

language which clarifies the application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, commonly known as "Superfund," to the project. As you know, the Superfund statute is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce, and this provision falls within that jurisdiction.

However, I have no objection to the inclusion of this provision. I recently sent Chairman SHUSTER a letter indicating that I would not seek a sequential referral of the bill, and ask unanimous consent that the letter appear in the RECORD at this point.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, April 27, 1999.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR BUD: I am writing with regard to H.R. 1480, a bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes. Section 326 of the legislation, modifying the project for flood control and storm damage reduction, West Bank of the Mississippi River (East of Harvey Canal), Louisiana, contains provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce. Specifically paragraph (a)(1) clarifies the application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA") of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) to the project.

Because of the importance of this legislation, I recognize your desire to bring it before the House in an expeditious manner. I will not exercise the Committee's right to a sequential referral. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 1480. In addition, the Commerce Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 1480 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter as part of the Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I remain,

Sincerely,

TOM BLILEY,  
Chairman.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE OLIVER OCASEK

**HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, we rise to honor Oliver Ocasek—one of Ohio's most distinguished citizens. On May 20, Oliver Ocasek will receive the YMCA of the USA's Volunteerism Award—the YMCA's highest honor. The YMCA is honoring Ocasek for his more than 50 years of service to youth organizations. We rise today, not only to recognize his deserved selection for this award, but to recognize a lifetime of service to the people of Ohio.

Sen. Ocasek's devotion to education extends well beyond his volunteerism with the YMCA. He co-founded the Ohio Hi-Y Youth in Government Model Legislature program with Governor C. William O'Neill in 1952 and supervised it throughout his service on the Ohio-West Virginia Board of the YMCA. He has served on the greater Akron area boards of Goodwill Industries, Shelter Care, and the Salvation Army. He also has been a professional educator in a wide variety of capacities: a teacher, a principal, a school superintendent, and a professor at both the University of Akron and Kent State University. He was instrumental in bringing together our regional institutions of higher learning to create the Northeastern Ohio Universities' College of Medicine. He capped his educational service with three terms on Ohio's State Board of Education.

This breadth of service to youth is impressive by itself. But alone, it does not capture Oliver Ocasek's contribution to the people of Ohio. Oliver Ocasek was one of the most influential legislators in the Statehouse, where he served in the Senate for 28 years from 1958 to 1986. In the 1970's, he became the first Senate President elected by his peers due to a change in the Ohio Constitution. Along with Republican Governor James Rhodes and Democratic House Speaker Vernal Riffe, Sen. Ocasek made many of the decisions to keep state government moving forward. He was an expert on Ohio's complex school funding system and used his knowledge, experience, and position to benefit local students. His enormous influence came from his savvy and from the hard, tedious work of studying, debating, refining, and reaching decisions on difficult and often contentious state issues.

He is astute, well-steeped in history, a gifted orator and a man of heart-felt compassion. Oliver Ocasek's larger-than-life ambitions drove him hard in politics and in civic life in general, not in search of personal gain and glory, but in order to use his talents and positions to care for the least of his brothers and sisters. Last year in the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Sen. Ocasek expressed his philosophy: "Nothing breaks my heart more than for a child to not have parents who care or to not have a chance for a good education. That's been my commitment—my life—to provide a good education for all children." His leadership has inspired tens of thousands of young people touched by his commitment to education and to the YMCA youth programs over the last half-century.

Today, many people disparage public service and doubt that one person can make a difference. Oliver Ocasek would profoundly disagree. And more importantly, his efforts and their recognition by the YMCA are the evidence to the contrary. His service to the people—and particularly the youth—of Ohio shows that, with hard work and commitment, one person can make a difference. And we are grateful for the difference that he has made.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ALEXANDER MACOMB CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a very special organization. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Alexander Macomb Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution as they gather for their Centennial Celebration.

In June of 1899, 12 women congregated in the home of Mrs. Helen Smart Skinner to organize the Mount Clemens chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Though their membership has grown and changed, their goals have remained the same: to dedicate their time and talents to serving God, home and country. During the early years they assisted the military by sending supplies to soldiers. Today, they continue to support the veterans at the Detroit V.A. Hospital. The chapter began marking graves of soldiers from the Revolutionary War and the war of 1812. In 1986, they assumed responsibility for the Cannon Cemetery and continue to mark graves when they are located. The chapter has erected many memorials to honor our fallen soldiers throughout the country. The Daughters of the American Revolution are dedicated to service through their membership.

During the past 100 years, members of the D.A.R. have contributed their time and resources to the betterment of society. They have generously donated flags to schools, scouts, public parks and most recently to the new Mount Clemens Court Building. The chapter has supported many schools by donating books over the years as well as supporting their National Library. I would like to thank all of the members, past and present, who have worked diligently to foster true patriotism in the Macomb County community.

The members of the Macomb Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are dedicated to the preservation of patriotic principles and securing the blessings of liberty for mankind. Please join me in offering congratulations as they celebrate 100 years of service to God, home and country.

#### HONORING THE BOROUGH OF NORTH YORK ON ITS 100TH ANNI- VERSARY

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Borough of North York on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary Celebration. I am pleased and proud to bring the history of this fine borough to the attention of my colleagues.

The general outlines for the borough began in 1888 with the purchase of 63 acres of ground by Jacob Mayer, a leading cigar maker. At that time, North York was known as Mayersville. On April 17, 1889, the Borough of

North York was incorporated, encompassing about 146 acres of land. The first official council meeting was held on May 12, 1899.

Today, the population of the Borough of North York is 1689. It is a thriving community and home to many outstanding businesses.

I send my sincere best wishes as the Borough of North York celebrates this milestone in its history. I am proud to represent such a fine place and look forward to watching it grow as we enter the new millennium.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LADY  
OF LOURDES ACADEMY MIAMI,  
FLORIDA

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an outstanding group of girls from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy who won third place at this year's national We the People competition.

Sacrificing their weekends, evenings, and spending countless of hours in preparing diligently for the state and local tournaments which they won, 17 students of Our Lady of Lourdes Academy proudly represented Miami and the state of Florida this year in yesterday's national competition on the Constitution.

I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to devoted teacher Rosie Heffernan and to the following 17 young girls who made evidence their pride in our country's heritage and demonstrated their vast knowledge of the United States' history and of current events: Deerack Ascencio, Deanna Barkett, Melissa Camero, Carly Celmer, Catherine Cone, Jessica Fernandez, Tanya Garcia, Diana Kates, Ingrid Laos, Vivian Lasaga, Claudia MacMaster, Tanya Nelson, Sonya Nelson, Tatiana Perez, Flavia Romero, Melissa Sanchez, and Kristina Velez.

REPORT FROM WAYNE COUNTY

**HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana have not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes."

I recognized this genuine Hoosier Hero in Wayne County at a Lincoln Day dinner speech. She is Violet Backmeyer, whose commitment and service to the needy has been just as strong and successful. By working tirelessly on behalf of the less fortunate, Violet epitomizes a Hoosier Hero.

For the past 15 years, Violet has served as a Wayne Township Trustee. She has given invaluable service to the Salvation Army and various food pantries both providing aid to the desperately poor.

Violet's work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope. She doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch, she does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Violet Backmeyer deserves the gratitude of her country, state, and nation, and I thank her here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

CALIFORNIA RESOLUTION TO  
HONOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a Resolution from the California State Assembly, Assembly Joint Resolution No. 15 relative to Filipino World War II veterans:

Whereas, The Philippine Islands, as a result of the Spanish-American War, were a possession of the United States between 1898 and 1946; and

Whereas, In 1934, the Philippine Independence Act (P.L. 73-127) set a 10-year timetable for the eventual independence of the Philippines and in the interim established a government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines with certain powers over its own internal affairs; and

Whereas, The granting of full independence ultimately was delayed for two years until 1946 because of the Japanese occupation of the islands from 1942 to 1945; and

Whereas, Between 1934 and the final independence of the Philippine Islands in 1946, the United States retained certain sovereign powers over the Philippines, including the right, upon order of the President of the United States, to call into the service of the United States Armed Forces all military forces organized by the Commonwealth government; and

Whereas, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, by Executive order of July 26, 1941, brought the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East under the command of Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur; and

Whereas, Under the Executive Order of July 26, 1941, Filipinos were entitled to full veterans benefits; and

Whereas, Approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers, driven by a sense of honor and dignity, battled under the United States Command after 1941 to preserve our liberty; and

Whereas, There are four groups of Filipino nationals who are entitled to all or some of the benefits to which United States veterans are entitled. These are:

(1) Filipinos who served in the regular components of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) Regular Philippine Scouts, called "Old Scouts," who enlisted in Filipino-manned units of the United States Army prior to October 6, 1945. Prior to World War II, these troops assisted in the maintenance of domestic order in the Philippines and served as a combat-ready force to defend the islands against foreign invasion, and during the war, they participated in the defense and retaking of the islands from Japanese occupation.

(3) Special Philippine Scouts, called "New Scouts," who enlisted in the United States Armed Forces between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific following World War II.

(4) Members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army who on July 26, 1941, were called into the service of the United States Armed Forces. This group includes organized guerrilla resistance units that were recognized by the United States Army; and

Whereas, The first two groups, Filipinos who served in the regular components of the United States Armed Forces and Old Scouts, are considered United States veterans and are generally entitled to the full range of United States veterans benefits; and

Whereas, The other two groups, New Scouts and members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, are eligible for certain veterans benefits, some of which are lower than full veterans benefits; and

Whereas, United States veterans medical benefits for the four groups of Filipino veterans vary depending upon whether the person resides in the United States or the Philippines; and

Whereas, The eligibility of Old Scouts for benefits based on military service in the United States Armed Forces has long been established; and

Whereas, The federal Department of Veterans Affairs operates a comprehensive program of veterans benefits in the present government of the Republic of the Philippines, including the operation of a federal Department of Veterans Affairs office in Manila; and

Whereas, The federal Department of Veterans Affairs does not operate a program of this type in any other country; and

Whereas, The program in the Philippines evolved because the Philippine Islands were a United States possession during the period 1898-1946, and many Filipinos have served in the United States Armed Forces, and because the preindependence Philippine Commonwealth Army was called into the service of the United States Armed Forces During World War II (1941-1945); and

Whereas, Our nation has failed to meet the promises made to those Filipino soldiers who fought as American soldiers during World War II; and

Whereas, The Congress passed legislation in 1946 limiting and precluding Filipino veterans that fought in the service of the United States during World War II from receiving most veterans benefits that were available to them before 1946; and

Whereas, Many Filipino veterans have been unfairly treated by the classification of their service as not being service rendered in the United States Armed Forces for purposes of benefits from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, All other nationals who served in the United States Armed Forces have been recognized and granted full rights and benefits, but the Filipinos, as American nationals at the time of service, were and still are denied recognition and singled out for exclusion, and this treatment is unfair and discriminatory; and

Whereas, On October 20, 1996, President Clinton issued a proclamation honoring the nearly 100,000 Filipino veterans of World War II, soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, who fought as a component of the United States Armed Forces alongside allied forces for four long years to defend and reclaim the Philippine Islands, and thousands more who joined the United States Armed Forces after the war; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully