

While Angeline is "officially" in retirement now, she is still extremely active, including her involvement on a daily basis in Carol Lynn and Don Chetkin Art Gallery in Red Bank, NJ. When here in the nation's capital, she is at work in her granddaughter's business.

Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to include in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some of the achievements of Angeline Bonforte on the occasion of her being honored by San Pietro Apostolo.

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TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DENNIS J. REIMER

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**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of General Dennis J. Reimer, the United States Army's 33rd Chief of Staff, who retired on June 21, 1999. General Reimer's career has spanned over 36 years, during which time he has distinguished himself as a soldier, a leader, and a trusted advisor to both the President and the United States Congress.

As Chief of Staff, General Reimer has prepared our Nation's Army well for the challenges of the 21st Century. He leaves the Army trained and ready, a superbly disciplined force that supports our Country and its interests in 81 countries around the globe. In a period fraught with leadership challenges, General Reimer has defined and inculcated the Army's values of "Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage" throughout the total force. As a result of his efforts, he has created a seamless force which maximizes the unique and complementary capabilities of its three components—Active, Army Reserve, and National Guard, creating a "Total Army." He can take great pride in the Army's accomplishments, under his leadership, as well as its current state of preparedness.

General Reimer has created the vision and set the stage for the Army of the 21st Century, a strategically responsive force. Throughout his career, General Reimer has distinguished himself in numerous command and staff positions with American Forces stationed both overseas and in the continental United States. In Asia, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam and a tour in Korea. In Europe, his assignments included serving at the Commander, Division Artillery and the Chief of Staff of the 8th Infantry Division.

General Reimer's stateside assignments have included serving as the Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, Colorado, and as the Commanding General, Forces Command, at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Since June 1995 General Reimer has served in his present assignment at the 33rd United States Army Chief of Staff. He has served with great distinction. I would like to offer my congratulations to General Reimer on a job well done, and to wish him and his wife, Mary Jo, much continued success in their future endeavors.

IN THE INTRODUCTION OF V.I.  
LEGISLATURE REDUCTION ACT

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**HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN**

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which was submitted to me, by the members of the Legislature of my Congressional District, to make it possible for the Virgin Islands Legislature to reduce its size. This proposal was also introduced in the previous Congress but was not acted upon in time to become law.

Mr. Speaker, the Virgin Islands and the other U.S. Territories continue to strive for full local self-government. While we have achieved local self-government in many ways already, from time to time, those of us that have not yet adopted a local constitution, have to petition Congress to make changes in the general law, or Organic Act, which governs us. This bill is one of those times.

In a resolution petitioning the Congress to reduce the number of Virgin Islands Senators, it stated that the people of the Virgin Islands is represented by a 15 member Legislature which is among the highest ratio of legislators to constituents currently existing in any U.S. jurisdiction. The bill that I introduce today does not proscribe what the number of Virgin Islands Senators will be but leaves it up to the legislature and people of the Virgin Islands to decide.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

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AVIATION INVESTMENT AND REFORM ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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SPEECH OF

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1000) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I regretfully rise in opposition to H.R. 1000. Our country's aviation system is integral to our nation's transportation system and there's no question we need to continue to invest in America's aviation infrastructure.

The problem is that this bill takes the Aviation Trust Fund "off-budget" which means aviation taxes cannot be used for any other purpose, creating what's called a firewall around billions of dollars in aviation taxes. As a former member of the Budget Committee and a current member of the Appropriations Committee, I can safely say this makes a mockery of the budget process and threatens our surplus.

Supporters of the bill argue that since the money in the aviation trust fund comes from aviation taxes, it should all be spent for aviation purposes. As a matter of tax fairness, federal taxes should be spent for their intended purposes.

But this is simply a red-herring argument to justify placing aviation spending at the abso-

lute head of the line in competition for federal funds. Furthermore, taking the trust fund off-budget means that there would be no budgetary constraints to control aviation spending.

This is troubling for two reasons.

First, why are we exempting aviation programs from the normal budget scrutiny that all other programs must endure? Do we really want to place aviation funding ahead of all other federal priorities such as education, health care, Medicare, or national defense?

Second, taking the trust fund off-budget means we jeopardize our surplus. AIR-21 will spend \$14.3 billion more over five years on airport construction, busting the budget caps. This additional funding, since it's not subject to the normal budget rules which require offsets, will be paid out of the surplus. While Republicans may be confused as to what their priorities are, Democrats are unified that any budget surplus should be dedicated to shoring up Social Security and Medicare.

Let's be clear. This bill is nothing more than an attempt to put one small part of the budget ahead of the other. At the same time, it busts our spending caps, eviscerates any notion of reasonable fiscal discipline and handicaps our ability to preserve the surplus.

If Congress feels we should increase the nation's investment in aviation, let's do that. But let's not permanently put one category of spending ahead of another. In the spirit of budget discipline and fairness, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

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RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

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**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 22, 1999*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article from The Boston Globe on December 4, 1998 for the RECORD. The conflict in Sri Lanka has existed for over 16 years without any solution. We must encourage the parties involved to stop the terror and to accept a third party mediation to end the war.

[From the Boston Globe, December 4, 1998]

A CHANCE FOR PEACE IN SRI LANKA

For the first time in four years, there is a glimmer of hope for peace talks to end one of the world's bloodiest conflicts, the war between the government of Sri Lanka and that country's Tamil minority. Terrible suffering on both sides has induced a war-weariness that may become the prelude to peacemaking.

A call for negotiations last Friday from the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam drew a wary but welcoming response from Sri Lanka's main opposition party. "This is a major move by the Tigers, and it is a very positive one to which the government must respond," said the leader of the United National Party. This response is promising because for too long the opposition and the governing People's Alliance of President Chandrika Kumaratunga have competed to appear the more inflexible foe of dialogue with the Tamils.

Because Washington maintains warm relations with the Sri Lankan government, even providing training and arms sales to its

armed forces, and since the Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran called for third-party mediation in his offer of negotiations, the United States could play a crucial role in ending Sri Lanka's long nightmare.

The State Department has been reluctant to become involved in the conflict because neither side had been willing to accept the premise of a negotiated solution, as the antagonistic parties did for the Oslo accords in the Middle East and the peace talks that George Mitchell guided in Northern Ireland. Even now the State Department does not want to rush ahead of events.

Nevertheless, Tamil intermediaries are sending exploratory messages to the Tiger leadership asking about the chances for a cease-fire. If the Tigers want to shed their well deserved reputation as incorrigible terrorists, they will accept the idea of a cease-fire. In return, the Chandrika government should agree to withdraw its troops from the northeast province. If these gestures of good will are made by the belligerents, the United States would do well to take on the role of third-party mediator in peace talks.

**TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GILPIN RAY FEGLEY, UNITED STATES ARMY, ON THE OCCASION OF THIS RETIREMENT**

**HON. GENE TAYLOR**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Gilpin R. Fegley as he prepares to culminate his active duty career in the United States Army. Gil is the epitome of an outstanding officer and leader.

Colonel Fegley began his career more than 25 years ago when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, and first served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate Trial Counsel in Grafenver, Germany. A graduate of the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and the Command and General Staff College, Gil Fegley has met the many challenges of military service as an Army Officer, and has faithfully served his country in a variety of command staff assignments in the Continental United States, Hawaii, and Germany. Gil also deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate.

Gil has served in the Army Legislative Liaison Investigation and Legislative Division as the Chief, Legislative Counsel. During his tenure in the Legislative Liaison Office, Gil worked hard to represent the interests of the Army to Members of Congress. He presented a positive and impressive image of the Army during the course of his duties there.

He concludes his career as the Special Assistant for Installations and Legal Issues in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Always thorough and precise in applying his legal skills, Gil was also very generous with colleagues, both senior and subordinate, who sought out his advice on legislative matters. Senior Defense officials depended on Gil for his studious approach to matters and Congressional Members and staff looked to him for his honesty and professional assessment of any given situation.

Mr. Speaker, serve and dedication to duty have been the hallmarks of Colonel Fegley's career. He has served our nation and the

Army well during his years of service, and we are indebted for his many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of the United States. I am sure that everyone who has worked with Gil joins me in wishing him and his wife, Marion, health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

**NATIONAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Juneteenth National Museum, located in my home district of Baltimore, Md., and in observance of the National Juneteenth Celebration.

On Saturday, June 19, 1999, the Juneteenth National Museum held its 11th annual "Juneteenth" celebration commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is generally celebrated on June 19, which is considered as the day of emancipation from slavery of African-Americans in Texas. It was this day in 1866 that Union Major General Gordon Granger read General Order #3 to the people of Galveston, Texas, informing them of their new status as free men. Since then, Juneteenth was celebrated in Texas, and quickly spread to other southern states, such as Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and eventually the rest of the country. In addition to a festival, the celebration included the purchase of lands or "emancipation grounds" by freed slaves in honor of the celebration. On January 1, 1980, under the provisions of House Bill No. 1016, the 66th Congress of the United States declared June 19th "Emancipation Day in Texas," making Juneteenth a legal state holiday.

"Ring the Bell of Freedom" was the Juneteenth National Museum's festival theme for 1999. Juneteenth is an important event in Baltimore that celebrates American history and historical figures. The annual occurrence of Juneteenth attracts people from across the state to downtown Baltimore in observance of this event.

Among the various festivities, the celebration included lectures on important historical figures, spoken word readings, musical attractions, and food venues that satisfied every taste imaginable. There were shopping opportunities for antique buffs, and a vast array of arts and crafts available for purchase. In keeping with this year's theme, the celebration featured an emotionally stirring re-enactment of a slave auction. Still, along with the painful images that accompany an event like a slave auction, came the sweet and pleasant visions of liberation and freedom. There was also a walk through a historical exhibit on Paul Robeson, along with a lecture from Dr. Beryl Williams, Dean Emeritus of Morgan State University.

Further, the Juneteenth festival featured both a tap and step dance exhibition, along with a family tent with activity and game tables for children and adults. It concluded with a performance by the New Baltimore Hand Dancers at the dance pavilion. The Juneteenth Festival has grown to be a vitally important part of not only Baltimore, but African-American

culture as well. True to tradition, this year's celebration proved to be as exciting as ever.

I congratulate Juneteenth National Museum on a successful Juneteenth celebration.

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF SUSAN YOACHUM—POLITICS WITH PASSION**

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, sadly I rise to remind my colleagues that today marks the first anniversary of the passing of Susan Yoachum, one of the most respected political writers in California.

Born on May 12, 1955 in Dallas, Texas, Susan Gail Yoachum graduated in 1975 from Southern Methodist University in Dallas with bachelors' degrees in journalism and political science. She was a reporter for the Dallas Morning News, the Independent Journal in Marin County and the San Jose Mercury-News, where she was part of the news team that won a 1990 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

At the Mercury-News she exposed chemical contamination of drinking water in South San Jose, disclosed unsatisfactory medical care for the indigent, and wrote about industrial espionage. She joined the San Francisco Chronicle in 1990. She wrote some of the biggest political stories of the 80's and 90's. She covered national, state, and local politics for the Chronicle. Her assignments included the 1992 presidential campaign, the governor's race in 1990 and 1994, the 1991 San Francisco Mayoral race and the 1992 U.S. Senate race. She also wrote in-depth about issues, from affirmative action to abortion, from tobacco tax to the hazards of toxic chemicals. Susan was promoted to political editor in 1994.

Her love of language surfaced at an early age: She became the National Spelling Bee Champion in 1969, winning her title by correctly spelling the word, "interlocutory." Susan was renowned for her wonderful wit and sense of humor.

In 1992, she was the first to call Democratic Senate candidates Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer the "Thelma and Louise of American politics."

She had a passion for politics—the drama, the intrigue and, most important, the effect on the lives of ordinary citizens. She brought an unusual combination of idealism, pragmatism, and skepticism to her work.

Last year, when the candidates for California's governorship debated, Susan wrote one last memorable piece of political analysis.

"What I was hoping for, while I've been sidelined by illness, was a discussion of issues and what difference it would make who ends up being elected governor in a time of prosperity," she wrote. "I wanted to see the candidates discuss their plans for schools instead of acting like school bullies in their 30-second ads."

Susan brought to her fight against breast cancer the same indomitable spirit, tenacity, passion, and humor that served her so well as a political writer.

She was called a "real life Murphy Brown" for her courage in sharing her personal battle