

number of employees it needs, based on its income from applications, to process the applications filed by and fully paid for by the users. The bill gives the Office greater flexibility with respect to management of its office space, procurement, and other matters. The users of the Patent and Trademark Office will be represented on a management advisory board that will advise the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office's operations. Making the Office accountable to its users through consultations with them is a significant step in improving its operations.

Title II improves the procedures for examining patent applications. It provides for the publication of most U.S.-origin applications 18 months after the date of application filing, unless a patent already has been granted by that time. It also requires publication of foreign-origin applications in the English language generally within 6 months after they are filed in the United States—a full 12 months earlier than under current law. Unlike the situation today, the owner of the patent application will have a provisional right to a royalty from other parties who use the invention after publication and before patent grant. Publication of new technologies eliminates duplication of effort and accelerates technology licensing. Early publication is accompanied by a guarantee that U.S. inventors, especially independent inventors and small businesses, can receive an indication of their likelihood of obtaining a patent before their application is published. They will then be able to make an informed decision regarding whether they should withdraw the application before publication. Title II also makes some other improvements including the rules for extending the term of a patent when delays occur that are not the fault of the applicant.

Title III creates a defense against infringement charges for parties who have independently developed and used technology in the United States before a patent application was filed on that technology by another party. This will protect the investments of innovative American manufacturers who have built plants using technology later patented by their foreign competitors.

Title IV protects inventors from the fraudulent practices of invention development firms by requiring disclosure of a firm's track record and allowing the inventor to withdraw from a contract with a developer within a reasonable time.

Title V makes improvements in the procedures for reexamining a patent in the Patent and Trademark Office after it has been granted by the Office. The refined reexamination procedures in the bill will give the public a fairer opportunity than is presently allowed to have the Office consider information missed by the examiner. The revised procedures will better balance the interests of the patentee and the public and offer an effective alternative to expensive litigation in court.

Title VI provides a number of other improvements in our patent laws. It ensures that U.S. law provides priority consistent with our obligations to WTO countries and authorizes submission of patent applications through electronic media.

I look forward to working with all interested parties as we prepare to move this important and necessary patent legislation through this Congress. The reforms contained in this bill

are needed to make the patent system best serve the country now and into the next century.

INDIAN REGIME MUST FREE AMERICAN CITIZEN DHILLON

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask when the Government of India will finally get around to letting American citizen Balbir Singh Dhillon come home to his family. He has been held since May on trumped-up charges.

Mr. Dhillon, a 43-year-old businessman and an American citizen, was arrested in May on charges that he was carrying RDX explosives with the intention of assassinating leaders of the Akali Dal, the Sikh, political party. The Human Rights Wing issued a report which proves these charges false. Yet the Indian regime continues to hold Mr. Dhillon anyway. On September 26, a bipartisan group of 36 Members of Congress also wrote to President Clinton urging his personal intervention to bring Mr. Dhillon back to the United States. The President wrote us back to assure us that Ambassador Frank Wisner has taken up his case with the regime. I am pleased that the administration is working on the case, but so far they have not gotten through to the Indian regime. Mr. Dhillon remains in the clutches of this brutal tyranny. While he is free on bail, he is not free to leave India.

Could the fact that Mr. Dhillon is a Sikh, a Khalistani American, be a factor in this case? The Indian regime has apparently decided to target Sikhs living outside of India or Khalistan. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, who is the president of the Council of Khalistan, was informed by the FBI that there is an assassination threat against him. His organization is leading the Sikh Nation's peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987. Dr. Aulakh was also informed in a telephone call from Germany, where he will be visiting soon, that there is an assassination threat against him there also. Dr. Aulakh has been a valuable source of information for many of us in Congress. The civilized world will not accept this kind of outrageous effort to intimidate an articulate spokesman for his people's freedom.

In July, about 20 Indian Government agents severely beat Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, the leading Khalistani activist in Britain, when he requested emergency medical treatment for an acute heart condition. Dr. Chohan is a 68-year-old man whose right hand was amputated years ago. Clearly, the beating of Dr. Chohan and the continuing detention of Balbir Singh Dhillon are designed to send a message to any Sikhs who are thinking of getting involved in the struggle for freedom.

It is an outrage that this is allowed to happen to anyone, let alone an American citizen. It is time to take strong measures against the brutal, corrupt regime that is holding Mr. Dhillon. I would like to know why the American taxpayers are paying their hard-earned dollars to support a regime that can treat American citizens this way. What has happened to Mr.

Dhillon and his family is a terrible thing. The fact that we are sending money to the regime that is responsible for it just makes it worse.

The time has come to take action. We should stop sending United States aid to India. India is a country which votes against us at the United Nations more often than all but a couple of countries. It was a close ally of the Soviet Union. It is leading the nuclear arms race in South Asia. Khalistan, on the other hand, has promised to sign a 100-year treaty of friendship with the United States. There is an old saying in politics: Join the side you're on. It is time for America to join the side we are on by taking these strong measures to secure freedom, dignity, and prosperity for all the peoples of South Asia.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VET- ERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 8805

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8805 in Hopewell Township.

Named after Robert W. Young, the first Hopewell resident killed in duty during World War II. Young was killed when his ship, the USS Sims, was sunk by Japanese airplanes in the Battle of the Coral Sea on May 7, 1942.

VFW Post 8805 is currently home to over 600 veteran members and 280 ladies' auxiliary members. Many of these people are charter members of Post 8805. The first members were those returning from Europe and the Pacific and every other theater of World War II. From the beginning, VFW Post 8805 has been made up of citizen heroes, who left their homes and loved ones to undergo incredible hardships and sacrifices in defense of our freedoms. Fortunately, these people returned home to become some of the most outstanding members of the community. Contributing in peace as they had contributed in war.

A special salute to Ernest Parisi and Richard Paxton, two of the founding members of VFW Post 8805. Without their perseverance, the dream of Post 8805 would not have become a reality. They and all the members are a fine representation of the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget the honor, courage, and valor displayed by all the members of the VFW. They have done a great service to our country. I ask you and all members to join me in a special salute to VFW Post 8805.

A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT TEGLIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Albert Teglia, a man who has dedicated his life not only to public office, but to public service. His dedication and devotion to duty has

helped countless numbers of San Francisco Bay area residents with problems ranging from fixing the burdensome Tax Code to fixing a burnt-out street light. For the past 20 years, Al Teglia's humor, compassion, and dedication to duty has been a source of inspiration to all of us who serve the public.

Al Teglia served five terms in the Daly City Council and four terms as mayor. He has served on numerous boards and commissions including the Airport Land Use Committee, California School Board Association, League of California Cities, the Peninsula Joint Powers Board, and many others. He was instrumental in negotiating the BART [Bay Area Rapid Transit] Colma extension and spearheaded the Orthodontia Program for San Mateo County. His outstanding achievements have been recognized by awards from the San Mateo Hispanic Council, the Italian American Federation, San Mateo Easter Seals, and Daly City Jaycee to name just a few.

The son of Genoese immigrants, Al Teglia has lived on the San Mateo Peninsula all his life. He and his wife of 43 years, Verna, share a love and joy for the bay area community. Too often these days people complain about this problem or that situation without ever lifting a finger to try and help solve it. People like Al Teglia remind us that a community is only as strong as the people in it. Al has given back so much to the community which raised him, we should all look to him as an example. People can actually point to Al Teglia and say, "He helped make my life better." This is the penultimate compliment for a public servant.

I hold Al Teglia in the highest regard. There is no task too daunting and no issue too small. With an uncompromising dedication to duty and service, he has touched many lives in the San Francisco Bay area. His presence on the Daly City Council will be sorely missed, but I am pleased he will remain active in the community. His undying devotion and dogmatic determination to serve his community should serve as inspiration to all who aspire to public service.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
LEWIS F.M. SCOTT

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to pay tribute today to a truly exceptional Marine, Staff Sergeant Lewis F.M. Scott, who will soon complete his assignment as the Marine Corps' congressional liaison staff non-commissioned officer. For the past 3½ years, Staff Sergeant Scott has provided a tremendous service to the Members of Congress and to all of our constituents. His dedication and professionalism, coupled with his warm personality, have endeared him to many of us on Capitol Hill, and we will miss him very much.

A native of Felton, DE, Lewis Scott enlisted in the Marine Corps on January 28, 1983, and attended recruit training in Parris Island, SC. After boot camp and specialty training in administration, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at 29 Palms, CA, as a clerk for the 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion. In April of 1985, he received orders to the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion in

Okinawa, Japan where he served with distinction until his transfer to the Logistics Base in Barstow, CA 1 year later. From July 1988 until June 1991, he served with the 12th Marine Corps District Headquarters in San Francisco before being reassigned to Headquarters, Marine Corps here in Washington where he served for 2 years.

On May 30, 1996, Staff Sergeant Scott reported for duty with the Marine Corps' House Liaison Office and immediately assumed responsibilities for coordinating, executing and supervising numerous tasks normally assigned to commissioned officers. He often served as a spokesperson on Marine Corps issues and rapidly established a reputation for exactness, professionalism, and integrity among Members of Congress, congressional staff members, and his peers in the Liaison Office.

During his career on Capitol Hill, Staff Sergeant Scott responded to over 4,000 telephonic inquiries from over 900 Congressional offices throughout the country and ensured that our constituents received timely and complete answers. He was instrumental in planning, coordinating and escorting Members and congressional staff on fact finding trips. In short, Staff Sergeant Scott's performance is consistent with the quality performance we have come to expect from our U.S. Marines.

During Staff Sergeant Scott's 14-year career, he and his family made many sacrifices for this Nation. I would like to thank them all—Lewis, his lovely wife, Angelia, and their three children, Christopher, Lewis, and Shannon for their contributions to the Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Scott is a great attribute to the U.S. Marine Corps and to the country he so faithfully serves. As he prepares to depart for new challenges on an unaccompanied tour in Okinawa, Japan, I know that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in wishing him every success, as well as fair winds and following seas.

AMERICA'S VETERANS HAVE
EARNED EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING
AND SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege to serve on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs since I was first elected to Congress 4 years ago, and I look forward to continuing that service in the 105th Congress. I asked to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee because I believe that the men and women who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces are special members of our American family. Because of their service, the rest of us are able to fully enjoy the freedoms on which our country was founded. We have a unique debt to our veterans, and, as a member of the Veteran's Committee, I have worked to ensure that that debt is repaid.

On January 7, 1997, the first day of the 105th Congress, I introduced three bills of particular importance to veterans and members of the Reserves and National Guard. We have a longstanding national commitment to provide special assistance for veterans who want employment and training assistance, and these bills will help us fulfill that commitment.

Last year, a Supreme Court ruling mistakenly eliminated a portion of the job protection we have provided for 50 years for people who serve in the Reserves and National Guard. Because of this ruling, citizen soldiers who are also employees of a State government are at risk of not being restored to their civilian jobs following their military service. H.R. 166, the Veterans' Job Protection Act, would restore re-employment protection for these individuals by making it clear that States must obey the law and reestablish these men and women in their State jobs when they return from their military duties.

The Veterans' Training and Employment Bill of Rights Act of 1997, H.R. 167, would provide that service-disabled veterans and veterans who serve in combat areas would be "first in line" for federally funded training-related services and programs. Under current law, veterans are often underserved by national programs such as the Job Training Partnership Act [JTPA]. Veterans' service organizations have told us, for example, that program managers sometimes turn veterans away from JTPA dislocated worker programs because they mistakenly assume that veterans receive the same services from the Department of Veterans Affairs. My bill would reinforce our commitment to provide special training assistance for veterans and make it clear that eligible veterans have earned a place at the front of the line.

Additionally, H.R. 167 would update the Federal Contractor Job Listing Program. Under current law, Federal contractors with contracts of \$10,000 or more must make special efforts to employ certain qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era. These contractors are also required to file annual reports with the Department of Labor [DOL] regarding the number of veterans they have hired. H.R. 167 would increase the contract level to \$100,000. This level would reduce the number of reports filed and enable DOL to more carefully review and evaluate the contractor information.

This bill would also establish the first effective appeals process for veterans who believe their rights have been violated under certain veterans' employment-related programs. My bill would require the Secretary of Labor to assist veterans who think Federal contractors have not met their obligation to hire veterans. The Secretary would also be required to help veterans who believe they were not given preference for enrollment in Federal training programs. A veteran could also file a complaint directly with a district court. H.R. 167 would provide the "teeth" that have been missing from some veterans' training programs and would go a long way toward ensuring that veterans' rights are respected.

Many veterans have told me they would like to own a small business, and our national economy would certainly be strengthened if more veterans were able to establish their own companies. Because of this, I introduced H.R. 168, the Veterans' Entrepreneurship Promotion Act of 1997. This bill is designed to assist the development of small businesses owned by disabled and other eligible veterans. Under this measure, a program would be established to help eligible veteran-owned small businesses compete for Federal Government contracts. Additionally, because adequate capital is absolutely necessary for business start-up and expansion, H.R. 168 would establish a