

almost 35% in the last ten years, but this bill fails to address the growing demand for VA services as a result of the increasing number of veterans over the age of 65. According to the Congressional Research Service, 36% of all veterans are over the age of 65, and that number is expected to increase exponentially over the next eight years. An aging veterans population will undoubtedly put a strain on our nation's Veterans Health Services. At the current pace of construction, we will not have the necessary facilities to meet veterans' extended care needs.

Faced with this reality, I am unable to vote for a bill that will short-change veterans by over a billion dollars while Republicans insist on robbing Social Security and sacrificing veterans' healthcare, in favor of squandering the surplus on fiscally irresponsible tax cuts.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF
PALOS VERDES ESTATES

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Palos Verdes Estates. Palos Verdes Estates is currently celebrating its 60th year as an incorporated city. Situated along the Pacific coastline, the City of Palos Verdes Estates is a spacious community that has changed little since its establishment.

Incorporated December 20, 1939, Palos Verdes Estates is the oldest of the four cities on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The land was first developed in the early 1920's by Frank A. Vandelp, a wealthy New York City financier. Vandelp envisioned a coastal community that preserved and highlighted its natural resources, one that blended in with the surrounding environment. He commissioned the Olmsted Brothers, the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., who designed Central Park in New York City, to lay out and develop the community.

The great care and pains that they took in designing the community are still apparent today. They set aside 28 percent of the land to be permanent open space. In today's age of environmental awareness, the need for open space has become more prevalent. Vandelp and the Olmsted Brothers recognized the value of natural resources and had the foresight and vision to preserve the land for future generations to enjoy.

Palos Verdes Estates has thrived over the last 60 years, and as we enter the 21st century, Palos Verdes Estates will continue to be the unique, scenic community of the South Bay. I congratulate the City of Palos Verdes Estates and its residents on this milestone.

MIN MATHESON HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to bring the remarkable life of Mrs. Min Matheson to the at-

tention of my colleagues. On September 24, the people of the Wyoming Valley will pay a long overdue tribute to Min, as a historical marker is dedicated to her on the Public Square in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. I am pleased and proud to join in this historic tribute.

One of eight children, Min Lurye was born in Chicago in 1909. Her father, a Jewish immigrant, was a cigar maker and a militant labor leader. Min grew up in a household of radical labor meetings, with her father organizing rallies and strikes within the cigar industry. Max Lurye fought organized crime and big business at the same time, once even having a confrontation with Al Capone. Min's childhood occurred in an atmosphere of violence and fear in the labor movements as her father saw some of close friends killed for resisting mob control of the industry. Max's legacy was continued by both his daughter Min and son Will, who also dedicated his life to labor causes.

When she was nineteen, Min met and fell in love with Bill Matheson. Defying the convention of the time, they set up a household together without marrying. At Bill's urging, Min traveled to New Jersey to help striking textile workers, but the strike was crushed after six months and Min was uncertain of her next move. They soon moved to New York City and began careers in the garment industry. Min worked in a dress factory until Bill accepted a position in Pennsylvania with the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). When they decided to have children, they married and Min stayed out of union affairs for a time to raise her two small children.

In 1944, the New York ILGWU asked Bill and Min to move to Northeastern Pennsylvania, where dozens of small garment factories were sprouting up. Union official asked Min and Bill "to clean up the mess down there," and within a few years, Min was General Manager of the Wyoming Valley ILGWU and Bill was the Director of Education.

During strikes, she walked the picket lines with the rank and file and stood her ground when confronted by factory bosses. Eventually, Min realized the press was a union's best friend and regularly used radio shows to bring the union's case to the attention of the public. She organized union blood drives and the union locals gave freely to the United Fund. The community began to accept and appreciate the good works of the ILGWU. At one point, Min realized the union needed to become more active in the political arena and began the strong relationship between labor and the Democratic Party in Northeastern Pennsylvania which still exists to this day.

Mr. Speaker, Min and Bill Matheson were the parents of the garment industry workforce in Northeastern Pennsylvania. They organized it, fought for it, and gave it standing in the community. Seven hundred people turned out at a farewell salute after Min and Bill accepted a transfer to New York in 1963.

Min and Bill chose to come back to the Wyoming Valley upon retirement. They moved back in 1972, a few months before the Susquehanna river overflowed her banks, flooding the entire area and devastating the lives of tens of thousands of area residents. An organizer by birthright, Min immediately helped to organize the Flood Victims Action Council to speak for those devastated by the disaster. She brought her concerns and plight of the flood victims to the immediate attention of the

federal government and worked closely with then-Congressman Dan Flood to insure relief for the thousands of displace residents. I am proud to have worked closely with Min on that effort, acting as legal counsel to the Flood Victims Action Council. Even in retirement, Min Matheson had found a way to better the lives of her neighbors in the Wyoming Valley. She continued to contribute her time and energy to our community until her death several years ago. Then-Wilkes-Barre City Councilman Joe Williams said it best: "There should be a statute of Min on Public Square for all that she has done for this Valley."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and proud to join with my good friends at the ILGWU, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the entire community in paying a much over-due tribute to this beloved figure in our region's history, Mrs. Min Matheson.

CONTINUING THREATS TO THE
RUSSIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, for the past year or so, the Jewish community of Russia has been subjected to anti-Semitic threats and violence. And this is not just from marginalized, thuggish elements on the streets; even elected officials in Russia have resorted to anti-Semitic slurs and threats.

Amid the latest explosions in Moscow, it is all the more remarkable that no Jewish institutions were attacked in Russia during the Jewish New Year celebration of Rosh Hashanah. Responding to the concerns of the Russian and American Jewish communities, as well as the U.S. Government and Members of Congress, the Russian authorities provided adequate protection for the synagogues, at least in the capital city, Moscow. The federal government of Russia and Moscow's city government deserve credit for this protection of their citizens. Monday's Yom Kippur celebration also passed without incident, and authorities would also be well advised to ensure that future holiday observances are accompanied by a visible and comprehensive police presence.

In the past several weeks, a Jewish community leader was violently attacked inside the Moscow Choral Synagogue, and explosives or false bomb threats have been uncovered in synagogues as well. In addition to synagogues, schools and other institutions are also at risk. The school year has now begun, and elderly Jews will again turn to social services institutions with the approach of winter. Russian authorities should be encouraged to continue protecting Jewish facilities, as well as seriously investigating and prosecuting those guilty of crimes against Jews. In addition, Russian officials should speak out frequently and publicly against those who would—either through word or deed—tear at the fabric of tolerance in Russia. To his credit, President Yeltsin has denounced "disgusting acts of anti-Semitism" in Russia, and in a telegram to the Chief Rabbi of Russia, His Holiness Patriarch Alexei II condemned the attack in the Moscow Choral Synagogue. Hopefully, these statements against violence and for tolerance

will be emulated by responsible Russian leaders throughout Russia.

As much as permitting the free exercise of religion is a duty of any government, so is the protection of those exercising that right. As we Americans have unfortunately witnessed in our own country in recent months, our Nation is not immune to anti-Semitic violence. Law enforcement cannot completely guarantee against infringement of these rights, but we have demonstrated what I believe is an appropriate model of community and official response. For instance, when synagogues in California were bombed earlier this year, the California State Legislature condemned the attacks, and the alleged perpetrators are now in custody.

The police protection of synagogues throughout Moscow, along with President Boris Yeltsin's strong message of support to the Jewish community on the eve of the Jewish High Holy Days, represent a commendable Russian step in that same direction. Effective security measures should continue as long as the Jewish community is under threat, but we hope that ultimately such measures will no longer be necessary in a stable, democratic Russia.

THANKING CHUCK RUSSELL FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF TEXAS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30 years of service Chuck Russell has provided to the children of Texas and our great nation. At the end of this month, Chuck will retire from his position as Assistant to the Texas Education Commissioner for Government Relations. Although Chuck has enjoyed his time in Washington, I am certain that he is looking forward to going home to Texas.

Chuck has spent his career working tirelessly on behalf of all children. As a government affairs official, he worked to make education funding formulas more equitable. He facilitated discussions between the Congress, U.S. Department of Education, the White House, the Texas Education Agency and local school districts. He always promoted what was best for school children, never forgetting that they were the reason for him being here. Their best interest was his driving force.

Chuck's education experience was not limited to government affairs. He has also worked as a special education teacher in Monterey, California and as a project director for the Texas School for the Blind.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once stated that "an educator affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Chuck Russell, the lives he has touched over his many years in the education field will ensure that his influence carries on far into the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of one of Texas' education heroes as Chuck Russell completes his final days as an advocate for education. Chuck, we wish you and your wife Judy all the best.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOJOURNER TRUTH INSTITUTE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SOJOURNER TRUTH MEMORIAL MONUMENT

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sojourner Truth Institute for their hard work and dedication to the Sojourner Truth Memorial Monument, which is being unveiled in Battle Creek, Michigan on Saturday, September 25, 1999.

Deserving recognition for this historic event are monument sculptor Tina Allen, Institute Administrator Michael Evans, Dr. Velma Laws-Clay and the entire Monument Steering Committee for the vision of turning an idea into a reality. The monument will stand to commemorate Sojourner Truth's crusade for the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, and human rights for all.

Sojourner Truth is one of Battle Creek's greatest citizens and her impact on American history is immeasurable. She stood as a strong voice for the nation's ideals of freedom and equality at a time of great conflict. She was an abolitionist and an outspoken leader for women's rights. "Today I have the right to speak out in public and be as successful as I choose to be because she was a pioneer for the rights of women and others", said Dr. Laws-Clay.

The Sojourner Truth Institute, with the proud support of the entire Battle Creek community, will sponsor a weekend-long celebration culminating with the unveiling of sculptor Tina Allen's 12-foot tall bronze statue of Sojourner Truth in Battle Creek's new Monument Park. "The intention was to provide a place where visitors and residents of the city can learn about what she really meant to the city of Battle Creek and bring the city's history to an even larger audience. It is also a very appropriate welcome at the gateway of our city", said Michael Evans.

I wish to thank everyone involved in bringing this monument to life and continuing the legacy of Sojourner Truth, who is one of the greatest human rights activists in this nation's history. I am honored to represent a city with such character and determination. The work of the Sojourner Truth Institute will ensure that Battle Creek and America long remembers Sojourner Truth's message of freedom and I commend the Institute's vision and dedication.

CONSOLIDATION OF MILK MARKETING ORDERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1402) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement the Class I milk price structure known as Option 1A as part of the implementation of the final rule to consolidate Federal milk marketing orders:

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1402, legislation to consolidate Federal Milk Marketing Orders. I grew up on a small, family dairy farm near Fergus Falls, Minnesota and understand how the current antiquated dairy pricing system discriminates against the family farms in the Midwest. In 1996, this Congress passed the Freedom to Farm Act, legislation that seriously affected American family farmers. Freedom to Farm has not worked out as its authors had said it would, but part of the bill called for a more market-oriented dairy pricing system. In other words, the Freedom to Farm Act encouraged the Department of Agriculture to do exactly what it has proposed: develop a pricing system that does not penalize Midwestern states.

For too long, farmers in Minnesota and other states in the Upper Midwest have suffered from unfair dairy prices. Instead of correcting this problem, H.R. 1402 forces us to remain in this regime. This bill also forces us to maintain a price support system that jeopardizes our ability to negotiate international trade agreements for agricultural products. Before we can make progress on trade issues, we must set an example by moving toward a market-oriented dairy pricing system. I encourage my colleagues to reject the old way of doing things in Washington, support regional equity in the dairy industry and vote against the legislation before us today.

TRIBUTE TO DELON HAMPTON, PH.D., P.E.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Delon Hampton who is soon to be inaugurated President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). His installation as president of this fine organization is historic in that Dr. Hampton will be the first African-American ever to serve in that capacity. As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I applaud this outstanding achievement.

It is not surprising that Dr. Hampton would be honored with such distinction. Currently he is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of his own consulting engineering, design, and construction and program management services firm, Delon Hampton & Associates, Chartered (DHA). This successful venture has been in operation for 26 years and is one of the top 360 design firms in America.

Dr. Hampton has also lent his talents to academic pursuits. He was actively involved in university teaching and research for approximately 25 years and has published over 40 papers in professional and technical journals.

In addition to his active role with the ASCE, Dr. Hampton has also been involved as an Associate Member of the Board of Governors of the American Public Transit Association (APTA). His other involvements include serving on the Board of Directors for the Greater Washington Board of Trade, as a Director for the Center for National Policy, and as a Malcolm Baldrige Award Overseer for the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Dr. Hampton's honors include being a Councillor of the National Academy of Engineering, receiving Honorary Doctorate degrees