

in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council.

H.R. —

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Parents Annuity Act."

SEC. 2. SPECIAL PENSION FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"SUBCHAPTER V—SPECIAL PENSION FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS

§ 1571. Gold Star parents

"(a) The Secretary shall pay monthly to each person who has received a Gold Star lapel pin under section 1126 of title 10 as a parent of a person who died in a manner described in subsection (a) of that section a special pension in an amount determined under subsection (b).

"(b) The amount of special pension payable under this section with respect to the death of any person shall be \$125 per month. In any case in which there is more than one parent eligible for special pension under this section with respect to the death of a person, the Secretary shall divide the payment equally among those eligible parents.

"(c) The receipt of special pension shall not deprive any person of any other pension or other benefit, right, or privilege to which such person is or may hereafter be entitled under any existing or subsequent law. Special pension shall be paid in addition to all other payments under laws of the United States.

HELP WANTED—NIGHT WATCHMAN

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record the attached editorial written by Oliver North and published in the Washington Times.

[From the Washington Times, June 18, 2000]
(By Oliver North)

Prince Albert is on his "progress and prosperity tour" asking Americans "are you better off than you were eight years ago?" If "better off" includes America's national security, the answer is: You have to be kidding. The day the vice president began to "re-introduce himself to the American people," shell-shocked Clinton-Gore administration officials dodged questions about how they lost more of America's dwindling supply of nuclear secrets.

After a monthlong cover-up, it was finally admitted on June 12 that computer hard drives from the Los Alamos National Laboratory's "X Division"—where nuclear weapons are designed—have been missing from a vault at the lab since "some time in May." This is the latest embarrassment for Los Alamos, which is still reeling from a string of security lapses, including the arrest of Taiwanese-American scientist Wen Ho Lee on 59 counts of mishandling nuclear secrets. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, a potential running mate for Internet Al, claims "there is no evidence of espionage" and "the missing computer files may be related to the evacuation of the facility during the recent forest fires." Get the word: "missing"—as in, "My home work is 'missing.' Maybe the dog ate it."

The "missing" multi-gigabyte computer drives contain detailed, highly secret, nuclear weapons data used by the super-sensitive Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST)—an interagency contingent of military and civilian specialists who respond to nuclear accidents and nuclear-related terrorist threats. The data on the hard drives includes all the information necessary to disarm all nuclear weapons worldwide. This is, of course, the same kind of data needed to arm or build a nuclear device. That is what's "missing."

Security lapses are nothing new for this regime. In the wake of the administration's latest fiasco, Rep. Porter Goss, Florida Republican, chairman of the House Select Intelligence Committee, told me that "when it comes to security, the Clinton-Gore administration manifests a culture of disdain." He is right and it is an attitude that pervades not just our nuclear weapons labs but the whole administration.

In 1994, more than a year after taking office, more than 100 high-level White House staff members still had no security clearances because they never bothered to complete the paperwork for requisite background investigations. They were granted access to highly classified information anyway.

By 1996, White House security was so lax that shortly before fleeing the country, Democratic Party fund-raiser Charlie Trie smuggled a foreign businessman into the White House using false identification. When the General Accounting Office reported that from January 1993 until June 1996 there were no procedures to control access to Sensitive Compartmental Information (a level of classification higher than Top Secret) within the Executive Office of the President, White House officials promised to "fix the problem." They did not.

At the State Department, foreign spies stand in line to rip off America's secrets. In 1998, an unidentified individual posing as a reporter walked out of the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's office suite with a stack of classified documents. Last year, the FBI caught a Russian Intelligence Service spy wearing headphones outside the State Department headquarters and discovered a device planted in a secure conference room inside the building. This January, a laptop computer containing top secret information vanished from the department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mrs. Albright said she was "outraged."

Last year, FBI agent Michael Vatis told Congress that computer hackers broke into the Pentagon's classified computer systems and downloaded "vast quantities of data" containing "sensitive information about essential defense matters." The FBI suspected the Russian intelligence service. What did the Clinton-Gore administration do? They asked the Russians to help. Like O.J., the Russians are still looking for those who really did it.

But even when the perpetrators of massive security violations are caught, it hardly matters. According to the CIA's inspector general, John Deutch, the Clinton-Gore CIA director from 1995-1996, routinely "placed national security information at risk" by processing a "large volume of highly classified information" on his unprotected home computer. After covering up the breach (and failing to notify the FBI as required by law) for more than 18 months, Mr. Deutch had his security clearances revoked and was given a letter of reprimand.

The abysmal seven-year national security record of the Clinton-Gore administration should come as no surprise—nor should their predictable spin: First comes the plea not to "make a partisan issue" out of what is at best gross incompetence and at worst dan-

gerous malfeasance. Then comes the accusation there has always been espionage (remember the "everyone does it" defense from Monicagate?). Finally the counterallegations: "It is all the fault of the Reagan and Bush administrations."

Don't be surprised to hear Bill's and Al's pals tell you that if Presidents Reagan and Bush hadn't planted so many trees, the Clinton-Gore administration wouldn't have had to do a "controlled burn" of several thousand acres and 205 houses, thus forcing the evacuation of the Los Alamos lab. If that doesn't wash, they can argue there is nothing on these missing hard drives that the Communist Chinese didn't already get.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Collins/Linder amendment. This amendment would prohibit EPA from using any funds in the bill to designate "ozone non-attainment areas" under the more stringent National Ambient Air Quality Standards issued by EPA in 1997 which were ruled unconstitutional by the D.C. Superior Court. The amendment will simply postpone the designation of new non-attainment areas using the 1997 standards, until the Supreme Court decides once and for all if the standards are legally enforceable. If we fail to pass this important amendment a similar problem that we are facing in Michigan could occur in other states.

And now I would like to highlight how we in Michigan are grappling with this similar problem. The proposal by the EPA to reinstate the 1-hour ozone standard—after the 8-hour rule was declared unconstitutional—based on monitoring data collected in 1997 is flawed. Using that data counties such as Saginaw, Allegan, Genesee, Bay and Midland would be designated nonattainment areas even though all of these counties are currently measuring acceptable attainment levels.

Let me say that there isn't a person or organization in this room who doesn't want clean air, clean water, and a safe environmental legacy to leave to our children and grandchildren.

As a legislator, I have consistently worked toward achieving a cleaner environment, and as a nation we have made great gains in the past two decades to clean polluted rivers, to ensure that toxic emissions are reduced, and expedite the clean-up of hazardous waste sites across the country.

The Environmental Protection Agency has played a major role in spearheading these efforts and we should fully recognize the important role they play in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

Their mission, "to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment" is one of the most important that is carried out by any federal agency.

Unfortunately, the proposed rule EPA has under discussion—is of the type that unnecessarily causes friction between the business community and environmental groups. It causes friction where none should exist. And just as damaging—I think the ruling undermines the credibility of the EPA.

For me, this fails the litmus test of common sense and is therefore unreasonable. If an area is clean now, then they should be treated accordingly.

The whole idea behind any enforcement mechanism is to ensure compliance. If compliance is met then there shouldn't be a problem—the EPA ruling is putting the cart before the horse—and it is placing bureaucratic gymnastics above the economic and environmental well being of our community.

Keeping the Attainment status is important for the viability of our local economy. A non-attainment status will have far reaching negative effects for our economic base, including putting into jeopardy \$24 million in much needed transportation projects, making our area unattractive to new business and stifle economic development.

And for what—to penalize a community because their air is well within compliance in the first place?

The EPA needs to meet us halfway so that the problem can be resolved. It is that simple.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN INTERPRETATIVE CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3084 which authorizes funds for the establishment of a new interpretative center in Springfield, IL honoring President Abraham Lincoln. As we celebrate the life and contributions of this great man, I would like to point out that no commemoration is complete without mentioning southern Indiana's part in the Abraham Lincoln story.

Many people do not realize President Lincoln spent 14 years of his life on a small farm in Lincoln City, Indiana. It was at his boyhood home in southern Indiana where he helped his father work the land, cultivated his love of reading, and developed a curious and inquisitive nature. Sadly, he also lost his mother there, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, when he was just nine years old. The time he spent in Indiana during his formative years undoubtedly contributed to the development of President Lincoln's extraordinary character—from an honest, hardworking boy to one of our country's finest leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Indiana are proud of this heritage. I encourage all Americans wishing to learn more about this American hero to visit Lincoln City, Indiana and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial located just off the Lincoln Heritage Trail.

TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY ROBERTS,
JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and recognize the accomplishments and success of one of Mississippi's finest civil servants. For many years, Lindsey Roberts, Jr., has worked diligently to ensure the continued growth and development of Mississippi for future generations.

Since 1988, Roberts has served the people of Montgomery County as a member and past president of the Board of Supervisors. During the past year, Roberts has been instrumental in bringing more than \$2.5 million in grant funds to Montgomery County for road and other infrastructure improvements.

Roberts has brought a tremendous amount of recognition to Montgomery County through his election as president of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) Minority Caucus and as the recipient of the 1999 MAS Presidential Award.

In addition, for his outstanding efforts to obtain grant funding for Montgomery County and the recognition he has brought to the community through his involvement on the state and national levels, he was presented with the Government Award for the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, Lindsey Roberts, Jr., should be an inspiration to us all. His tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed by the people of Montgomery County. He is sure to be a positive force within the state of Mississippi for many years to come.

HONORING THE CITY OF CEDARTOWN

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the City of Cedartown, Georgia, for hosting the Cedartown Pre-Peachtree Training Camp for some of the world's greatest wheelchair athletes during the week of Monday, June 26th through Saturday, July 1st.

Cedartown, located in Polk County is in the heart of the 7th Congressional District, and is a beautiful, rural and historic community west of Atlanta.

Building on the success as a host community during the 1996 Summer Olympics, Cedartown is now hosting more than 20 world-class wheelchair athletes from around the world, including the United States, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Thailand, Australia, Mexico, Switzerland, and South Africa, for a week of training and special events in preparation for the Peachtree Road Race on July 4th.

The Peachtree Road Race is held in Atlanta every Fourth of July, and is the world's largest 10K race, with more than 50,000 participants. The race includes a wheelchair event.

More than 75 Cedartown volunteers are providing accommodations, transportation, and food for the athletes during the week. I am

proud to represent Cedartown and its citizens as they continue to make their mark on the world.

A TRIBUTE TO MIGRANT HEAD START CENTER WORKERS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, migrant farm workers often come to the United States under severe circumstances and hardship, looking for work in this great country. Unfortunately, services and programs for migrant workers are often unavailable. I rise to pay tribute to three people who devoted their lives to helping migrant farm workers become self-sufficient in their new lives here in America. And on Sunday, June 25, 2000, Francisca Huizar, Aida Ortiz and Fernando Fecundo will be honored and memorialized in a tree planting ceremony at the Migrant Head Start Center in Omer, Michigan.

In Michigan's Fifth District we are fortunate, not only to have a Migrant Head Start Center, but also to have staff workers that are dedicated to the success and well being of those who use their services. Though Francisca, Aida and Fernando have all passed away, their hard work and devotion to helping the migrant community remains as an example to us all.

Each one of the individuals being honored this Sunday has contributed to the success of the center in various ways. Fernando, who moved to Bay City with his family in 1961, gave special time and attention to the migrant farm worker population in the region. Francisca, who also worked as a counselor at Bay City Public High Schools, focused on helping workers with education and health services. And Aida, a former state education coordinator, was involved in infant/toddler classrooms and staff training. Both Aida and Fernando not only taught and helped others advance their education, but they also modeled this aspiration by continuing to work toward college degrees.

At a time of unprecedented prosperity and success in our country, the disadvantaged sometimes get left behind. I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, that because of people like Aida, Fernando and Francisca, the migrant community in Arenac County is not being left behind. These three people contributed their lives to the Migrant Head Start Center and to those in need who came there for help.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these three outstanding individuals who play critical roles in the well being of migrant farm workers in Michigan's Fifth District. They will be missed, but their legacy will remain.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT ZUNI AND ACOMA NATIVE AMERICANS

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills to provide further assistance