

IN HONOR OF DOROTHY EPSTEIN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Epstein, a dedicated community activist. We here in Congress have spent a lot of time talking about Social Security and ensuring that our seniors have the ability to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. Mrs. Epstein has gone beyond the rhetoric by spending her time relentlessly promoting activism and leadership among older adults so that they, through their own efforts, can secure and protect their future. She played an essential role in creating the Institute for Senior Action, a leadership training program for seniors at the Join Public Affairs Committee (JPAC) for Older Adults in New York. She has served on the JPAC Advisory Committee since 1993 and has used her wisdom to guide that body. These efforts demonstrate Mrs. Epstein's tireless commitment to the cause of senior advocacy: after all, she accomplished all this after retiring at the age of 76.

But this is just another in the long list of Mrs. Epstein's accomplishments, a list which begins at her very first job: organizing unions with the New York City relief bureau. She also served as a chapter president at the Association of Workers in Public Relief Agencies, where she continued to work to prevent discrimination in the workplace and layoffs for civil service workers. Her efforts with these organizations laid the groundwork for what would become the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. After her great achievements in the public sector, Mrs. Epstein decided to try her hand in the private sector by founding Synergy, a vitamin company. Like all of her efforts, it was a great success.

It was after her retirement from Synergy that she began her extraordinary association with JPAC. Mrs. Epstein was eager to use her experience and vision to confront the issues facing older adults. It did not take long for her to make a big impact, and only a little more than a year after she joined the Advisory Committee, the Institute for Senior Action was born. Under her guidance, the Institute, which graduated its 10th class this year, has pursued vital issues such as the protection of health care, income maintenance, and other social services. The intense, all-day classes stress confidence, cooperation, and help everyone from recent retirees to older seniors get involved in social action. Through the Institute, Mrs. Epstein has been able to spread her energy and dedication to seniors of all backgrounds, who have then been able to make a difference in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, whether she was organizing unions, fighting discrimination, or educating seniors, Mrs. Dorothy Epstein has dedicated her life to empowering people. So, even though she is pulling back from the day-to-day work at the Institute, the ripple of hope that she created with her life's work will continue to grow and expand, changing more and more lives along the way. It is for this ongoing contribution that I honor her today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical evaluation on Tuesday, July 20, 1999, I was absent for rollcall votes 311–315. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 311—"Yes";
Rollcall No. 312—"No";
Rollcall No. 313—"No";
Rollcall No. 314—"No";
Rollcall No. 315—"No".

THOMAS MAKAR OF CLEVELAND,
OHIO ATTAINS EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Makar of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored August 21, 1999 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor in which a Scout can earn. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required. The merit badges an Eagle Scout must earn range from First Aid to Camping to Citizenship of the Community, Nation, and the World. Additionally, each Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project that benefits the community in which he must plan, finance, and execute. Furthermore, an Eagle Scout must hold a variety of leadership positions in which he learns important life skills. Thomas has accomplished this and more.

Thomas has proved himself as an exceptional young man who lives by the Scout Law; Scout Oath; Scout Promise; and Scout Motto. Thomas is also the first second-generation Eagle Scout in his troop history, and this is a tribute to the entire Makar family.

I ask you to please join me in recognizing and congratulating Thomas for his achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. RODOLFO
DIAZ-PONS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Rodolfo Diaz-Pons, who is retiring after 22 years of military service and 4 years at Central Michigan University as a professor and chair of the military science department.

I would like to commend Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons for his service to his country and congratulate him on his retirement on August 31. Since beginning his career in 1977 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, he has served several leadership positions in the United States and in Germany.

While at Fort Carson, CO, Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons held positions as commander of an "A

Team" and served as group plans officer in the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne. Following his completion of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, he served as rifle and headquarters company commander in the 4th Battalion 8th Infantry. During his time in Germany, he served as the battalion operations officer to the 1st Battalion 39th Infantry.

Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons entered into service because he wanted to develop his leadership abilities. He has achieved this goal. As he begins his retirement, he continues to advance his leadership skills and volunteer in his community. He will serve as full-time pastor of Riverbend Baptist Church in St. Louis, MI, where he was previously serving as volunteer pastor.

On behalf of the residents of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons today and wish him the best as he begins his new journey. His school, community and nation are grateful to him.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Goodling amendment.

India is one of our most valuable allies. The oldest democracy and the largest democracy share many things in common. India is moving forward with free-market reforms that offer tremendous opportunities for American trade and investment.

U.S. assistance to India, and elsewhere, serves our national interests and is provided because it promotes our policy priorities, not as a reward for voting with us.

We should not cut assistance to countries based solely on their voting practices in the United Nations General Assembly. We should consider more than just a voting record. For example, we agree on a host of other UN activities. India has sent significant troop contingents to various peace-keeping missions around the world, serving as a partner to further our mutual interests.

But even if you consider their voting record, in votes identified by the State Department as "important," India voted with the U.S. 75% of the time. This amendment will do nothing but damage our relations with a valuable ally by identifying India as an opponent of U.S. policies, when, in fact, we have a great deal in common.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this amendment.

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1995) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to empower teachers, improve student achievement through high-quality professional development for teachers, reauthorize the Reading Excellence Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, the problems with H.R. 1995 are abundant in nature, however, one of its greatest flaws deals with the lack of language about the school counselors of this country. H.R. 1995 eliminates over one million personnel from eligibility for professional development under Title II of ESEA. Without the assistance of other school personnel, undue burdens and demands will be placed on teachers. TEA will actually increase, not decrease, the workload and responsibilities of teachers. H.R. 1995 decreases local flexibility to train and hire needed school personnel—America's schools need school counselors, the recent school shootings remind us that students have needs that must be served by qualified counseling professionals. H.R. 1995 eliminates pupil services from eligibility for professional development by completely rewriting title II of ESEA. H.R. 1995 limits students with disabilities access to education—by eliminating professional development for pupil services, school staff will be unprepared to meet the special needs of students with disabilities. These are just a few of the shortcomings with H.R. 1995, if we are in this for the children, how can we simply sit back passively and allow such grossly inadequate legislation which blatantly ignores those who fight so hard for the welfare of our children—school counselors.

IRAN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION
PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1477, the Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1999, of which I am an original co-sponsor. This provision, which passed the House of Representatives in the 105th Congress by an overwhelming margin, would ensure that we hold the International Atomic Energy Agency accountable for its programs in Iran, and would reinforce our commitment to peace and stability in the Persian Gulf.

Despite its plentiful oil and gas resources, Iran has sought for years to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant on its Persian Gulf coast. Iran is a notorious sponsor of international terrorism, and as such its plans to utilize nuclear energy should not go unchecked by the United States and our allies. I have little faith that a nation which thinks nothing of

murdering innocent civilians and of rounding up innocent Jews and throwing them into jail on trumped-up charges possesses the commitment to safety that would prevent such a reactor from being a threat to the entire Gulf region, if not the world.

The November 1998 pact between Iran and Russia to expedite the construction at Bushehr is illustrative of the urgency of this threat. As a nation, we need to pay close attention to the progression of this project, and we should ensure that we do not contribute to Iran's acquisition of technology or expertise during the course of this project which could contribute to its procurement of nuclear weapons know-how.

As Iran continues to build its military arsenal—testing engines for ballistic missiles capable of carrying warheads to Israel and other nations in the region, we should make sure that our money—both directly and indirectly—does not help Iran's conquest of nuclear technology. This measure, which would withhold assistance to the IAEA pending certain State Department certifications, is a necessary step toward that goal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

BRENT BAUKNECHT ACHIEVES
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brent Bauknecht for his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Eagle Scout is the highest honor that a Boy Scout can earn. This high honor requires years of dedication and hard work both to himself and most importantly, the community.

Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges including First Aid; Camping; Citizenship of the Community; Citizenship of the Nation; Citizenship of the World; Family Life; and Personal Management. In addition, each Eagle Scout must plan, finance, and execute a service project that benefits the community. Furthermore, each Eagle Scout must hold a variety of leadership positions in which he gains important life skills that will always remain with him.

Brent has accomplished this and more. He has proven himself to be an exceptional young man by living by the Scout Law; Scout Oath; Scout Motto; and Scout Promise. Only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve the Eagle Badge, and this accomplishment is a true testament to Brent's abilities, dedication, and commitment.

I ask you to please join me in congratulating Brent for his achievement and outstanding work.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN AND SHARON
TRAVIS**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dean and Sharon Travis of Gratiot

County, Michigan, who will be honored at a special ceremony in Midland on July 24 when they will be presented with a Centennial Farm marker by Consumers Energy.

At this celebration, the Travis family and other farm families will have the opportunity to share their stories. The Travis family will relay with appropriate pride how their farm, located in Pine River Township, was purchased by their great-great-grandfather in 1857 and has remained in their family ever since.

The festivities are being held in conjunction with a special Smithsonian Institution exhibit, "Barn Again: Celebrating an American Icon." This exhibit celebrates America's rich agricultural heritage, telling the story of farmers and their varying needs throughout our history.

The barn represents growth and prosperity of Americans, and it is important to recognize the agricultural community's contribution to our nation. This year the exhibit tours Michigan for the first time; residents of Alabama, Illinois, Oregon, Utah, Ohio, Missouri, West Virginia and Georgia have already been privileged to see it.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the Travis family today. Their success has been a source of pride to Gratiot County, and their barn and Centennial Farm designation symbolize the hard work and determination that is characteristic of mid-Michigan's farm families.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor them today in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish them many more generations of bounty.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bipartisan, non-controversial, and much-needed piece of legislation. This bill will clarify for purposes of Federal law and regulations that electric bicycles are consumer products and not motor vehicles. This clarification is necessary, as the interpretation of existing law is that electric bicycles are motor vehicles and must conform to all motor vehicle safety standards.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to clarify what an electric bicycle is. An electric bicycle is defined as a bike with all the same features of a conventional bike save one. It carries a small electric motor system that, when engaged by the flip of a switch, augments the power of the rider. This motor empowers the rider to easily pedal speeds up to, but not over, 20 mph.

Because of this feature, electric bicycles are very popular with recreational riders, seniors, commuters, fitness riders, and police and other law enforcement agencies, just to name a few. These bicycles have the potential to mitigate traffic congestion and parking problems, enhance law enforcement agencies' ability to perform certain designated duties; reduce air and noise pollution; promote cost-effective alternative-fuel vehicles; and enhance mobility for those who are physically unable either to drive or access essential services on pedal-only bicycles. In fact, in Southern California, electric bicycles have already begun to demonstrate their significant contribution to improving the quality of life for all.