

Republican Administrations was brought to the attention of Vice President GORE, who deserves a great deal of credit for recognizing Bob's talents and allowing him to run the National Performance Review in a competent and non-partisan manner.

In leading hundreds of career civil servants in the reinventing government initiative, Bob has helped produce some remarkable results: more than \$136 billion in savings, a workforce that is smaller than when John F. Kennedy was President, 640,000 fewer pages of internal rules, and the creation of more than 3,000 customer service standards that citizens can use to judge how well agencies are serving their customers. I was struck by Bob's undying belief that government can work if front-line employees are empowered with the ability to exercise common sense. Bob's inspirational mantra was, "Federal workers know what's not working in government and—if empowered—can make government work better and cost less."

Beyond creating a government that was smaller and worked better, Bob wanted to create a movement. As Vice President GORE said at Bob's retirement ceremony, "Bob's goal was to 'fan the flames of reinvention' among front line employees, to empower them to reinvent their workplaces and how they deal with their customers—to bring common sense to government. He did this, and more."

Bob Stone is the epitome of the hard-working, unrecognized public servant who is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to accomplish his mission in a thoughtful and creative way. I speak for many in this Congress when I express my gratitude to Bob for the key role he has played in restoring Americans' belief that government can do the right thing. I wish him and his wife, Roxanne, a happy retirement when they join their children and grandchildren in California. We will miss you, Mr. REGO, but hope your spirit of service and reinvention will live long in the federal government.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATION OF  
CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to a high school in my district that has its eye on the future and its students on the road to success. Center High School in the Center Unified School District will be dedicated on May 22 after undergoing extensive remodeling of its facilities to accommodate, among other things the continuing emergence of high technology in the classroom, and the growing demand for improved mathematics and science education.

The dramatic changes at Center High School come at a time when this school district faces tremendous challenges in coping with a significant loss of student enrollment due to the imminent closure of McClellan Air Force Base. Despite such a daunting obstacle, forward-thinking trustees, administrators, faculty members, school staff, parents and others in the community moved ahead with plans to give students at Center High School their best possible chance to succeed in a rapidly changing world. It should come as no surprise

that this particular school district took such a leadership role. Even as the Gold Rush swept through California and well before the Pony Express began to link my state to the rest of the nation, one of the area's very first schools opened its doors to students in what is now the Center Unified School District. For almost a century and a half, this community has focused on future generations.

At its dedication ceremony, Center High will show off its state-of-the-art science complex and adjoining computer lab, a new mathematics wing with adjoining computer lab, a new library with multiple computer research stations, a new 500 seat performing arts theatre and music building, a special education wing, and a technology-based curriculum integrated in the school's Media Communications and Business Academies.

It also should be noted that student achievements at Center High School are truly remarkable. Most recently, both the student newspaper and yearbook received the Gold Crown Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association—their equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. It is the only school in the nation to win top honors for both publications. In addition, Center High freshman William John was recently selected to represent California in People to People International at a United Nations conference in Switzerland this summer.

It is refreshing and hopeful for all of us to witness the rebirth of Center High School and to honor the tremendous success of its students. I urge you to join me in congratulating all those involved for a job well done.

STATEMENT ON KOSOVO

**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the House debated several resolutions regarding the current situation in Kosovo. I take this opportunity to address that situation and each of those resolutions.

The current situation in Kosovo is indeed a tragedy. People are being forced from their homes, families are being destroyed, people are being murdered because of their ethnic identity. If I may, let me recount some sobering facts. To date, over 603,000 Kosovar-Albanian refugees have been forced from their homes, an estimated 3,700 people have been murdered, and approximately 400,000 people are roaming the Kosovo countryside.

Unfortunately, we have seen this type of activity far too often. Many of us have taken to this very floor and condemned the actions of the Nazis in World War II, the Ottoman Empire during the Armenian Genocide, the Chinese at Tiananmen Square, the treatment of the East Timorese by the Indonesian Government, and the murder of over a million Rwandans. All of us also condemn the actions of Slobodan Milosevic in his efforts to "cleanse" the former Yugoslavia of ethnic minorities.

In my view, the United States is the world leader in the efforts to promote democracy and basic human rights. As that world leader, not a police force but a leader, the United States must take its responsibility seriously. Therefore, we must play a role in stopping ongoing genocides, preventing future genocides,

and promoting freedom and democracy around the world. Unfortunately, this sometimes requires the use of United States military force.

There is a great deal of debate over whether this operation in Kosovo is in our interests. I believe it is. As part of our role in the world, the United States needs to take action to preserve and in some instances expand alliances that will encourage the establishment of the democratic principles we all cherish. As such, we must remain an active leader in the NATO alliance.

The NATO alliance was formed to provide a strong measure of security to Europe, which in turn provides a measure of security for the United States. Political, military, and economic instability threatens U.S. national security and economic interests. This is a region where two world wars began and the threat that this conflict could spread to neighboring countries is real. It is without a doubt that preventing the spread of this conflict is in our security interest.

During the debate, the first bill the House considered was H.R. 1569, introduced by Representatives FOWLER and GOODLING. This bill would prohibit the President from using any funds for the deployment of "ground elements" without congressional authorization. This legislation is far too broad in its scope. It would prevent using U.S. "ground elements" to rescue U.S. military personnel or civilians should that be necessary, it would restrict U.S. participation in a peacekeeping operation, it would handcuff the President from responding with "ground elements" to a direct threat to U.S. personnel, and it would have even prohibited the rescue of the three U.S. POW's.

Passage of this bill, in my view, gives President Milosevic permission to act without fear that the United States will respond with the swiftest and most forceful action if necessary. Many have argued that we cannot tell our enemies what we will do or how we will act, but this bill tells Milosevic exactly what Congress will allow President Clinton to do.

While at this time I do not think the use of "ground elements" is necessary, I do not believe that we should take any option off the table for any period of time. I do not believe that we should handcuff the President or our military leaders from taking whatever action they need to in responding to a developing situation. This bill would do exactly that. For the reasons outlined above I voted against this bill.

The next resolution the House considered was House Concurrent Resolution 82, introduced by Representative CAMPBELL of California. This resolution would have required the United States to withdraw, in 30 days, from its participation in the NATO operations. I also voted against this resolution. The unilateral withdrawal of U.S. forces from this operation would signal to the world that we do not support the NATO operation and that the United States is willing to ignore its role as a world leader.

House Joint Resolution 44 was the third resolution the House considered. This resolution was a declaration of war by the United States against Yugoslavia. We are in our third month of air strikes against Yugoslavia and that is too early to discuss a declaration of war. We need to continue the air campaign, which is having some success.

This is a time when we need to support both our men and women in harm's way and

our allies. To approve any of these measures would send a message to our troops, allies and enemies that the United States is not unified or committed to ending the tragedy in Kosovo.

The final resolution the House considered was Senate Concurrent Resolution 21. This resolution authorized the use of United States air forces to participate in the NATO action in Kosovo. I voted in favor of this resolution. The United States is already involved in the air operation in Kosovo and refusing to support that ongoing operation is, in effect, telling our air crews that we are not behind them and this operation. Mr. Speaker, I know that every member of this House supports our men and women in the military but refusing to support this resolution sends mixed messages to them. We must be united in our support of them and must let them know that.

#### A SALUTE TO OWEN MARRON

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and profound respect that I rise today to salute Owen A. Marron, one of the most exemplary longtime leaders in the U.S. labor movement. Brother Marron was appointed to the Alameda County Central Labor Council in 1982 after a two-year stint in the U.S. Army and a long affiliation in the local United Steel Workers Union and SEIU. He rose up the ranks of leadership after his appointment to the Labor Council and was at the helm as Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the past decade. He was also elected vice president of the California Labor Federation.

Brother Marron will be honored as Unionist of the Year on June 17, 1999 in Oakland, California. His numerous contributions and achievements will be applauded and well wishes will be extended as he retires. He will leave a legacy of commitment, strong leadership, unbending advocacy for affirmative action and for the rights of the disabled community, and tenacity in organizing and fighting for working people.

Brother Marron's forty plus years in the labor movement will be long remembered and his leadership will be missed. I join his friends and colleagues in thanking him for his untiring efforts. Brother Owen Marron has indeed made a positive difference in the lives of many individuals.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LEUKEMIA SOCIETY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Leukemia Society of America on its 50th anniversary. The Leukemia Society has led the fight to end this terrible disease and many individuals are alive today thanks to its work. This organization possesses not only the scientific and medical expertise needed for

such a task, but also the understanding and sensitivity to lend support to the patients and families faced with the challenge of leukemia.

I am personally active with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia Society, and dedicate all my work to the memory of our son, Todd Richard Roukema, who was taken from us by the tragedy of leukemia. I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Richard W. Zahn, our chapter's president, for his dedication and hard work. Dr. Zahn is one of the many people who make the Leukemia Society a success and is bringing hope to all those families who are facing this disease.

In August 1944, 16-year-Robbie deVilliers was diagnosed with acute leukemia. Three months later he died, as did 96 percent of the children diagnosed with leukemia that year. In 1950, as a memorial to their son's brief life, Robbie's parents established the Robert Roesler deVilliers Foundation in an effort to support scientific research into their son's disorder. In 1951, with an income of \$11,700, the foundation approved its first research grant. With the hiring of a medical consultant, the foundation established its principle of awarding research grants to young scientists over the next few years. In 1955, it changed its name to the Leukemia Society, eventually becoming known as the Leukemia Society of America to reflect its national stature.

During its half-century of operation, the Leukemia Society has grown tremendously, expanding its scope and developing a wealth of expertise and knowledge. With an income of more than \$83 million a year, the Society now funds research into the blood-related cancers of lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma as well as leukemia. Under the Leukemia Society's leadership, new chemotherapy drugs combined with radiation treatment have increased survival rates. Today, 80 percent of children under 15 survive leukemia and certain types of leukemia can be cured.

While the past 50 years of accomplishment brings great hope, one adult or child still dies from blood-related cancers every nine minutes. Leukemia and lymphoma are the leading fatal cancers in men and women under 35. Cures for these diseases must be found. Research challenges remain and the Leukemia Society valiantly pursues its mission.

As I have stated, we know personally the tragedy of cancer: My husband, Dr. Richard W. Roukema, M.D., and I lost our son, Todd, to leukemia in 1976 at the age of 17. At that time, bone marrow transplants and other techniques that offered hope were only in their experimental stages. Since then, many advances have been made that have spared thousands of other parents the heartbreak we faced. It is thanks to the brilliant researchers and physicians supported by the Leukemia Society that hope can be maintained.

Today, we are within grasp of a cure for many forms of cancer but much research remains to be done. I thank God for those who are willing to labor toward this goal and pray that with their help a cure can be found and that no one will ever again have to suffer from this terrible disease.

#### BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the extraordinary accomplishments of two schools which are located in my home district. Concordia Elementary and Moulton Elementary recently were selected to receive the Blue Ribbon Schools award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established by the U.S. Secretary of Education in 1982. Since its establishment, more than 3,500 schools have been recognized for their excellence.

Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership, a clear vision, a sense of mission, and most importantly, solid evidence of family involvement. Through exceptional academics, athletics and after-school programs, these schools have set themselves apart from other schools. Concordia and Moulton have achieved the recognition of a Blue Ribbon School that comes from their outstanding level of excellence. Teachers, administrators, parents, volunteers and students should be applauded for their efforts.

I would like to express my congratulations to these schools. Concordia Elementary and Moulton Elementary should be proud of their accomplishment. Nothing is of more importance to our families, our communities and our country than the quality of education in America.

#### RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 1999

### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 1999*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Retirement Security Act of 1999. This bill, nearly identical to legislation I introduced in the last Congress, would help put the Social Security system on a better financial footing while providing future Americans with the peace of mind that comes with their own personal retirement accounts.

Under my bill, the government will establish a retirement account for each newborn American citizen, initially worthy \$1,000. The money for the initial \$1,000 will come from income taxes on that portion of Social Security income currently subject to the income tax. This amount is to be invested in the same funds available in the Federal employees' Thrift Savings Plan two of which promise higher rates of return than the Social Security Trust Fund. The investment decisions among the funds are to be made by the parent or guardian until the account holder reaches the age of majority when he or she is able to make such decisions. The account holder, or his or her parent, can add to the principal of the account, up to \$2,000 per year tax free. But even if that ever happens the \$1,000, if invested in the common stock index fund, at the historical real rate of return of 7 percent, would grow to \$89,000 in 1999 dollars. This happens to be just enough to cover the current average Social Security benefit.