

also provide an opportunity to work constructively with NATO to improve security and stability in Europe as a whole.

This year Iceland has the pleasure to host a robust Partnership for Peace exercise, "Co-operative Safeguard 97," the first exercise within the framework of PfP to be conducted in here in our country.

The scenario for Cooperative Safeguard 97, focusing on natural disaster relief, is extremely important to Iceland. The Icelandic nation has always been at the mercy of the forces of nature, be it earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, avalanches or cruel seas. The exercise gives the domestic agencies and organizations working in this field an excellent opportunity to test their strength in international co-operation. Furthermore it is my strong belief that all participating partnership states will benefit greatly from the type of civil and military co-operation which is the backbone of the exercise.

The importance of Cooperative Safeguard 97 is not confined to its value as a disaster relief exercise. It also has a great political significance as a practical manifestation of the intimate co-operation and friendly relationship that has developed between NATO and non-NATO countries through PfP. Twenty countries will participate. Russian participation in the exercise is especially significant.

Russia, and Ukraine, occupy a special place in Europe and in the outreach of the Alliance to non-members. An independent, democratic and stable Ukraine is in all our interests. Therefore the Alliance is in the process of developing an effective relationship with Ukraine. I hope this new security relationship will be formalized by the time of the Madrid summit.

Our relations with Russia are at the same time going through a rapid transformation. We realize and recognize Russia's difficulty in appreciating Nato's enlargement, but frankly it is not for Russia to decide, veto, or prevent.

We have collectively been working hard to explain to the Russians that enlargement is not directed against the security interests of any country and the Alliance has always been and will continue to be defensive in nature; the Alliance has never had any territorial aspirations. NATO enlargement will happen not because the Alliance wants to expand, but because the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are exercising their sovereign right to choose their own security arrangements.

However, a constructive participation of Russia in European security is of fundamental importance. That is why we must intensify and formalize our relations with Russia through a special charter or agreement. It is very important that our Secretary General has had the full support of all allies in carrying out these discussions and I hope they will soon come to a fruitful conclusion that will be of benefit to the security of NATO, Russia and Europe as a whole.

The goal is to establish far-reaching consultative mechanisms and opportunities for extended co-operation, and even joint action, between Russia and the Alliance. The Alliances' co-operation with Russia in IFOR and SFOR has proved that facing practical problems, NATO and Russia can work together effectively and efficiently for the benefit of European security.

Ladies and Gentleman, I have briefly discussed Iceland and NATO, and some of the most important tasks facing our Alliance in the immediate future. In less than eight years we have witnessed European security changing from confrontation to co-operation, from hostility to partnership. This is however no time for complacency. We need to continuously move forward and stay alert,

otherwise we risk losing what we have already gained. That is why the North Atlantic Alliance will continue to be important, relevant and necessary to ensure that peace and stability will prevail, for current and future generations.

Finally, our Alliance is based on freedom and respect for democratic principles, Iceland has the oldest parliament in the world, founded almost twelve hundred years ago. We attach great importance to the role of parliament and parliamentarians in preserving and enhancing democracy in our country. Likewise, the importance of democratic principles is reflected in your valuable work in the different parliaments of Alliance member states. As we enlarge our Alliance to include the new democracies to our east, we will contribute to the strengthening of freedom and democratic development which is the key to prosperity and progress. Likewise it is of utmost importance that the new democracies themselves make every effort to strengthen the democratic process within as well as respect for those principles through their actions. Strong and viable democratic development is fundamental to European security and stability, and of course the enlargement of NATO.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF MUGELLO, ITALY, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy, who have provided civic and humanitarian services to their community for the past 20 years.

Established in 1977 in the town of Mugello, nestled in the beautiful hills of Tuscany, the club claims as members some of the most prominent business and professional leaders of the Tuscany region. They include: physicians, dentists, architects, engineers, clothing designers, manufacturers, publishers, government officials, cattle ranchers, and businessmen.

The club has strong ties to the city of Philadelphia through Circuit Judge Joseph Bruno and his wife, Kathy. It has also established a twin-club relationship with a Rotary Club in Philadelphia, as well as with clubs in France and Greece. Among its other activities through Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Mugello has established scholarship funds for Italian students to study at graduate schools here in the United States.

The Rotary Club of Mugello, under the leadership of its president, Paolo Collini and its incoming president, Alvaro Baglioni, will soon celebrate 20 years of "Service Above Self," which is the motto of Rotary International and which is particularly fitting in the case of the Mugello Rotarians. In light of their 20 years of service to the community and their continued efforts at international outreach, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Rotary Club of Mugello, Italy.

TRIBUTE TO GASPER MAGARIAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gasper Magarian. Mr. Magarian, a Fresno, CA attorney, has the distinction of being the oldest practicing attorney in the State of California.

As noted in a recent article from the Armenian General Benevolent Union magazine [AGBU], Magarian's family—like many other Armenian families in Fresno—arrived in America 100 years ago. His family immigrated to Massachusetts to escape the atrocities suffered under Ottoman Turkish persecution. Magarian was born in Billerica, MA, and moved to Fresno in 1904 with his parents. His brothers and sisters were all born after the family moved to Fresno.

His brothers and sisters range in age from 85–94 years old. Magarian, the oldest brother at age 97, is the only sibling still practicing in his current profession. He has voluntarily cut back on the amount of hours that he practices at the law firm of Heyman, Krikorian and Magarian, located in downtown Fresno. The Magarian name on the firm is that of his grandson Mark, but his 62-year-old son Donald—and Magarian himself—later joined in on the firm's ventures. Grandson Mark Magarian calls his grandfather, Gasper, "one of our most valuable assets." Others in the firm speak to the advantage to having someone around with 70 years of legal experience.

Magarian remarks that life for lawyers has changed since his earlier days. Magarian graduated from a local Fresno high school and attended Stanford University in 1919. At the time, there was no tuition at Stanford and incidental fees totaled about \$60. Magarian finished law school and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1926. He began to work for a San Francisco law firm, but eventually moved back to Fresno in 1934.

In the first 50 years of his practice, Magarian handled issues ranging from bankruptcy, divorce, land transfers, and criminal cases. Magarian also handled a varied workload of paid cases, while maintaining a pro bono caseload for the middle class and the poor. Throughout his career he has also maintained a close relationship with the Armenian community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Mr. Magarian practicing law in the 19th congressional district. His love for the legal profession and his perspective on life is both refreshing and inspirational. I congratulate him on his lifetime of accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him every success on his future endeavors.

EXTENDING STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT RULES TO WORKERS COMPENSATION

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with Mr. SHAW and Mr. STARK

and other colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee from both sides of the aisle in introducing legislation to extend structured settlement rules under section 130 of the Internal Revenue Code to workers' compensation.

I am a strong supporter of structured settlements. I have seen firsthand in Minnesota how structured settlements can help victims of severe physical injuries put their lives back together in the wake of a disabling injury, help support their families, and instill some hope for the future.

Structured settlements give crucial financial security to victims and their families by providing an assured stream of payments into the future to cover medical expenses and basic living needs. Structured settlements also save taxpayer dollars by ensuring that injury victims will not be required to seek indigent care.

For all these reasons, Congress has sought to promote the use of structured settlements through specific tax rules that have been enacted in the Internal Revenue Code. Extending the Code section 130 structured settlement rules beyond physical injuries caused by torts to include physical injuries under workers' compensation would provide the same financial protection to victims who have suffered serious, long-term physical injuries in the workplace.

I understand the Treasury Department testified before Ways and Means in the last Congress that it does not oppose this proposal and sees no distinction for purposes of the structured settlement tax rules between physical injuries suffered from torts and physical injuries suffered in the workplace. I also understand the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated in the last Congress that the proposal would produce only a very minimal revenue loss.

I join with my colleagues in urging prompt enactment of this legislation.

HONORING BETSY BEAMF AND EMILY DUTTON

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Betsy Beamf, of Princeton, IL, and Emily Dutton, of Lewiston, IL. This weekend they will receive the Girl Scouts Gold Award from the Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts, and I congratulate them on this occasion.

The Girl Scouts Gold Award represents the highest honor in Girl Scouting and recognizes significant achievement in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. While Girl Scouting has provided these young adults a supportive setting in which to learn from and work with their peers in a group, Emily and Betsy have earned this award through their own individual commitment of over 50 hours of exceptional service.

Through her performance of plays for local youth, Betsy has fostered a greater appreciation for the world of theater and drama among the children in her community. Emily drew upon her artistic talents to design and create a mural in her school that promotes good sportsmanship. At a time when Americans nationwide have placed a renewed emphasis on community service as a way of improving our

society, Emily and Betsy exemplify the kind of dedication and commitment we need from people of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, we as a nation are enriched by the efforts of Betsy and Emily, and the thousands of children like them who give of themselves to benefit their communities each day. I hope that they are proud of themselves, and I am sure that their families take great pride in them. I encourage them to continue to take an active role in the community and wish them every success in the future.

CONGRATULATING HOLLIS CURL

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday May 1, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to one of the finest and most honorable journalists that I have ever had the pleasure to know, M. Hollis Curl of Camden, AL. Mr. Curl has just received the State of Alabama's highest journalism award, the Hector Award.

The Hector Award was given to Mr. Curl for the "Most Outstanding Performance by an Alabamian in Journalism." Mr. Curl is the publisher and editor of the Wilcox Progressive Era, located in Wilcox County, AL. This is not Mr. Curl's first taste of victory. This is the second time he has received this award and he is the only person ever to win it twice.

I am proud to say that I am a friend of Mr. Curl. I am no stranger of his love for journalism, and his quest to improve the community in which he lives. At a time when the President is calling on the Nation to become more active in voluntarism, Mr. Curl has already been a major community volunteer for over 30 years. He serves on the board of his country's hospital; president of the Gas Board for 15 years; led the effort to get his county a 911 emergency line; serves as the Charter Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and much, much more.

Above all, due to Mr. Curl's proactive journalism, we were able to work together to restore the ferry-boat service across the Alabama river which was disrupted by the KKK in the 1960's. Because of his due diligence, this too, will soon become reality.

Mr. Speaker. When it comes to talking about Mr. Hollis Curl, words fail me. Obviously, words never fail Hollis, and his second Hector Award says it all. Way to go, Hollis Curl.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's first call to prayer came in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the Colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation. Since then, the call to prayer has continued throughout our history. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, National Day of Prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by Presi-

dent Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May.

Today is the National Day of Prayer.

We are celebrating in the Cannon caucus room all day—from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Military Chiefs of Staff, Cabinet Secretaries, Senators, and Representatives are gathering to ask for prayers from the people. You see, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans of all faiths. It stands as a call to us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Please join me today by stopping by the Cannon caucus room to celebrate this great event. It is our prayer that during this National Day of Prayer, America will again remember the trust that made this Nation great.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today because I believe that one of the greatest challenges that faces our Nation today is the education of our children and grandchildren. Recently, a fifth grade student wrote to me commenting that "people are taking our parents for granted, because they're paying taxes which they assume are to schools, but most of the money doesn't make it to the classroom where it should be." I agree with this student.

Currently, we are failing the school children of America. We are failing their parents as we allow their hard-earned education tax dollars to be funneled through layers of bureaucracy. The problem with our education system today is not how much money we spend, but how we choose to spend it.

While it is unknown exactly what percentage of Federal education dollars reaches the classroom, a recent audit of New York City public schools found that only 43 percent of their local education budget reaches the classroom. Another study found that only 85 percent of funds administered by the U.S. Department of Education for elementary and secondary education reach the school district level. Even if 65 percent of Federal education funds presently reach the classroom, it still means that billions of dollars are not directly spent on children in the classroom.

For these reasons, today I am introducing the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. My Dollars to the Classroom resolution expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that Department of Education, State education departments, and local education agencies should spend more Federal education tax dollars for our Nation's children—in their classrooms.

For far too long, Americans' hard-earned tax dollars have gone to Federal bureaucrats and have churned through a Washington labyrinth—instead of rightfully being placed in the hands of someone who knows your child's name.

Of the \$15.4 billion which goes to elementary and secondary programs in the Federal Department of Education, the classroom may be lucky to see 65 percent of that. That means over \$5.4 billion is lost in the abyss of