

it. There were plenty of non-emergency items attached by the House; and there were plenty of non-emergency items attached by the other body; but finally, there were even more non-emergency items attached by the conferees we sent to the conference table.

For example, the President asked for \$6 billion in emergency funding for Kosovo-related military and humanitarian needs; the House doubled that amount to \$12 billion; and our conferees somehow wrestled that up to \$15 billion. It's almost as if we think the longer we wait the more "late penalties" we have to pay. Given even more delay, I'm afraid this Conference Agreement would become the supplemental that ate the surplus.

Were our colleagues saving their so-called emergencies for a rainy day? On this rainy day, Mr. Speaker, it's raining money, which this provision is siphoning out of the Social Security trust fund. And I cannot support that misuse of power and abuse of the public's trust.

EQUAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report to my colleagues the actions of the House Armed Services Committee. I want to commend the committee for the important step it has made toward providing equal access to reproductive health care for U.S. servicewomen and dependents.

During the committee's debate of the FY 2000 Department of Defense Authorization bill, I was proud to continue the work of my friend and our former colleague Congresswoman Jane Harman. I know my fellow Members join me in recognition of her efforts in this area.

The bill endorsed today by the committee safeguards abortion services for those whose pregnancies are due to rape and incest. This is good news for American soldiers and dependents, and it's good news for our armed forces.

I am disappointed that the committee chose to reverse the Personnel Subcommittee's bipartisan endorsement of my amendment to reverse the ban on privately funded abortions at U.S. military facilities overseas. Nevertheless, our fighting men and women—and their families—will benefit from the committee's decision today.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the house floor to ensure that we make life safer and healthier for our military women and dependents, because that makes for a better prepared, more able fighting force. This is indeed a major victory for our servicewomen and military families.

HONORING GORDON SOUTH

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a gifted and compassionate

constituent of mine, Gordon South. Gordon has made a difference by volunteering his time and efforts to help protect and support the environment.

Throughout his life, Gordon has demonstrated his unwavering dedication to the earth and its inhabitants. Since the time he was eight years old, Gordon has committed his summers to helping Dr. Laura de Ghetaldi with her orphaned fawn and injured deer rehabilitation program south of Boulder. This has not always been an easy task. He has bottle fed injured deer, tracked down poachers who have shot re-released deer, and he has grieved when some of the deer died after valiant attempts to save their lives. Such was the case this year when a black bear mauled and killed all of the fawns and adult deer in the rehabilitation program.

In addition to his rehabilitation work, Gordon has participated in the Boulder County Junior Ranger Program committing long hours to repairing and building trailheads. He also volunteers in the surgical unit and the Foster Program at the Humane Society of Boulder County.

On top of his volunteerism, Gordon is a solid student at Fairview High School where he competes on the track and cross-country teams. After graduation this year, he plans to attend Colorado State University and one day become a veterinarian.

Mr. Speaker, as our nation is engaged in a dialogue about our youth and the causes of youth violence, we must not forget about those youngsters who are making worthy contributions to our communities. I take great pride in honoring Gordon South and his achievements, his passion for the earth its wildlife, and his future endeavors. His is a lesson we all can learn from.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MITCHELL LOWE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, business associate, mentor, and father-in-law, Mr. Robert Mitchell Lowe.

Mr. Bob, as he was known in his home town of Gillett, AR, was born, raised, and lived the life of a gentleman by any and all definitions. He was a superb father and incomparable grandfather, caring and adoring husband. He defined southern gentleman.

He taught by example, he loved unselfishly, and he was never envious of others.

He loved his family unconditionally, just because they were his. His great joy in life was doing for his family, especially his grandchildren. He established a place in Gillett, AR that will be known to his family forever as "home." A safe haven, where you are always welcome, loved, cared for and safe.

I took care of Mr. Bob's business for almost thirty-five years, and made some monumental mistakes, but he never once criticized me or offered a critical word.

His great love for his church, farm, friends and neighbors is what makes rural America the great place it is. He was never boastful, proud, rude, or self-seeking. He was not easily

angered, kept no record of wrongs, always protected, trusted, hoped, and persevered. He was happiest on festive occasions, with holiday meals and a lap full of adoring grandchildren. He ended all his visits with his grandchildren with "grand daddy loves you" and none ever doubted that he did.

If as some say, that your children are a true measure of a man, then Mr. Bob was very successful. His daughters Carolyn and Martha and grandchildren Ann, Rebecca, Mitchell and Catherine would make any man proud, and are a true legacy.

The world is a better place for his having lived. All who knew him are enriched by his kind ways and charm. I was privileged to have been associated with Mr. Bob.

BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China on Taiwan is a modern country led by President Lee Teng-hui, who believes that Taiwan's future lies in a strong democracy with a free enterprise system. Taiwan's democracy is highly renowned in much of the developing world. Three years ago, Taiwan citizens freely elected Mr. Lee as their president. This was the first democratically-held election for the people of Taiwan. Moreover, Taiwan's free enterprise system has produced a strong and vibrant economy in addition to a high standard of living for its people.

On the third anniversary of Taiwan's free elections, it is important to realize that Taiwan appreciates its relationship with the United States. I wish to pay tribute to President Lee Teng-hui, Vice President Lien Chan, and Foreign Minister Jason Hu for their outstanding leadership. Their leadership has assured that Taiwan fulfills its potential to become a full-fledged developed economy. The United States values their friendship and stands in support of their work. May their continued leadership allow Taiwan to forever shine as a beacon of freedom in the Far East. Our very best to you President Lee Teng-hui, Vice President Lien Chan, and Foreign Minister Jason Hu.

HONORING EDNA SKEETE MITCHELL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Edna Skeete Mitchell, a marvelous lady from Barbados, who is celebrating her 100th birthday.

She was born October 10, 1898, the second of seven children born to Gertrude and Charles Skeete. She came to the United States in 1922 and soon after met and married K. Claude Mitchell. They had two children, both of whom have enjoyed professional success.

Mrs. Mitchell acquired from her grandmother a recognition that a good education is a necessity. She and her siblings were all educated and her children continued that fine tradition here in the United States. Her son Claude, Jr. received his MSW from City University and her daughter Joan is active in the Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta.

After her husband died, she raised her children while working at New York Cornell Hospital as a dietitian assistant.

At her family birthday party in October of last year, family members came from as far away as Barbados, Canada, Massachusetts and Virginia as well as the tri-state area to celebrate her centenary. One nephew from Barbados, who is Consul to Sweden, brought her a gold heart as a symbol of the kind heartedness she showed him and others of the family. Another, a Dean at Howard University, served as emcee.

Mrs. Mitchell still is a member of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church. She epitomizes what immigrants have done for America. Giving all and raising children who, with every generation, contribute still more. We are fortunate that she came to us and I congratulate her on this special birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTER-STATE CLASS ACTION JURISDICTION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of my colleagues Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRYANT and Mr. MORAN of Virginia to introduce important bipartisan legislation to correct a serious flaw in our federal jurisdiction statutes. In recent years, the number of class action filings has risen dramatically and the large majority of these cases are brought in state courts. A 1999 survey indicates that the number of state court class actions pending against surveyed companies has increased by 1,042 percent over the ten-year period 1988-1998. This increase in class action filings has been accompanied by a number of abuses of our judicial system.

Interstate class actions are flooding into certain state courts because those courts tend to favor local lawyers in cases against out-of-state companies; however, state courts are often ill-equipped to handle such cases. Many state courts don't have either the support staff and other resources or the complex litigation experience to handle interstate class actions, which often involve thousands (and sometimes millions) of purported class members.

In addition to forum-shopping, lawyers frequently exploit major loopholes in federal jurisdiction statutes to block the removal of class actions that belong in federal court. For example, plaintiffs' counsel may name parties that are not really relevant to the class claims in an effort to destroy diversity. In other cases, counsel may waive federal law claims or shave the amount of damages claimed to ensure that the action will remain in state court.

Some state courts use very lax class certification criteria, making virtually any controversy subject to class action treatment and allowing state courts to hear purely interstate class ac-

tions. The result is that state courts are increasingly deciding out-of-state residents' claims against out-of-state companies under other states' laws. When state courts preside over class actions involving claims of residents of more than one state (especially nationwide class actions), they end up dictating the substantive laws of other states, sometimes over the protests of those other states.

At present, our federal diversity jurisdiction statutes essentially provide that interstate disputes involving significant sums of money may be heard in a federal court. But because class actions (as we now know them) did not exist when those statutes were initially framed, class actions were omitted, leading to outrageous results. For example, under current law, a citizen of one state usually may bring in a federal court a simple \$75,001 slip-and-fall action against a party from another state. But if a class of 25 million product owners living in all 50 states bring claims collectively worth \$15 billion against the product manufacturer, that lawsuit usually must be heard in a state court.

Our legislation offers a solution to class action abuse by making it easier for plaintiff class members and defendants to remove class actions to federal court, where cases involving multiple state laws are more appropriately heard.

This legislation does not limit the ability of anyone to file a class action lawsuit. It does not change anybody's rights to recovery. It merely closes the loophole, allowing federal courts to hear big lawsuits involving truly interstate issues, while ensuring that purely local controversies remain in state courts. This is exactly what the framers of the Constitution had in mind when they established federal diversity jurisdiction.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO CARE

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is often said that the youth of America are indifferent. We hear that they simply do not care about the issues at all, except those narrow issues that affect them personally. With so many repeating this view, I am pleased to highlight the efforts of young people in Illinois' 10th District that contradict this stereotype.

I recently received a package of letters from David Hirsch, a teacher in the Deerfield High School English Department. His sophomore English class had used the issues in my annual constituent survey for a policy debate unit, and as part of this unit, each student wrote a letter to me detailing their opinions on some of these issues. The 56 letters that I received from these young constituents were not only impressive in that they were well-thought out and well-written, but equally impressive in the genuine concern that these young men and women showed for issues ranging from the protection of the Earth from pollution to the protection of children from guns. These students also expressed concern about people in other nations, and our relationships with other

countries like Russia and Iraq. Clearly, these young people are interested in more than just their personal agendas. Sophomores, they may be, but they are hardly sophomoric.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to enter into the record the names of these students to recognize their efforts. They are: Josh Baker, Katherine Bolton, Jon Chester, Greg Cole, Jenny Eck, Julie Fiocchi, Jay Gustafson, Lexi Hayes, Janna Hoffman, Sari Hirsch, Bridgette Jung, Sandi Kaplan, Nancy Keene, Chris Krakowski, Stephanie Laouras, Kerry Lee, Elliott Levy, Elaine London, Andrew Mast, Steve Meisinger, Mohammed Mekki, Rob Pantle, Mary Patchell, Michael Posternack, Jeanette Schaller, Jeremy Silver, James Sinkovitz, Matthew Spraker, Melissa Spreckman, Jori Swift, Karli Tracey, Tracy Watson, Zachary Weiner, Lara Weinstein, and Mara Weisman. I want to commend all of them for showing interest in the issues that affect our district, country, and our world, and I am very happy to represent them in the Congress.

COMMEMORATING THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR TORAH STUDY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a nationally acclaimed Jewish residential high school, the Wisconsin Institute for Torah Study, on its 19th anniversary.

The school, or Yeshiva, was founded in 1980 to provide a unique high school and post-high school experience. Its programs attract students from major cities across the country. The high school program offers a comprehensive Torah study curriculum and, simultaneously, an intensive college-preparatory general studies program. The Bais Medrash is the advanced, post high school program.

As a testament to its growth and strength, the institute will expand due to steadily increasing enrollment. When completed, the expanded facility will house a new Bais Medrash, labs and classrooms.

The Wisconsin Institute for Torah Study also honors this year its twin pillars of strength in the community: Armin and Hollie Nankin. Armin, past president of the Jewish Community Center and former board member of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, and his wife Hollie have seen the school through some very difficult moments, and have served humbly and with dignity as a beacon of light and a source of strength. They have been actively involved with many other organizations, including Hillel Academy and Congregations Beth Israel and Lake Park Synagogue. They are the single most generous donors to the expansion campaign of the Wisconsin Institute for Torah Study, and through their encouragement have caused others to lend support.

The involvement of Armin and Hollie Nankin is summed up in three phrases: Quick minds, for their keen insight to the community's needs. Strong feelings, for their deep concern for the people in their lives and the community. And, deep impacts for an array of causes and institutions which are better today for their involvement.