

line railroads that serve so many smaller cities and towns. That is because the Administration wants to fund the entire \$17 million STB budget out of so-called "user fees." The STB already defrays \$1.6 million of its costs through filing fees, and we have received numerous complaints about those charges from shippers. Now the Administration would impose more than 10 times that burden on "users." We don't know who the users are, since the bill doesn't even attempt to identify them.

We had some experience with such fees imposed on our small railroads several years ago by the Federal Railroad Administration. Our Committee found that these small companies—the ones that literally are the only way to keep rail service in small communities—were paying up to 17 percent of net income in so-called "user fees"—on top of their state and federal taxes. That's why we ended those FRA fees, and I see no reason to impose a similar burden on struggling small businesses through STB fees, as the Administration now proposes.

While I cannot endorse much of what the Administration has proposed in its STB bill, I remain hopeful that a compromise can be reached on the contentious issues that have prevented an STB reauthorization bill from being enacted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, due to the occasion of the birth of my third child, I was unable to record my votes on the following bills, amendments and journal votes that were considered here in the House of Representatives the week of October 18, 1999.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 520, 521, 524, 526, 527, 528, 529, and 532.

I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 511, 518, 519, 522, 523, 525, 530, and 531.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER VAZGEN SARGSIAN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the people of Armenia and their countrymen throughout the world, whose democratic struggle has been dealt a severe blow. We are greatly saddened at the untimely death of Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian, who was assassinated along with a number of cabinet officials and lawmakers yesterday in the chambers of Parliament in Armenia.

The forty-year-old Premier was a young and intelligent leader who had just been appointed Prime Minister by President Robert Kocharian last June. Though he clearly had many more brilliant years ahead of him, his stellar accomplishments in moving his country toward the

road of democratic rule elevated him to the second highest political office in Armenia. The former athletic instructor, who was elected to parliament and served as Defense Minister prior to assuming the Premiership, was a man who embraced the ideals of free-market democracy.

Along with several of my colleagues, I had the honor of meeting Prime Minister Sargsian here in the U.S. Capitol just four weeks ago. We discussed trade, commerce, and the establishment of closer relations. I shared with him the great honor I have to represent one of the oldest Armenian-American communities in my Los Angeles County district. I related to him how earlier this year, I visited the Armenian Mesrobian School, the Armenian Social Services Center, and the Holy Cross Cathedral, and was tremendously impressed by the efforts and resources that Armenian-Americans dedicate to the betterment of the entire community.

I stand with my Armenian-American constituents who are undoubtedly in a state of shock over yesterday's violent acts. My heartfelt sympathy and earnest prayers are with the Armenian-American community, the people of Armenia and the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy.

ASSASSINATION IN ARMENIA

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on October 27, 1999, a group of five or six assassins burst into Armenia's parliament and gunned down Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian. The gunmen also claimed the lives of Karen Demirchian, Speaker of the Armenian parliament; Yuri Bakhshyan, Deputy Speaker; Minister Leonard Petrosian, and Michael Kutanian, a senior economic official. Two other unidentified members of parliament were dead, too.

Words cannot adequately describe the deplorable and disgusting acts of violence committed by those individuals. To indiscriminately murder government officials in cold blood is cowardly.

Recent reports describe the gunmen have taken a number of hostages, and President Robert Kocharian is negotiating with the gunmen. Kocharian agreed to allow the lead gunman on national television to make a statement in return for the release of some hostages.

Unfortunately, the other details are still very sketchy. We do not know why they did what they did although they proclaim their actions as a coup d'etat. All we know is that the senseless slaughter of those government officials strikes a blow to democracy in Armenia.

As some may know, Armenia, a democratic nation with a population of 3.5 million, people, has made much progress since the Armenian genocide in 1915. The Ottoman Empire subjected the Armenians to an eight-year long killing spree that ultimately claimed the lives of over 1.5 million Armenians. Hundreds and thousands more were forced from their homeland. We all know that rebuilding a ravaged nation requires much blood, sweat, and tears, but the Armenian people have worked long

and hard to make Armenia into the democratic nation it is today. The Armenian government under the late Prime Minister Sargsian was headed for even greater progress. The commitment to peace and prosperity in their region was clear.

I am very saddened by the horrific events and deeply concerned by the bloodshed and senseless loss of lives, but this only goes to show that democracy is not just an obscure ideal ensconced in an old written parchment or in dusty history books sitting in the garage. Democracy is an ideal that government should be for the people. Democracy is an ideal that many people have sacrificed their lives for, and in some parts of the world, people continue to sacrifice their lives for.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the people of Armenia and Armenian-Americans as we all pray that this will be resolved peacefully without further bloodshed and the angel of justice exacts just payment from those murderers.

HONORING JAN AND TIM JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CIN-CINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituents, Jan and Tim Johnson, who will be recognized at a gala dinner and pageant on Saturday, October 30, 1999 for their many contributions to the prestigious Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy (CHCA) located in Mason, Ohio.

CHCA is one of the fastest-growing schools in the country, and has earned a reputation for excellent academics, competitive sports and extracurricular activities. In 1997, I had the privilege of presenting the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Award to CHCA Elementary. CHCA's goal is to nurture and support each student toward individual growth. The school embraces students, parents and faculty within the care of a Christian community.

Jan and Tim Johnson were early supporters of CHCA and tirelessly volunteer their time to the school and to the Cincinnati community in general. They have four children, two of whom graduated from CHCA.

Tim, a professor of Finance at the University of Cincinnati, has been an invaluable resource and serves as the Finance Chair for the CHCA Board of Trustees.

Jan is also a member of the CHCA Board, served on early faculty search committees and was a member of the Education Committee for four years. In addition to all this, she has served on numerous ad hoc and PTF committees.

Jan and Tim Johnson are to be commended for their tireless devotion to their community and I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA ALLEMON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Andrea Allemon who will be named Troy's Distinguished Citizen of the Year by Leadership Troy at their annual community awards banquet on November 4, 1999.

Andrea Allemon's dedication to her community has been extraordinary. As a result of her leadership in the Boys and Girls Club's Taste of Troy to the Troy Daze Festival, almost every event I attend in Troy has Andrea's presence.

As a dedicated parent, Andrea founded the Parent Teacher Organization at Smith Middle School and served as its president. She was also responsible for initiating the school clinics at Smith Middle and Athens High. The Athens All-Night Party was another one of Andrea's start-up events which she supervised for five years.

In her neighborhood, Andrea Allemon has served as an officer, member of the Board of Directors and New Members Chair for the Emerald lakes Village Homeowners Association. She personally welcomes each new family to the neighborhood. Serving as a "foster mom" to an individual who lives in adult foster care, she has opened her home sharing holiday feasts for the past 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable woman for her energy and enthusiasm during her 31 years of dedication and devotion to the people of her community. Andrea Allemon is indeed a distinguished citizen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 20, 1999 I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and therefore missed rollcall vote 515 (a Journal vote) and rollcall vote 519 (Mink amendment to H.R. 2). I want the record to show that had I been present in this Chamber I would have voted "yea" on each of these recorded votes.

I also missed rollcall vote 516 (Motion to order the previous question on H.R. 2670), rollcall vote 517 (Adoption of the rule for H.R. 2670) and rollcall vote 518 (Conference Report on H.R. 2670).

I want the record to show that if I had been able to be present in this Chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 516, rollcall vote 517, and rollcall vote 518.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 25, I was unavoidably detained and

missed rollcall votes Nos. 533–536. Had my vote been recorded, it would have been in the following manner: Rollcall vote No. 533 (on approving the journal), "aye"; rollcall vote No. 534 (to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 754), "aye"; rollcall vote No. 535 (to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2303), "aye"; rollcall vote No. 536 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 194), "aye".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on August 5, 1999, I asked unanimous consent on the House floor to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 850, the Security and Freedom through Encryption (SAFE) Act. However, as a result of House Report 106–117 being filed with the House Clerk, House rules prohibited further action on the bill. Consequently, my name was not removed as a cosponsor. Please let the RECORD show that it was my intent to no longer be listed as a cosponsor of H.R. 850.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. INGHAM, DISTRICT DIRECTOR, BUFFALO OFFICE, UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the RECORD a proclamation, which I offer with the distinguished members of the New York Congressional Delegation: Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN; Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER; Congressman JOHN LAFALCE; Congressman AMO HOUGHTON and Congressman THOMAS REYNOLDS on the occasion of the retirement of John J. Ingham from his numerous years of government service with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, On November 2, 1999, John J. Ingham will complete 40 years and 9 months of government service with the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, including military time, with his last 10 years as District Director of Buffalo, New York; and

Whereas, During Mr. Ingham's government career he rose through the ranks at the INS Buffalo District as Immigration Inspector, Immigration Examiner, Supervisory Examiner, Assistant District Director for Examinations, Deputy District Director to his present position as District Director; and

Whereas, No District Director has been more proactive and more vocal at promoting his district's agenda. Mr. Ingham ushered in a golden age for the Buffalo District of the INS during the 1990's; and

Whereas, Under Mr. Ingham's guidance the Buffalo District developed a national reputation for excellence. Through his direction the INS moved its local operations into a brand new state of the art facility in 1995. In 1998 the Batavia Federal Detention Facility

was completed with over four hundred beds to increase the ability of the District to deal with immigration detainees. Furthermore, one immigration Judgeship was reestablished and two more added to the Buffalo District allowing it to be more efficient. Other noteworthy projects came to fruition under Mr. Ingham's direction, including remodeled or newly constructed inspection facilities at Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal; and

Whereas, Under Mr. Ingham's leadership the Buffalo District has become commonly referred to as the "District that works." INS Buffalo is noteworthy for the operational achievements developed during Mr. Ingham's tenure. His employees will be his legacy as they lead the Service into the next millennium as intuitive, responsible, and productive members of the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Members of the 106th Congress of the United States of America on this the twenty-ninth day of October in the year of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine proclaim their gratitude and admiration to John J. Ingham for his forty years of commitment and dedication to the United States of America. Proclaimed by: Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN; Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER; Congressman JACK QUINN; Congressman AMO HOUGHTON; Congressman JOHN J. LAFALCE; Congressman THOMAS REYNOLDS.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4-H CLUBS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation "recognizing the contributions of 4-H clubs and their members to voluntary community service."

4-H clubs serve as outstanding youth development programs for the youngsters of rural and urban America. They give our young people great opportunities and skills. They provide a sense of accomplishment through a job well done. 4-H provides career-oriented education and after-school safe havens.

But in a larger sense, participation in 4-H has effects far beyond the students participating. By instilling in the youth of today, values and morals which will give them the power to make ethical decisions. 4-H helps develop the leaders of this nation's tomorrow. The ability to recognize and participate, voluntarily, in community service activities is perhaps one of the greatest ethics we can teach our youth.

Volunteering to help others is a part of the American culture. American history is full of people who not only recognized that the world is full of need, but also did something about it. They decided to make their communities better places. In today's seemingly self-oriented society it is refreshing to see young people recognize the needs of others and volunteer their time to benefit those who need help.

The young people of 4-H programs across the nation have set an example of unwavering cheerful service to benefitting the welfare of others. These youth are truly displaying leadership through service to their fellow man and I take great pride in recognizing their contributions to building better communities. We