

had won from a Kingsville manager who attended the game. She immediately made an announcement over the store loudspeaker and shoppers stopped to cheer, clap and wipe tears from their eyes. It was a beautiful moment.

This victory belongs to the entire community. They all pulled together, hoped together, and prayed together and the Calallen Wildcats came back to Corpus Christi as the State Champions. These guys learned the important lesson of knowing that champions must have patience, skill, and heart. They learned that victory comes from within.

I want to include the leadership of the school and the coaches in this victory: Superintendent Dr. James Warlick, Principal Mike Sandroussi, Athletic Director Phil Danaher, and Coaches Steve Chapman, Danny Fogg, Dough Edwards, and Mark Soto.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in offering our congratulations to a team of outstanding young men and outstanding young ball players, the 2000 Texas High School Class 4-A Baseball Champions.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 22, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4516) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill and the short-sighted cuts it makes to the budgets of the agencies and employees under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

There is a lot of smoke and mirrors in this bill. Even with the funding restored by the Manager's amendment, this bill is deficient in many critical areas. The bill's total appropriation is still \$9.8 million less than the current year's appropriation.

It would still leave the Congressional Research Service, an office that every Member of Congress relies upon to serve our constituents, underfunded and ill-equipped to fulfill its mission.

I spoke in strong opposition to this bill when we considered it in the Appropriations Committee because it would have gutted the agencies funded in this bill and resulted in up to 1,700 employees being laid off.

This would mean RIFs and lay-offs of the hardworking men and women who work for the Capitol Police, the Library of Congress, GAO, GPO and the other agencies in this bill. To many of you, these are faceless individuals whose work may not be directly felt.

However, to me, not only are many of these individuals my constituents, but they are also devoted Federal employees who have foregone higher paying jobs in the private sector because they believe in public service. They have families and mortgages and do good

work. They have been subjected to possible RIFs because this Congress wants to provide a tax cut rather than maintain the current funding and cost-of-living adjustment for these agencies.

On another matter, the proposed amendment to establish a lockbox on this bill is a budgetary gimmick. It has the gloss of sounding fiscally responsible, but it actually ties the hands of this Committee and forces irresponsible cuts in order to provide a large tax cut.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and look for a better approach to funding the agencies in this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXCELLENCE OF ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL'S NATIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TEAM

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 28, 2000*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anderson High School's NEED (National Energy Education Development) Project Team. Anderson High School is in Ohio's Second Congressional District, and its team was recognized as the Senior Level School of the Year by the NEED Project at the 2000 Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement. The NEED Project is a nonprofit education association dedicated to developing and distributing comprehensive, hands-on energy education programs to schools nationwide. NEED encourages and rewards student leadership by sponsoring a Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement.

Anderson High School's NEED Project Team was chosen as the Senior Level School of the Year for its outstanding work to promote energy awareness through the design and delivery of objective, multi-sided energy education programs. The team participants are Jayne Everson, Steve Grindle, Matt Radcliffe, David Drabousky, Mike Jurek, and David Zitt. Also fundamental to the team's success are student webmasters William Hawkins III and Martine Lamy and student game designer Brian Huneke. The team, led by its dedicated faculty advisor, Jeff Rodriguez, traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive its award on June 26, 2000.

The work of Anderson High School's NEED Project Team includes: evaluation of energy conservation improvements at its school; research of scientific applications for solar energy; and the presentation of energy education workshops and carnivals at local elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities.

The team also developed and implemented an outstanding website ([www.LearnAboutEnergy.org](http://www.LearnAboutEnergy.org)) to raise energy awareness to thousands of students, educators, and others around the world in classrooms ranging from Australia to Switzerland. The material on its website focuses on objective energy related education for students in middle school. It features games that teach the fundamentals of energy, including "Energy

Jeopardy" and "What's My Name?"; an energy fact of the day; energy discussion boards; greeting cards about energy; and Internet broadcasts.

The website also provides valuable tools for teachers. It offers links to online energy facts and information on how to conserve energy at home; an online textbook; energy lesson plans; quizzes to test students' knowledge of different types of energy; PowerPoint presentations about energy; and contact information for additional teaching resources.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of Anderson High School's NEED Project Team. All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate these students and their advisor on receiving the Senior Level School of the Year award.

IN SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF  
MEDICARE COVERAGE OF VISION  
REHABILITATION SERVICES (H.R.  
2870)

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 28, 2000*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of my bill, H.R. 2870, the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act. As Congress considers its health care initiatives, I would like to highlight a proposal that would help over 6 million seniors in the United States receive services necessary for maintaining their independence. The Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act would provide access to vision rehabilitation services for Medicare beneficiaries who report some level of vision impairment and would end up saving Medicare funds.

H.R. 2870 would extend Medicare coverage to orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers and low vision therapists. These professionals provide critical specialized rehabilitation services to help people with a vision impairment to be able to adjust the loss of sight and carry out normal daily activities. These services can restore a person's independence, improve their quality of life and save unnecessary suffering and expense by preventing injuries.

Vision loss has a powerful impact on one's daily life. It affects an individual's ability to communicate through reading and writing, manage simple household tasks, move around safely and handle medication. In addition, vision that cannot be corrected by medical or surgical intervention or corrective lenses, is a major contributing factor to falls among older adults which can cause hip fractures and other injuries.

The Framingham Eye Study reports that 18 percent of all hip fractures in the elderly are a result of vision impairment. This year alone, it is estimated that 63,000 hip fractures will occur due to vision loss. The cost incurred for the medical treatment of a hip fracture is \$35,000. Therefore, the total estimated cost of medical treatment for hip fractures this year alone is \$2.2 billion. Conservative estimates illustrate that 20% of these hip fractures could have been prevented if elderly persons suffering from vision impairment had access to vision rehabilitation services. This would save

\$441 million annually for the federal government.

Savings to Medicare also occur by reducing the need for in-home and nursing home care. By providing the skills and services to those with vision impairment, Medicare promotes quality of life and independence for the individual. I know first-hand, the cost factors and emotional strain related to the loss of independence and need for additional health care services due to vision impairment. My mother, who suffers from vision impairment, benefited tremendously from the rehabilitation services provided by the Greater Boston Aid to the Blind.

Studies by the National Center for Health Statistics and others find age-related visual impairment to be second only to arthritis/rheumatism as a cause of disability. In addition, the Alliance for Aging Research found visual impairment as one of four conditions leading older citizens to lose their independence. Medicare must provide its beneficiaries with the ability to live a normal life. Please join me and nearly 80 other cosponsors in this effort by including vision rehabilitation professionals in Medicare reform legislation.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,  
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 26, 2000*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member OBEY, Subcommittee Chairman REGULA, Ranking Member SERRANO, and the other Members of the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee and Appropriations Committee for their obvious hard efforts in producing H.R. 4690. I have strong reservations about the funding cuts that the bill imposes on the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The bill funds NOAA at a level 61 percent below the Administration's request and could result in the elimination of 1,000 NOAA jobs. If this happens, it will have a devastating effect on the critical research, fisheries management, water quality, and community-based educational programs which are absolutely necessary to our country's vitality and continued strength.

Mr. Chairman, this country is witnessing the largest federal government surplus in history. I believe that part of this money should be returned to the American people. I believe that we should be investing part of the surplus in America's future. NOAA plays an essential role in the lives of all Americans. From issuing weather forecasts to managing our nation's ocean and living marine resources, NOAA contributes significantly to the nation's economic and environmental health. Nearly one

out of every six jobs is marine-related and one-third of our Gross Domestic Product is produced in ocean and coastal areas.

I am particularly upset that the Committee has chosen to cut all funding, \$16 million requested by the Administration, for coral reef research and conservation efforts. Coral reefs truly are the "rainforests of the oceans." There have been many concerted efforts by the Administration, Congress, states, and local communities to protect and safely manage corals. Since the release by the Coral Reef Task Force of its National Action Plan in March, NOAA and its Federal, state, territorial, and local partners have moved forward to improve our protection of these valuable and fragile areas. I am presently involved in bipartisan legislation that will contribute to the effective stewardship of coral reefs. NOAA is an important partner in the process, since many corals fall within its purview. All of the efforts supported by NOAA will be terminated at the proposed funding level, and threaten to harm the ecological and economic stability in our nation's waters where corals reside.

Mr. Chairman, some may ask whether we can afford, or even need, all the services that NOAA provides. However, at a time when there is an even greater need for accurate weather information to protect the lives of our people and the well-being of our agricultural communities, at a time when our fisheries are at risk, at a time when development is booming in coastal communities, and at a time when we have the additional financial resources, I ask, how can we afford not to provide the Administration's request for NOAA, which has the capability to provide the expertise which is so vitally important to the continued stewardship of our marine resources? NOAA has been a valuable federal partner in contributing to our nation's economic potency by providing the knowledge required for effective stewardship of our coastal resources. Investing in NOAA will ensure we can continue to safely conserve our coastal and oceanic resources for generations to come. I sincerely hope that these concerns will receive consideration when the House goes to conference with the Senate on H.R. 4690.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO JOHN  
FINNEGAN, JR.

**HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 28, 2000*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. John Finnegan, Jr. Mr. Finnegan, who only moved to the Lehigh Valley four years ago, has displayed an extraordinary dedication to the people of his community. The Director of Consulting Services at Dun and Bradstreet, Mr. Finnegan serves as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Hanover Township, Northampton County. He has served as the chief fund-raiser for the township's bicentennial committee, and on its parks and recreation board. His hard work and diligence have made a tremendous difference in the life of his community.

In addition to his civic and corporate involvement, Mr. Finnegan's personal actions also serve as a model for others to follow. He

has been a coach for Little League baseball and hockey leagues, serving as a role model and mentor to the youth of the Lehigh Valley. Coordinator for his neighborhood crime watch, Mr. Finnegan has become an invaluable resource to the constituents of my district in the short time he has lived there. I applaud Mr. Finnegan for his devotion to the Lehigh Valley community. John Finnegan is a Lehigh Valley Hero.

HONORING WILLIAM G. TERRELL—  
NEW JERSEY UAW CAP DIRECTOR

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 28, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to honor a man who has spent the last 35 years of his life representing the interests of working men and women in the State of New Jersey.

William G. Terrell, Friday, retires as UAW International Representative Community Action Programs (CAP) Director for the State of New Jersey.

For the last several decades, Bill Terrell has spent a majority of his time improving the quality of life for thousands of workers in the State of New Jersey. Throughout his career in organized labor, Mr. Terrell has held numerous positions within the UAW, culminating with his current position as CAP Director since 1985.

Bill Terrell has been a tireless advocate on behalf of autoworkers throughout the State of New Jersey, as well as the nation as a whole. He has played an active role in UAW contract negotiations, workplace safety and ensuring New Jersey's automobile plants continue production in our State. He is a constant supporter of organized labor and works extremely hard to ensure that all workers have a voice.

With Bill Terrell's retirement, the NJ UAW is losing a worker, a family man, and a leader. I want to offer Mr. Terrell my congratulations and thanks for his outstanding career of service. It is with men like Bill Terrell that our nation's labor movement is such a huge success. He will be sorely missed.

THE HISTORIC SUMMIT OF THE  
TWO KOREAS

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 28, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in the aftermath of the historic summit. This is an historic moment and holds a glimmer of promise for the Korean people and for peace and stability in Northeast Asia. This is a watershed event in the history of Korea and will hopefully lead to a significant reduction in tensions on the peninsula.

According to media coverage, the summit has already produced potentially significant results. The two leaders reportedly have reached an understanding in the following four areas:

Social and economic cooperation, including South Korean investment in North Korea;