

served to draw even more attention to this troubled area, and the many grave faults of the RUC. I am proud to have voted in support of House Resolution 128 and heartened that this legislation passed the House by an overwhelming margin. Very soon, I hope to see the government of the United Kingdom launch an independent inquiry into the practices of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and their role in the murder of Rosemary Nelson.

Earlier this month, the United States, Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom celebrated the year anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Accords. This action provides encouragement for the future of this troubled region that the youth of tomorrow will outgrow the prejudices and hatred of the past. There have been significant strides for peace made in Northern Ireland and much progress has been made, but we must be ever vigilant for those who still refuse to give up the old ways of violence. We must stand up for human rights, just like Rosemary Nelson, and continue to send a message that acts of violence will not be tolerated any longer.

ST. FRANCIS ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Saint Francis of Assisi Church, in my hometown of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary Celebration. I am pleased and proud to bring the history of this fine parish to the attention of my colleagues.

The church's origins go back to the early settlers along the Susquehanna River near what is now Nanticoke. The City was named for the Nanticoke Indians, who had emigrated from the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1770's. By 1825, Nanticoke was a coal mining town and most of the settlers were of English, Irish, and Welsh descent. As mining operations expanded, the need for labor increased and the area saw a wave of immigrants from Ireland and Central Europe. The need for a place of worship for these miners became apparent.

In September of 1874, Bishop O'Hara laid the Cornerstone of St. Francis Church with several hundred faithful in attendance. The parishioners built a wooden structure which served their needs until a larger more elaborate building was finished in 1879.

A succession of dedicated Pastors expanded the church and its services over the years. By 1888, a school and a convent had been added. By early 1900, the church had a choir under the leadership of Father James Martin. Father Moylan succeeded him and was an outstanding community leader, organizing temperance societies, the Boy's Cadets, the men's association, and the Holy Name Society. He remodeled the church during his tenure, adding its beautiful stained glass windows.

Mr. Speaker, this proud church withstood the storm of the Depression and two world wars. Its parishioners married there, baptized their children, and buried their loved ones there. This Church, St. Francis of Assisi, has been an integral thread in the fabric of life in Nanticoke for 125 years. It has been a place

of spiritual comfort to the community it faithfully serves. I am extremely proud to congratulate St. Francis on this milestone in its proud history. I send my sincere best wishes as this historic parish celebrates 125 years of service to the faithful and prepares to enter a new century and new millennium.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE KENNETH J. FULTON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Kenneth Fulton, a remarkable public servant who is retiring after forty years of service to the citizens of Tinley Park, Illinois. The Honorable Kenneth Fulton will be recognized on the evening of April 29th, at an event hosted by the President, Clerk, and Trustees of the Village of Tinley Park.

The Honorable Kenneth Fulton's service to the Village of Tinley Park began in 1959, when he was elected Village Trustee. From 1963 to 1965, Kenneth Fulton was appointed Chairman of the Civil Service Commission of the Village of Tinley Park. In 1965, Kenneth Fulton was elected to the office of Village President, where he served until 1969. The Honorable Kenneth Fulton served as Bremen Township Collector from 1969 to 1971. From 1971 to 1999, Kenneth Fulton once again served Tinley Park as Village Trustee.

Honorable Kenneth Fulton saw the Village of Tinley Park, Illinois through forty years of growth and prosperity. When Kenneth Fulton began his involvement in Tinley Park, the village population was merely 5,000 citizens. There are currently over 46,000 citizens in Tinley Park. The Honorable Kenneth Fulton has been associated with a number of accomplishments during his years of service. These accomplishments include the first Cable TV contract for the Village and the region and the development of the concept of life safety assistance through the establishment of defibrillator equipment to be placed in all Police and Fire Department vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to Kenneth Fulton. I am certain that the community of Tinley Park, Illinois will miss his presence as a public servant. It is my hope that Kenneth Fulton enjoys good health and good memories in his retirement.

RECOGNITION OF U.S.-JAPAN CO- OPERATION ON EMERGENCY VE- HICLE PRIORITY CONTROL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the attached statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, "Emergency Vehicles Priority Control," following the highly successful Intelligent Transportation Systems conference in Washington last week.

As a follow up to last weeks highly successful Intelligent Transportation Systems

conference in Washington, I would like to join my congressional colleagues in recognizing the cooperative efforts between the United States and Japan to provide emergency vehicle priority control in Japan. This exchange of Intelligent Transportation technology by the United States, Japan's National Police Agency and the Universal Traffic Management Society of Japan is expected to improve response for emergency vehicles.

The United States Congress supports this important joint implementation of its technology between the two countries and applauds the leadership and commitment of Japan and the United States in improving public safety through improved emergency vehicle priority control.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 1999

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Consumer Food Safety Act (CFSA) of 1999, a comprehensive food safety bill that I introduced in the 105th Congress as well. I am very pleased to note that a companion bill was introduced today in the other body.

Food-borne illnesses continue to wreak havoc on the American people. Each day, new accounts of tainted foods and sick children are detailed in media reports. One such report that is in this month's issue of Glamour magazine details the experience of a long-time friend of mine who is also a constituent, Lynn Nowak of Metuchen. At an event earlier today at which I discussed the introduction of this bill, Lynn recounted the horrors of becoming ill from food poisoning while pregnant, which resulted in severe complications for both her and her daughter Julia. While Lynn has recovered her health, her life has been forever changed. Julia's motor development is far from what it should be at her age. Twenty months old, she receives physical therapy twice a week and her prognosis is uncertain.

The Consumer Food Safety Act of 1999 proposes a host of common sense measures to protect children like Julia and all Americans against food-borne illnesses. Most importantly, it proposes to modernize the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to fight the newest breed of food-borne illness agents, like E. Coli 0157:H7. And let me assure you, these modernizations are badly needed.

While the FDA oversees food safety for fruits, vegetables, juices and seafood, it receives less than one-third of the resources that the U.S. Department of Agriculture receives for its food safety responsibilities. Over the last five or so years, the volume of fruits and produce being imported into the United States has doubled while the number of FDA inspectors has decreased during the same time. Today, less than .2 percent of fruits and vegetables are tested for microbial contamination.

This neglect is producing severe consequences for the American public. A recently completed report from the Center for Science in the Public Interest compiled an inventory of 225 food-borne illness outbreaks between 1990 and 1998 and found that "foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration

caused over twice as many outbreaks as foods regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

The GAO estimates that some 9,100 deaths each year can be attributed to food poisoning. If nothing is done to improve the situation, things will only get worse. Indeed, the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that food-borne related deaths and illnesses will likely increase by 10 to 15% over the next decade.

The Consumer Food Safety Act will address this growing problem in a number of ways. Let me explain the bill's three main components.

NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

First, the Consumer Food Safety Act establishes a National Food Safety Program to ensure the food industry has effective programs in place to assure the safety of food products in the United States. While this program will contain a number of provisions, I would like to draw your attention to two key aspects of this program, inspections and registrations.

The legislation requires quarterly inspections of food processing and importing facilities. It also requires food processors and importers to register with the Department of Health and Human Services, injecting needed accountability into the food safety system. The Secretary of HHS may suspend the registration if a facility fails to allow inspections or if a suspension is necessary to protect the public's health.

Those processors who have a good track record will receive a waiver from the quarterly inspection requirement, but those who do not pass the test will continue to be inspected for sanitary conditions and to determine if their food products are unsafe for human consumption. This should be the baseline for all foods. Frequent inspections are a key ingredient to any food safety package. A more rigorous inspection program is one of the principle pillars of our legislation.

I would just like to add that federal and state cooperation is crucial to implementing the National Food Safety Program our bill envisions. It is for this reason the bill includes a section specific to federal-state cooperation, directing the Secretary to work with the states to ensure state and federal programs function in a coordinated and cost effective manner.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The second major component of the Consumer Food Safety Act will be increased research and education. With new food-borne illnesses cropping up, additional research and education is necessary to devise treatments and better inform the public of threats to its safety. The bill I am introducing includes provisions to conduct better food surveillance and tracking to assess the frequency and source of food-borne illnesses. In addition, research will be conducted to improve sanitation practices and food monitoring techniques. The legislation will also target research on developing rapid testing procedures and determining contamination sources. The goal is to stop food-borne illnesses before they have a chance to spread.

As a complement to the research program, the CFSA contains education initiatives to enhance public awareness and understanding. In many instances, the medical community is not familiar with food-borne illnesses. Consequently, physicians are unable to properly diagnose and treat the illness until after additional complications develop or until it is too

late. In addition, to educating physicians, however, we must ensure that every American becomes an active participant in the battle against food-borne illness. To that end, the bill targets education initiatives toward public health professionals.

ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

The third major component of the Consumer Food Safety Act will provide the FDA with the additional enforcement tools it needs to better protect the nation's food supply. The bill includes notification and recall provisions that empower the FDA to stop tainted foods from entering the market. It also includes whistleblower protections to prevent employees from losing their job after reporting unsafe practices by bad actor employees. After all, it is the worker in the processing facility who is in the trenches and is most able to provide information about unsanitary practices. In order to give the bill the teeth it needs to be enforced, it includes civil monetary penalties for failures to comply with its provisions.

Taken together, the increased inspections, additional research and education, and enhanced enforcement tools of the Consumer Food Safety Act will ensure a safer food supply from farm to table. It is a common-sense solution to a growing problem. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the effort to pass this bill so that we can stop the type of tragedy that has affected Lynn Nowak and her daughter Julia from happening to others.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' WEEK

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as we approach National Correctional Officers' Week, which begins May 3rd, I wanted to commend the officers who work in correctional facilities in my home state of Michigan. We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who patrol law enforcement's toughest beat and provide an invaluable service to our communities.

Correctional officers make the difference in ensuring that dangerous felons are kept securely behind bars. As we know from the correctional officers who have given their lives in the line of duty, it's a dangerous profession that works in the face of threat and deserves our respect and support.

We owe a special thanks to these officers who deal with some of the most hardened in our society and yet, deal with them professionally, firmly and fairly. We count on these brave men and women to remain forever alert and ensure the protection of our families.

Correctional officers are working in an increasingly stressful environment, as incarceration rates have risen and the inmate population has become more violent. By working together, we can address the unique and often dangerous challenges faced by correctional officers around the country. These officers deserve our commitment to improving working conditions, reducing the threat of assaults and ensuring that they receive wages equal to other law enforcement officers.

Too often, we fail to recognize the work of these men and women, but our communities are better, safer places to live and raise our

children because of their noble efforts. They deserve our admiration and our thanks.

HONORING THE BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, improving our nation's public schools is one of the top priorities of the 106th Congress. We all share the goal of better educational opportunities for our nation's children. The only question is how to achieve that goal. Already this year both houses of Congress set an excellent tone of bipartisanship by passing the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999—a measure that will help bring much-needed relief to our schools and improving the academic achievement of our students. This bill, like others Congress will consider this year, recognizes that local control is best for our schools, rather than a "Washington knows best" policy. Local school districts across the nation are laboratories for reform—finding innovative ways to improve student achievement. I rise today to pay tribute to one such school district, the Bellflower Unified School District, which serves many students residing in California's 38th Congressional District.

The Bellflower Unified School District recently received a Citation in the 1999 Magna Awards for Outstanding Programs in Student Achievement, presented by The American School Board Journal and Sodexo Marriott School Services. The awards recognize local school boards for taking bold and innovative steps to improve their educational programs, and include \$500 in scholarship money. The Bellflower Unified School District received the award for its Intensive Learning Center in Lakewood, CA—an elementary school that serves as a research model to demonstrate what works best in elementary education. The Intensive Learning Center offers a rigorous course of study and a longer school day (8 hours) and school year (200 days). It features state-of-the-art technology, including a science laboratory that allows students to perform experiments usually available only to secondary school students. Its faculty includes five full-time specialists to provide enrichment in science, technology, reading, Spanish, and physical education.

Also key to the success of the Intensive Learning Center was the willingness of the Bellflower Board of Education to collaborate with teachers and unions. The board and the union negotiated time to allow grade-level teams of teachers to meet daily for an hour to plan instructional units. The teachers at the Intensive Learning Center deserve commendation for their hard work in making the Center a success.

The Bellflower Unified School District received another honor recently when Esther Lindstrom Elementary School in Lakewood was selected as a California Nominee in the National Blue Ribbon Schools 1998–99 Elementary Program. Esther Lindstrom Elementary is one of California's 49 Nominees in this competition. Nationally, 381 public schools were nominated. Esther Lindstrom is one of 224 public schools (39 in California) to be selected for a site visit in the competition. The