

calls has helped a parent and child come closer together through the support of their community. Recognizing the utmost importance that parents play in the development of not only their children, but of the future of our great country, the Parent Help Line helps parents meet parenting challenges head on.

Again, I would like to thank the volunteers and contributors of the Parent Help Line for the outstanding devotion they have shown towards our nation's greatest asset—our children.

TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CEMETERY FOR VETERANS IN THE ATLANTA, GEORGIA METROPOLITAN AREA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a very important piece of legislation which is vital to all veterans in the state of Georgia. Through the bill I am introducing today, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs will develop a national cemetery for veterans in the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area. This bill is co-sponsored by the entire Georgia Delegation, and Senators CLELAND and COVERDELL have introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

I want to thank the other Members of the Georgia delegation for their support of our efforts. Congressmen COLLINS, NORWOOD, KINGSTON, LINDER, CHAMBLISS, DEAL, LEWIS, ISAKSON, BISHOP, and Congresswoman MCKINNEY realize the importance of this issue to Georgia's veterans.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this effort not just on behalf of the veterans in Georgia but veterans across our nation.

Our nation has a sacred obligation to fulfill the promises we made to our veterans when they agreed to risk and, in many cases, give their lives to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. One of those promises was a military burial in a national cemetery.

In 1994, the Department of Veterans Affairs released its "Report on the National Cemetery System." The Atlanta area was listed within the top 10 areas in the country with the greatest need for burial space. This need has only increased significantly in the past few years. Establishing a national cemetery in Georgia would provide veterans and their families accessibility and the recognition they deserve.

Georgia currently has only one national cemetery, located in Marietta. However, this cemetery has been full since the 1970s. The nearest national cemeteries accepting burials are located in Alabama and Tennessee. In addition to meeting the needs of veterans living in Georgia, placing a new national cemetery in the Atlanta area will alleviate the increasing demands on the cemeteries in Tennessee and Alabama.

Neither of these sites in Tennessee and Alabama is reasonably accessible to most of the more than 700,000 veterans living in Georgia, including some 450,000 veterans in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

This legislation is supported by Pete Wheeler, Commissioner of the Georgia Veteran's Association, and by the Georgia Disabled

American Veterans, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other veterans' groups. I ask all veterans groups to support this legislation because it is only appropriate for Georgia's heroes to be allowed to be laid to rest in their home state.

This has been a long awaited process for Georgia veterans. These men and women deserve a proper resting place. The legislation we are introducing today is an important first step in creating a new national veterans cemetery.

LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE FAIR COMPETITION IN ELECTRICITY MARKETS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation I sponsored last year that would promote fair competition in electricity markets. Many states have passed or are considering plans to allow customers to choose among competing providers of electricity. Although action on certain aspects of competition should be left to states, the federal government needs to address competition issues as they relate to the Internal Revenue Code.

The use of tax-exempt bonds and other tax exemptions granted to government-owned utilities are a significant problem in integrating them into the competitive marketplace. Such exemptions, in the context of competition, subsidize the costs of a competitor, giving it an unfair advantage against all private, tax-paying participants. I believe that if government-owned utilities want to compete in the open marketplace, then they must be restricted in issuing tax-exempt bonds and should give up income tax exemptions on sales outside their traditional service territory. Tax-free financing and exemption from federal income taxes pose no problem to electric competition if, and only if, government-owned utilities limit the use of these subsidies to serving their traditional service areas.

My legislation, The Private Sector Enhancement and Taxpayer Protection Act of 1999, addresses these concerns by prohibiting tax-free bonds from being used to finance generation and transmission by government-owned utilities if such utilities choose to compete in open electricity markets. If such utilities elect to do so, any sales outside of their traditional service area should be, like other commercial operations, subject to federal income tax.

This legislation will not affect government-owned utilities that do not elect to sell generation or provide transmission in the new competitive marketplace. Since the vast majority of municipal utilities, of which there are more than 2,000, do not generate electricity, this bill will not affect them. This bill does not affect rural electric cooperatives or federal government utilities. My bill attempts to address the issue of large government-owned utilities that want to act like, and compete with, taxpaying entities in the electric marketplace. In a somewhat similar approach, the Administration has addressed the issue in their FY2000 budget proposal.

I believe my legislation is a balanced, fair approach to establishing a level playing field for all power companies with none enjoying any special tax or financial advantages. I look

forward to working with the Administration and my colleagues on this important issue.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. GILBERT G. ARCISZEWSKI'S PRIESTLY ORDINATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fr. Gilbert G. Arciszewski, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church on the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Fr. Arciszewski is representative of the high caliber of priests from the Milwaukee Archdiocese. He is a lifelong resident of the community and has served in leadership positions of various churches in the Milwaukee area since his ordination.

Fr. Arciszewski is a product of Milwaukee's near South Side. He is proud of his Polish-American heritage. He and his predecessor, the late Msgr. Alphonse Popek, traveled many of the same paths to Queen of Peace church, growing up in the same neighborhoods, and going to the same schools, beginning with St. Adalbert's elementary. The Popek and Arciszewski families lived only a few blocks from each other.

Fr. Arciszewski studied canon law at St. Francis Seminary and was ordained May 30, 1959 at St. John Cathedral by Archbishop William E. Cousins. He served as associate pastor of St. Helen, Milwaukee, June 1959 to July, 1966, and St. Alexander, Milwaukee, July, 1966 to March, 1975, when he became pastor of St. Casimir.

By coincidence, the celebration of his 25th anniversary of ordination in 1984 coincided with the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir.

In February of 1987, Fr. Arciszewski was assigned pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church where he has served since. Among the many milestones observed at Our Lady Queen of Peace was the marriage of Frankie Yankovic, the polka legend, to his wife Ida.

Mr. Speaker, on this the 40th anniversary of his ordination, I would like to recognize the contributions and commitment to the church and community demonstrated by Fr. Arciszewski.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA LOGOLUSO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patricia ("Patty") Logoluso on the occasion of her retirement from the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Patty has a long standing record of dedicated involvement in Madera County.

Patty Logoluso was born and raised in Madera. Patty along with her two older brothers and two sisters lived on the family farm in

southern Madera. Her mother and father, Ben and Esther Bishel, taught their children the values of thrift and hard work. By the age of 12, Patty was already playing an active role in the daily operation of the farm.

Despite her responsibilities on the farm, Patty made time to participate in school sports such as volleyball, basketball, baseball and track. In 1963 she became a finalist at the Junior Olympics. Patty was also a member of the California Association of American Athletes. She showed an early interest in government becoming involved in Student Council, and held various offices throughout her elementary years. Patty's high school years were even more active, and with the support of her parents, she ran for Freshman Class vice-president, she later became president the following year. Additionally she was a member of the North Yosemite League of Student Councils, Commissioner of Awards, and Student Court Reporter. She was also a member of the California Scholarship Federation and was named Soroptimist Girl of the Month.

Patty's dedication to her family and community has always been evident. Since 1973, she has been a member of the Madera County Farm Bureau and in 1985, became a member of the Raisin Bargaining Association, the Italo American Club, Inc., and the Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation. From 1978 to 1992 she served on numerous school site councils involved with principal selection committees and the Evaluation Committee for the High School State Report.

In January of 1996, Patty was honored by Governor Pete Wilson, when he appointed her to fill an unexpired term of the Board of Supervisors, District 1. In November of 1996, Patty was elected as County Supervisor of District 1 on her own merit. In her time as Supervisor she has served on the Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging, Interagency Children and Youth Services Council, CSAC Policy Committee for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Economic Development Commission and the Foreign Trade Zone Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patty Logoluso on the occasion of her retirement from the Madera County Board of Supervisors. For the past six years Patty has been a valuable asset to the public. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Patty best wishes for a bright future and continued success.

REMEMBERING THE MASSACRE AT HALABJA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a horrifying event in our world's recent history. Eleven years ago, Saddam Hussein bombed the Kurdish town of Halabja with chemical weapons. Clouds of poison gas including mustard gas and sarin were rained down on Saddam's own people, merely because they were Kurds.

This heinous act resulted in the death of over 5,000 innocent civilians and injury to approximately 10,000 others. However, Halabja was neither the first nor the last of the chemical warfare attacks Saddam Hussein un-

leashed against the Iraqi Kurds. Throughout 1988, Saddam's brutal regime continued to use chemical weapons against its own people. In only 6 months, over 200 Kurdish villages were attacked and 25,000 people were killed by chemical weapons during the vicious Anfal Campaign. This campaign ultimately led to the destruction of 4,500 Kurdish villages and the death of 500,000 Kurdish people. More than 200,000 Kurds remain missing and 500,000 have been internally displaced.

Although the people of Halabja undoubtedly suffered beyond words when this horrifying event occurred 11 years ago, their children and their children's children will feel the effects of this one action of Saddam Hussein for generations to come. For, 11 years hence, the Halabja attack has not really ended. Many people in the region continue to suffer from respiratory problems, eye conditions, neurological disorders, skin problems, and cancers. All of these effects are attributable to long-term damage to DNA caused by the chemicals used by Saddam in the attack.

The Iraqi regime has never expressed remorse for Halabja, nor have Saddam Hussein and his thugs ever been called to account for these crimes they have committed against their own citizens. We do know that whether in attacks on Iraqis or neighboring states, inhumanity is precisely the common element of Saddam Hussein's policies. We must never forget the innocent people who died and those who continue to suffer from Saddam's ruthlessness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BORDER IMPROVEMENT AND IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, in the 105th Congress, I introduced legislation to amend section 110 of the Immigration Reform Act of 1996 that mandated an automated entry-exit border control system by October 1, 1998. My bill, H.R. 2955, not only sought to correct the problems at the northern and southern borders that would have been created by hasty implementation of section 110, but also took a deliberate approach to analyzing the problem and determining the best solutions.

Today, I am reintroducing an updated version of that bill for consideration during the 106th Congress. Much has happened since last session's introduction of H.R. 2955, but the need for this legislation has not waned. My intent in introducing this bill is not only to correct a flaw, but to reignite debate and discussion as we work toward a final resolution of this critical problem. The response and enthusiastic support for this effort last year—culminating in delay of section 110's implementation until March 2001—demonstrates unmistakably that Congress views this as a serious problem that needs a permanent fix. My bill will accomplish that.

First, the bill would allow an entry-exit system to be implemented only at airports. INS has created an automated system now in use at several airports. But, the expense and lengthy set-up phase for that system highlighted the need to delay the deadline for im-

plementation at other airports to give the Attorney General enough time to effectively integrate the system at every airport where aliens enter the United States. Further, it specifically excludes land borders or sea ports from the system created by section 110. In effect, it repeals section 110 with respect to land borders and sea ports. Finally, it contains an exception for any alien for whom documentation requirements at airports have been waived under the Immigration and Nationality Act, primarily Canadians.

Second, the bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to Congress one year after enactment on the difficulties of developing and implementing an automated entry-exit control system as presently prescribed in section 110, including arrivals and departures at land borders and sea ports. The study must assess the total cost and practical feasibility of various means of operating such an entry-exit system.

Third, the bill increases the number of INS border inspectors in each fiscal year, 2000–2002, by not less than 300 full-time persons each year. These new INS inspectors must be equally assigned to the northern and southern borders. Similarly, Customs inspectors must also be increased at the land borders by not less than 150 full-time persons in each fiscal year, 2000–2002, and the Customs inspectors in each year must be evenly assigned to the northern and southern borders.

Section 110 of the 1996 Immigration Reform Act mandated that an automated entry-exit system be established that would allow INS officers to match the entrance date with exit dates of legally admitted aliens. Congress included this section at the last minute during the House-Senate conference with the intent of solving the problem of overstaying visa holders—aliens who enter the United States legally but overstay their allotted time. Because the U.S. does not have a departure management system to track who leaves the United States, a new entry-exit system was thought to be the best vehicle to solve the problem.

In the rush to complete the bill before the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 1996, conferees did not have time to give this provision the scrutiny it deserves. Any attempt to install a documentation system will bring intolerable chaos and congestion to a system already strained.

As representative of the 29th district of New York, I have a particular interest in the problem of delays and congestion at our northern border crossings. My district, which includes Buffalo and Niagara Falls, has more crossings than any other district along the border. In a relatively small area, we boast four highway bridges and two railroad bridges. I know from personal experience the problems that delays and congestion can cause at these crossings.

Last year, more than 116 million people entered the United States by land from Canada. Of these, more than 76 million were Canadian nationals or United States permanent residents. And more than \$1 billion in goods and services trade crossed our border daily. To implement section 110 as it now stands would not only impede this traffic flow, it would contravene the United States-Canada Shared Border Accord which was intended to facilitate increased crossings of people and goods between our two countries.