize marijuana.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, it is a Federal offense to sell, use, or possess a controlled substance, such as marijuana. The Federal Government, or more specifically, the Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly rejected marijuana for medical use because it adversely impacts concentration and memory, the lungs, motor coordination, and the immune system.

There is increasing scientific evidence that smoked marijuana would be the last medication you would want to prescribe to persons with AIDS since this drug further compromises their immune system, thereby increasing the risk of infections and respiratory problems.

Specifically, my bill, the Medical Marijuana Prevention Act, requires the DEA to revoke the Federal license of a physician to dispense approved medication, under the Controlled Substance Act, if they recommend the use of smoked marijuana for a medical treatment.

Federal law (21 U.S.C. S. 824) provides the President authority to deny a doctor's registration to dispense controlled substances—medication—if the doctor is found to commit acts inconsistent with the public interest. In other words, the President already has the authority under existing law to end the medical marijuana fraud.

As I have said on countless occasions, the only legacy of the Clinton Presidency will be a dramatic increase in the use of illegal drugs in America. There is still time for the President to reverse this trend but it would require decisive action on his part. Unfortunately given his record on this most important of issues it may again be left to Congress to take the initiative.

#### HELP COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BASE CLOSURE

##### HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will facilitate the swift transfer of closed military bases to local communities. I am happy to be joined in this endeavor by my colleague, Mr. SAXTON, the primary cosponsor of this legislation. This action is necessary because current law hinders the large and complex transfer of military base property with economic redevelopment in mind.

Many of the laws governing the reuse of military bases are antiquated and filled with confusing terms and conditions. One major existing hindrance is a clause prohibiting the obtaining of profit by local communities. This is a problem because it prevents local communities from generating profits through subleasing for the purpose of reinvestment to maintain and improve landscaping, maintenance, and infrastructure. The remedy for this situation is to replace the clause with legislation embodying the provisions of the base closure laws and amendments of the 1990's.

The interim lease provisions have not been as successful as planned because many of the terms and conditions act as disincentives to economic development conveyance. For example, there is no commitment for final ownership by Federal agencies upon assumption of control or occupancy of transferred property. Commercial firms are willing to enter into leases, but are refusing this option because of the lack of commitment for final ownership. In addition, the new occupants of closed base property are unable to conduct major renovations unless they agree to restore the property to its original condition. Many of the facilities require major alterations from their original condition just to bring them to local code standards. Why are we requiring restoration of undesired conditions? this makes no sense and ultimately results in taxpayer waste.

Prior to 1996, departure of Federal agencies reverted property to the Federal Government for disposal by GSA. A "leaseback provision" was established in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996 to protect communities from a Federal agency revolving door. Under this law, property approved for Federal usage would be transferred to the local redevelopment agency, then leased to a Federal agency at no cost for up to 50 years. The reasoning behind this is to ensure transfer of property to local communities in the event of departure by Federal agencies. The lack of a mandatory requirement for leaseback acceptance allows for circumvention of the legislative intent. In Orlando, FL, the Veterans Administration [VA] has requested Orlando Naval Training Center property through the Federal screen process. VA has refused to enter into a long-term lease with the city. This creates major problems for community redevelopment authorities as it limits their ability to finalize reuse plans. My legislation guarantees an option for communities to obtain reuse property after the departure from the property by the first Federal agency lessee.

We must allow common sense to prevail in this base reuse process. There are some instances where it makes sense to lease to organizations affiliated with the branch of service that previously occupied the base property. This is currently prohibited; yet doesn't it make sense to relocate recruiting stations, reserve centers, and military processing centers onto closed base property?

The four branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are currently able to contract with local governments for fire and police services for only the last 6 months prior to the closure of a base. Many times a base is phased out over a long period of time and the military eliminates military fire and police services much longer before the base is fully closed. Families and military personnel remaining need fire and police services from the local community. The military should be able to contract for these services throughout a long closure process.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I'm introducing today will make major strides in reforming the base closure reuse process. We must enact this legislation to protect our local communities. I urge my colleagues' support.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH THOMAS

### HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Sarah Thomas, for her prize-winning entry in the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This contest, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary, is highly competitive, with more than 109,000 entries and only 54 available scholarships. Sarah, a junior at St. Bernard's High School in Fitchburg, MA, distinguished herself from other competitors by composing an exceptionally insightful piece that truly reminds us all how fortunate we are to live in a nation of democracy and freedom. I would like to insert Sarah's inspirational script for the RECORD.

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
(By Sarah Thomas)

As I look around the room in my history class I see many things that I consider my window to the world unknown. A map shows me where the problems we discuss are happening. A picture above of President Abraham Lincoln above speaks to me of a government " \* \* \* of the people, by the people, and for the people." A book on the desk retells the stories of those who fought many battles and we hear the mournful cries of those who lost and the joyful tales of those who tasted victory. And we learn from them all.

As I look around, though, I am saddened by what I see. A pair of gazing eyes stares aimlessly out the window thinking of this afternoon's soccer game and another person half asleep's thinking, "Why do we need history anyway? This stuff happened years ago." I must confess that I have asked myself the same question several times in my life—until this year.

I am lucky, for I have met and grown close to three exchange students this year. Much can be learned from them and I have been awakened to how privileged we in America truly are. Next to me sits Lan from Beijing, China. He takes notes furiously as he wants to learn as much as he can about the freedom and justice we have in our country. He desperately wants to expand his knowledge during his short stay here in the United States, for when he returns home he may not get the opportunity to further his education. Lan's government places a percentage on those allowed to college and Lan may be one of the many who will not be able to continue his schooling. In a government where the people do not have a voice over the laws placed over them, personal development and growth may be stunted and full potentials may not be reached.

Behind me sits Maria. "Living in Spain is quite different from living here," she once said to me. "You have so many opportunities that I cannot get at home." Unfortunately many of these opportunities are overlooked by those of us lucky enough to live in a country that allows us to enjoy the freedom of new experiences. Maria was surprised at all of the activities girls could participate in. In the schools of her native country, athletics are for the boys and there is not much offered to the girls. United States citizens are fortunate, for under the constitution an eminent theme of equality prevails. The people are also encouraged to voice their opinion if they are unhappy with the actions of

government. Elections and voting are just two of the numerous ways an individual can help to make change in our ever-evolving society. In our schools today men and women have equal opportunity and this is thoroughly supported by the laws of our governmental system.

Across the room sits Dahlia. When she speaks of her home in Israel, I see a picture with much turmoil. Saddened by the thought of leaving America, Dahlia tells us what she faces when she returns home—a home where she fears the unknown. Because Dahlia will soon be eighteen years old, when she goes home she will be forced to enter the military. All men and women, upon reaching eighteen years of age, must enter the military and give up their plans and aspirations at least for a while. Unfortunately many forms of government do not allow their people to take a stand for what they believe in. Government controls all. But in those forms of ruling \* \* \* who controls the government?

In the United States of America, we, the people, have a voice. Through our democratic society, our voice is heard. My worry for Lan, Maria, and Dahlia helps me to have a clearer vision of my "land of opportunity"—a country that allows me to develop my potential and realize my dreams.

In class, a poster over-head is yet another reminder of our unparalleled good fortune. It echoes the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Since the beginning of our American History we have been engaged in change—in a perpetual peaceful revolution—a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions." I believe a society must be able to adapt with the changing world if it is to succeed. Democracy is above and beyond all other forms of government because it allows us to do just that. By allowing its people to make change, our country not only survives, but as a nation of involved people, we thrive. A nation, a people, a voice, we must be heard. Through democracy, we are heard.

## INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR THE RELIEF OF NANCY WILSON

### HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a private relief bill that would provide Social Security widow benefits for my constituent, Nancy B. Wilson of Bremen, ME. I appreciate the opportunity to help resolve Nancy Wilson's unjust restriction of benefits.

Section 216(c) of the Social Security Act requires that a widow be married for at least 9 months to collect her spouse's benefit. Nancy Wilson is not eligible for her husband's Social Security benefit because she was legally married to Al Wilson for only 7 months.

In the mid 1940's, Al Wilson's first wife was committed to a mental institution in Massachusetts. Mr. Wilson wanted a divorce, but was unable to proceed due to Massachusetts State law. According to a study conducted by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the existing State law excluded insanity or institutionalization as grounds for a divorce.

In 1950, Nancy had a common-law marriage with Mr. Wilson. For 19 years, these two people lived as husband and wife. Al had two children from his original marriage. Nancy also had a child. They raised their children together