

brought to the floor for consideration with reasonable time and access for debate. We were told that the bills would be straight-forward, without tricks or gimmicks. We were misled. The House leadership has continued to play tricks with the budget process. This fall, it did so at the expense of the men and women in our armed forces.

I have the utmost respect and admiration for the American men and women who serve in uniform. My brother is currently serving a tour with his Reserve unit in Europe, and I have made two trips to the Balkans to visit our troops there. The young soldiers with whom I spoke were bursting with pride and confidence, and universally voiced their commitment to peace, freedom and their duty.

With those men and women in mind, I was pleased to see my colleagues on the defense authorization and appropriations committees provide funding our military personnel with long overdue raises and improved benefits. I was also glad to see readiness issues appropriately addressed. Accordingly, I voted in favor of the Department of Defense Appropriations bill when considered by the House, even though I had some reservations concerning other provisions of legislation. It was my hope that, during the conference committee process, the bill would be strengthened and framed in an honest and responsible manner.

Sadly though, I could not vote for the Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report. Instead of making a sincere commitment to our troops and an honest accounting to the taxpayers, the Congressional leadership in both houses resorted to budget tricks and gimmicks to hide the fact that it had failed to make the needed difficult decisions during the entire budget process in order to stick to the 1997 balanced budget agreement. The defense report designated \$7.2 billion of routine operation and maintenance appropriations as "emergency funding" and exempts an additional \$10.5 billion from the federal budget caps. Through that bill, the Congressional leadership tried to convince the public that a \$267 billion budget only costs \$249 billion. I simply could not support that tactic.

The budget caps were set by Congress to keep federal spending in check and to help reach the goal of a balanced federal budget. House Republican leaders, in an attempt to circumvent the budget caps, have repeatedly designated traditional budget items as emergency funding. Any spending in excess of the budget caps threatens our ability to insure the long term solvency of Social Security and Medicare and to pay down the national debt.

To call routine operations and maintenance an emergency item is an insult to every American. It is the same kind of budget trick the House leadership used when they say the upcoming 2000 Census is an emergency. The taxpayers should not, and will not, be fooled by this accounting slight-of-hand.

Furthermore, pork-barrel projects permeated the bill, including \$1.5 billion for a ship to be built in Mississippi that the Navy did not request, and \$275 million for F-15 aircraft not requested. As Senator JOHN MCCAIN said on the floor of the Senate: "I would have liked to have been able to . . . support the defense appropriations bill. Unfortunately, the smoke and mirrors budgeting at the core of this bill is too pervasive, the level of wasteful spending . . . is too irresponsible for me to acquiesce in its passage."

The House should find the cuts needed to keep spending within the budget caps, rather than using money that should be spent paying down our national debt and preserving Social Security and Medicare for future generations. These budget gimmicks only serve to erode public confidence in the process and threaten the future of Social Security and Medicare. It was fitting that the vote on the defense conference report came just before Halloween. Congressional leaders tried hard to trick the public into believing the government's budget is all treat.

Ultimately, I am very glad our troops are getting their pay raises, and I am very glad needed investments were made in the infrastructure which maintains our military readiness. I only wish I could have voted in favor of the defense appropriations conference report as a symbol of my support for our troops and our national security interests. But such a symbolic act, when in my heart I believed the American people were being deceived, would have flown in the face of the very ideals for which our men and women in uniform carry out their duty.

HONORING ALEX K. "BUD" GEREN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary man, who will be honored by family and friends on November 20th as he celebrates his retirement from the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transportation Department and Spirit of '76 Association.

Alex K. "Bud" Geren faithfully served the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transportation Department for twenty-five years. Bud also served as coordinator, recruiter, and volunteer driver for MTD buses on the Fourth of July. For Bud's dedication to safely transporting members of the community each year after the Fourth of July fireworks, he earned the title "Mr. Fourth of July." Too often, people who work in the public transportation community are not given proper credit for the service they provide. Without the leadership and service of people like Bud, our quality of life would be diminished.

Bud also served the community on the Board of Directors for the Sparkle and Traditions Committee. In addition, Bud was co-founder of the Santa Barbara Family Fourth Coordinating Committee. I believe that his dedicated service in these organizations earned the sincere appreciation and admiration of the people of Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Speaker, Bud has made immeasurable contributions to his community. I am truly honored to represent Mr. Geren in Congress. I send my most heartfelt appreciation for his hard work and dedicated service.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the United States Submarine Force for a century of service to America. Today, I have introduced a resolution stressing the importance of the Submarine Force to this nation and commending it on behalf of the House of Representatives. A similar resolution has also been introduced in the Senate.

Earlier this year, I introduced a resolution urging the Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor the service of submariners past and present. More than 180 other Members of the House of Representatives have co-sponsored that resolution. I am pleased to report that the Postal Service announced last month that it will issue a series of five submarine stamps honoring "A Century of Service to America." These stamps portray the incredible progress we have made from the Navy's first submarine—the *USS Holland*—to the *Ohio* and *Los Angeles* Class submarines of the late Twentieth century. However, these stamps honor much more than technological prowess. They evoke the selfless service of tens of thousands of veterans who patrolled the depths of the world's oceans guaranteeing victory over tyranny and security for all Americans.

The Submarine Force deserves recognition by this body. During World War II, the U.S. Submarine Force destroyed 55% of all Japanese shipping although it accounted for only 2% of Naval forces. Our nuclear missile submarines, endlessly patrolling beneath the oceans out of sight of the enemy, dramatically reduced the threat of nuclear war. And we can never forget the 3,800 submariners who made the supreme sacrifice for their nation. These are true heroes we honor with this resolution, Mr. Speaker. In the words of Admiral Chester A. Nimitz, a submariner himself before he led the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during the Second world War: "It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril."

I urge all Members of Congress to support this resolution and show their support for these brave sailors.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with my colleagues, Representatives TAUZIN, DINGELL, MARKEY, and OXLEY, the Telecommunications Development Fund Improvement Act.

This bill will resolve technical deficiencies that are affecting the operation of the Telecommunications Development Fund (TDF), enacted as part of the Telecommunications

Act of 1996. It will address the following issues: (1) the need to maximize the interest earning potential of all FCC spectrum auction bidders' deposits; and (2) lack of specific language authorizing TDF's participation in government-sponsored capitalization programs.

Specifically, this bill:

Directs the FCC to place all spectrum auction bidders' deposits in interest-bearing accounts; and

Provides explicit instructions that the TDF may participate in the SBA's SBIC program to assist it in generating additional capital.

Implementing these two items will effectuate my original intent as the author of the 1996 provision. The TDE provision was intended to maximize the availability of investment capital to entrepreneurs seeking to provide telecommunications services to underserved communities. These technical oversights are depriving the TDF of millions of dollars of additional revenue.

Despite numerous obstacles over the last two years, the TDF continues to remain operational. I am pleased to convey that TDF has reviewed over 300 telecommunications business proposals with a staff of less than five people, confined operational overhead expenses to 5.2 percent of its total budget, and recently announced funding for small business entrepreneurs who will provide telecommunications services to underserved communities. Remedying the technical deficiencies outlined in the previous paragraphs will ensure the continued viability of the TDF.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my House colleagues to join me in ensuring that the Telecommunications Development Fund is a viable entity in today's ever-evolving telecommunications frontier.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 200 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the parishioners of the St. George's Episcopal Church as they celebrate the 200th Anniversary of their church building on Sunday, November 21st. Located in Valley Lee in the Southern Maryland County of St. Mary's, St. George's has been serving the faithful since the reign of William and Mary some 360 years ago—hence it is also known as the William and Mary Parish.

Following the establishment of the Maryland Colony by Leonard Calvert in 1634, the settlement at St. Mary's began to grow with the establishment of St. George's Hundred, a piece of land across the St. Mary's River and west of the Capital settlement of St. Mary's City. Maryland is known as the birthplace of religious toleration in Colonial America and along with Catholic settlers and settlers of other faiths came followers of the Anglican church. Some of these colonists would establish the Poplar Hill Church—thought to have been built between 1638 and 1642 just 50 feet from the site of the present building.

Over the years, the William and Mary Parish would worship in several buildings. A second church is believed to have been built on the

existing site in 1692 and a third structure around 1760. In 1799, the existing structure was built and today we recognize this incredible 200 year journey.

Just as members of the Parish no doubt celebrated the dedication of their new building in 1799 on the verge of a new century, today we celebrate two hundred years of progress at Poplar Hill as we count down the remaining days to the new millennium.

The parishioners of St. George's have been witness to extraordinary events and their history bridges a time line of critical events in our Nation's history—from the fledgling colony of the 1600s, the rise of revolution in the 1700's, the Civil War and the abolition of slavery in the 1800's, and the transformation of St. Mary's County from its rural way of life to being the home of the world's premier and most advanced aviation testing facility with the establishment of Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

And through it all, St. George's Episcopal Parish has been a beacon of faith serving to enrich its parishioners with God's word and providing a firm foundation to do His work.

I commend St. George's Episcopal Church on the 200th Anniversary of their building and wish its parishioners all the best in the future.

HONORING JOSEPH GALLO FARMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Gallo Farms of Atwater for being named the 1999 Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business Award. Joseph Gallo Farms is being honored on November 17, 1999 at the AgFRESNO Farm Equipment Exposition luncheon.

Joseph Gallo Farms (JGF), family-owned and operated by CEO and co-owner Michael Gallo was named the nation's largest dairy by Successful Farming in 1995. JGF was founded in 1946; they operate 12,000 acres of land, raising 25,000 head of cattle on five dairies and 2,500 acres of wine grapes. Joseph Gallo Farms also produces a wide array of Joseph Gallo Farms cheeses, which are sold in more than 20 states and in five countries internationally. JGF has played a significant role in cheese becoming the fastest-growing dairy product in California, now the second leading state in cheese production.

Joseph Gallo Farms is leading the way in its "Environmentally-Compatible Farming," finding land usage compromises to benefit both agriculture and the surrounding natural environment. Operating within the San Joaquin Valley Grasslands, one of the most critical wetland areas left in California, JGF seeks to protect the environment while still conducting its farming affairs. For these efforts, JGF received an environmental award from the Central Valley Joint Habitat in 1996. JGF has created its own internal Department of Environmental Affairs to ensure that all operations remain compatible with critical habitat values. With the consumer concern over the rBST/rBGH controversy, JGF made the unprecedented decision to stop using all artificial hormones on its dairy herd, becoming the first cheese producer nationwide to receive governmental approval

to label its premium cheese as have "No Artificial Hormones."

Mr. Speaker, the Ag Business Award is given to an agricultural organization whose achievements and impact have significantly contributed to the industry and the Center Valley; Joseph Gallo Farms is an excellent representation of this. I congratulate JGF for their accomplishments in the cheese and agriculture business. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Joseph Gallo Farms many more years of continued success.

CATHY HUGHES, FROM RAGS TO RICHES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, breaking the cycle of past racial discrimination has been a mission of African Americans across this country. Wishing for only an opportunity, great African Americans, in many fields and industries, have struggled to feed to this country and this world, the fruits of their talents and labor. In the process, many have tried and failed, but a few have beat the odds and have made a major impact. Perhaps one of the greatest examples of those who have crumbled the walls of bias and discrimination, is one of the Maryland 7th District's brightest stars. Through the storm of discrimination against African Americans and women entrepreneurs, Catherine Hughes would not be defeated. She flew to high heights.

Mrs. Hughes, the founder and chairwoman of Radio One, with her mind set on waking America to injustice, bigotry, and discrimination, has revolutionized the broadcasting industry from an African American point of view. Cathy Hughes had a dream—a dream to create an information-based radio program geared towards the African American community. With very humble beginnings at Howard University's radio station, WHUR-FM, she set out to realize this dream.

In 1979, Mrs. Hughes and her husband made their first venture into the unwelcoming world of broadcasting by purchasing WOL (AM) in Washington, DC. She aired a radio talk show, which she hosted with her husband. Although investors did not share her vision, Cathy Hughes struggled on in pursuit of her dream.

In 1986, Mrs. Hughes made her first effort to expand. She attempted to form a "community corporation" to purchase WKYS (FM) from NBC, but couldn't raise the necessary funding before the company was sold. Still in pursuit of her dream, in 1997, she purchased WMMI (FM) in Washington. She also again pursued WKYS and in 1994, she finally purchased the station.

Mrs. Hughes took advantage of her own business skills to build the foundation of her broadcast kingdom, and all the while, Mrs. Hughes never lost sight of her goal to inform. She remained active in protesting social and political issues; so much in fact, that many feared she would lose sponsors. However, she kept lending her voice to issues of concern to her community. She was strongly opposed to the Washington Post Magazine's decision to feature an African American rapper