

Whereas a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would also strengthen peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and serve important interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations has repeatedly stated the parameters for such a solution, most recently in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1092, adopted on December 23, 1996, with United States support;

Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem;

Whereas President Bill Clinton has pledged that in 1997 the United States will "play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus"; and

Whereas United States leadership will be a crucial factor in achieving a solution to the Cyprus problem, and increased United States involvement in the search for this solution will contribute to a reduction of tensions on Cyprus: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) reaffirms its view that the status quo on Cyprus is unacceptable and detrimental to the interests of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond;

(2) considers lasting peace and stability on Cyprus could be best secured by a process of complete demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces, the cessation of foreign arms transfers to Cyprus, and providing for alternative internationally acceptable and effective security arrangements as negotiated by the parties;

(3) welcomes and supports the commitment by President Clinton to give increased attention to Cyprus and make the search for a solution a priority of United States foreign policy;

(4) encourages the President to launch an early substantive initiative, in close coordination with the United Nations, the European Union, and interested governments to promote a speedy resolution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of international law, the provisions of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, democratic principles, including respect for human rights, and in accordance with the norms and requirements for accession to the European Union;

(5) calls upon the parties to lend their full support and cooperation to such an initiative; and

(6) requests the President to report actions taken to give effect to the objectives set forth in paragraph (4) in the bimonthly report on Cyprus transmitted to the Congress.

MILITARY HEALTH CARE CHOICE ACT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce the Military Health Care Choice Act of 1997. Under this bill, the families of our service men and women and military retirees and their families will be able to choose a health plan in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program in lieu of military health care.

This reform is necessary, Mr. Speaker, because for these individuals the military health care system is broken. In 1994, General Shalikashvili acknowledged this. He said the military health care system covering them is—and I quote—"headed toward a cliff."

Last year, the Civil Service Subcommittee, which I chair, held a hearing on improving access to health care for military families. We heard horror stories describing the problems the current military health care system has caused military families. One witness was the wife of an Air Force Master Sergeant. When she became pregnant, she chose the hospital at Andrews Air Force Base to care for her and deliver her baby. But just 5 weeks before her due date, she was told that Andrews would no longer treat her or deliver her baby. There was a quota on deliveries at Andrews, and hers would be over the limit. She was left on her own to find doctors who were qualified under CHAMPUS and would accept CHAMPUS fees and to make arrangements for the delivery.

Another witness, the widow of a retired marine major, described the substandard care her husband had received under the system for military retirees. Her terminally ill husband was initially denied cancer medication because the VA hospital treating him said it would rather spend \$3,000 on aspirin for 3,000 men than on chemotherapy for one. When the witness herself needed surgery for possible breast cancer, she needed the permission of the military base near her home. The base said no, but provided no military alternative. She had the surgery done, but she and her husband had to foot the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the hearing record contains many more such examples. I urge my colleagues to read it.

Just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I learned of yet another atrocious example from a military retiree. For 3 years, his wife had been treated by a VA hospital for a series of debilitating brain tumors. Then, on a cold, wet, windy night, that hospital refused to treat her when she was seriously ill, and demanded that she go to an army hospital 12 miles away. The VA hospital refused to call an ambulance, and even threatened to have her and her husband arrested for trespassing when he resisted leaving. Her husband drove her the 12 miles to the Army hospital through a raging rain storm.

The Army hospital also refused to treat her, sending her back to the very VA hospital that had turned her away. She was then admitted to that hospital and spent 3 weeks in intensive care.

This retiree also points out that his copayments under the military health care systems can reach as high as \$7,500—pretty tough medicine on his \$13,000 annual income.

When we needed them, these individuals did not ration their devotion to duty and to the Nation. When they need us we must not ration their health care.

I urge Members to join me in making this benefit available to those whom we owe so much.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Peace Officers' Memorial Day and pay tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters.

I would especially like to pay tribute to the seven officers in Georgia who made the ultimate sacrifice—giving their lives in the line of duty during the last year. Officers Dennis Cader, Richard Cash, Brett Dickey, George Hester, Victor Pimentel, Durwin Potts, and Scott Smith served their communities with courage and valor while protecting the women and men of Georgia.

Every day the law enforcement community stands on the front line ready to serve and protect you and me. It is only fitting that we pay tribute to them today. We in Congress should support all initiatives that take violent criminals and those who pose a threat off the street. Additionally, the American people should show support and respect for these brave frontline officers. All too often we take law enforcement officers and the job they do for granted. However, much of our peace of mind as we walk our streets is a direct result of the work they do to protect us. With this in mind, I strongly encourage more community law enforcement partnerships.

Officers from all across the country traveled to Washington, DC this week to celebrate National Police Week, which culminates with National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Hundreds of law enforcement personnel and family members of the fallen officers stood on the west front of the Capitol today to bid a final farewell to their comrades who fell in the last year. They will also stand at the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial tomorrow evening to participate in a candlelight vigil to honor and celebrate the lives of these brave officers.

We thank the families who stood and continue to stand by their loved ones while they put their lives on the line for us. Our prayers are with you and we join with you to celebrate their great work. Our Nation is greatly enriched by the contributions of these great men and women.

MY GOOD FRIEND, THE PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Taiwan and I became an admirer of President Lee Teng-hui. He was graceful, charismatic, knowledgeable, and visionary as well. He deeply impressed me with his firm grasp of world events as he articulated his vision of a modern Taiwan that is economically prosperous, politically free and internationally respected.

President Lee has certainly maintained Taiwan's spectacular economic growth. Politically he has introduced many reforms, including the upcoming debate on Taiwan's constitution. In terms of achieving greater international recognition for Taiwan, I have learned that Foreign Minister John Chang is succeeding in making the world see the injustices of excluding Taiwan, a major economic power, from many important international organizations. As for Taiwan's relationship with the United States, Taiwan certainly has many friends on Capitol Hill due to the efforts of Ambassador Jason Hu and his staff.

Congratulations to my good friend, the President of Taiwan, on the occasion of his

first anniversary of his first elected term of office. He will always have my support and best wishes.

SALUTE TO A FRIEND—JOHN K. MEAGHER

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my congratulations to my great friend, John K. Meagher, who has recently been named the managing director of the newly established Tax & Trade Group at Cassidy and Associates.

John has had a distinguished career which began when he and I served side-by-side on the staff of our own Congressman, former Rep. Alexander Pirnie of New York. We spent 5 years as colleagues and grew to be best friends. We have remained so to this day.

John was always interested in the law and has served with distinction as Republican counsel to the Ways and Means Committee, as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under Secretaries Baker and Brady as a partner in the law firm of Le Boeuf, Lamb, Greene and Mac Rae.

He not only understands the law, he understands the Congress and the executive branch as well. He's been both places as a junior staffer and as a high official. He knows us and how we work.

As he and his colleagues in the Tax & Trade Group embark on their new and exciting venture, I wish my friend well.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES BENDHEIM

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with great sorrow the passing of Charles Bendheim, philanthropist, Israeli patriot, husband, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He passed away last Friday at his home in Jerusalem. He will be missed.

Mr. Bendheim was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1917. During the Israeli War of Independence, he helped the Hagana obtain arms for the new country. He remained deeply involved with the new nation for the rest of his life.

Just before he died, Mr. Bendheim was cited as a Ne'eman Yerushalayim by the city of Jerusalem. This award, making him an "Honorary Fellow of the City of Jerusalem," has been bestowed on only 15 other people. At a special ceremony in the Jerusalem City Hall, Mayor Olmert declared: "For fifty years you have worked tirelessly for Jerusalem—for its hospitals, educational institutions and the economic development of the city." Indeed he did. And he was just as active here in the United States.

Mr. Bendheim served as a member of the board and the executive committee of Yeshiva University. He served as chairman of the board at Manhattan Day School. He was involved in many other charitable organizations in his 79 years—too many to list here.

Mr. Bendheim will be fondly remembered at the schools he helped, at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem whose new building he helped build as chairman of the board, and the other institutions that his philanthropy benefited. But the way Charles Bendheim will be remembered best is through the family he left behind. Besides his wife and sister, Mr. Bendheim leaves behind 7 children, 45 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

By dedicating his life to serving his community, Charles Bendheim became a role model for generations here and in Israel. His children have followed in his footsteps, playing important roles in their communities. The Bendheim family continues to be involved in many schools, hospitals, religious institutions, and numerous other charitable organizations in the United States and Israel.

Mr. Speaker, the world is a little darker this week. The light that was Charles Bendheim has been dimmed. But through his work and family, he will live on forever. He will not be forgotten.

THE LOSS OF THE "FAMILY HOUR"

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, where has the "family hour" gone? What happened to the wholesome series such as "The Cosby Show" and "Happy Days?" Vulgar language and sexual material have invaded the time slot between 8 and 9 pm in unprecedented volume, rendering the "family hour" nearly obsolete. A February 1997 study which analyzed television shows during a 4-week period found one-third of the programs to contain obscene language and another third to contain sexual references.

I am appalled by the subject material which has become acceptable during the "family hour." But even more than that, I am outraged that the networks have become so concerned with ratings that family values have gone by the wayside in favor of programs focusing on premarital sex, violence, and homosexuality. The fact is that the networks may be misguided thinking that this is what an American audience wants to watch. One of the highest rated shows, *Touched by an Angel*, focuses on heart-felt themes and teaching good values.

Mr. Speaker, more than 90 percent of Americans believe in God. But when was the last time we saw a television character go to a priest or a rabbi to seek counsel in making one of life's difficult decisions? I can't say that I've ever seen this on prime-time television.

We are inundated by sex and violence on television. I don't feel comfortable sitting down to watch television with my grandchildren anymore. Even with the new television ratings system, programs rated G and PG contain sex and obscenities unsuitable for our children and grandchildren.

The family hour picture is bleaker than ever before. The ratings system is poorly applied and the networks appear to have little desire to clean up their act. The anything goes mentality has come to replace one in which core family values are of central importance. I urge the networks to reevaluate their priorities. A

return to the family hour might be just the ticket to both higher ratings and more well-grounded American values.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHWAY RESTORATION ACT

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I along with Congressman LIPINSKI and ten other colleagues are introducing the Highway Restoration Act. This bill will address the tremendous need that has arisen for the maintenance and restoration of our Interstate Highway System.

The National Highway System is second to none in its ability to provide an efficient and safe network of roads, highways, and bridges linking the country together. Its existence has been crucial to our national defense and to interstate commerce. The System that we know today was largely the result of President Eisenhower's leadership and foresight, and just last year, we celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Unfortunately, many pieces of this 42,000-mile system are getting old and in need of repair. Current Federal programs for interstate maintenance and restoration do not adequately address the growing costs and needs associated with our aging highways. That is why I have introduced the Highway Restoration Act of 1997. This bill calls for funding the Discretionary Interstate Resurfacing, Restoration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program [I-4R] at \$800 million per year. The I-4R Program is the Federal discretionary program responsible for helping States maintain our highways, and it is separate from the Interstate Maintenance Program [IM] which distributes funds to the States based on a formula.

An adequately funded I-4R Program is necessary to ensure the longevity of our Interstate Highway System, because it allows factors, other than lane miles and vehicle miles traveled, to be taken into account when funds are distributed. Such factors for which the I-4R Program is able to account, include: The need to complete a project in a short period of time in order to reduce or minimize traffic disruptions; a particularly costly section of highway; traffic congestion caused by repair work; and delays in construction. The I-4R Program gives States the flexibility they need to effectively manage the repairs and preservation of our highways. Thus, sufficient funding for this program is crucial if we are to prolong the lifespan of our Interstate System, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of this important piece of legislation.

HONORING THE QUENTIS B. GARTH FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Quentis B. Garth Foundation, Inc., which has served youths in the Chicagoland