

our state lawmakers so that we were able to enact strong commonsense gun safety legislation this year.

I am proud our state now has a law that closes the gun show loophole and requires child safety locks on guns. Now we need national commonsense gun legislation.

The House Leadership and the gun lobby have maintained their alliance to block the consideration of this commonsense gun legislation.

I urge the American people to send a message to the House leadership to reject the gun lobby and enact real gun safety legislation before we adjourn for the year.

Mr. Speaker, the new school year has just begun. We need to give parents greater assurance that their children will be safe while they are attending school.

But the truth is the Congress must do more. We can close the gun show loophole. We can require child safety locks. We can ban high-capacity ammunition clips.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the year 2000 has been a great year for those of us actively involved in building and promoting relations between the United States and India. This week, I am proud to welcome Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Washington. The Prime Minister's visit comes months after President Clinton made a similar visit to India. I was fortunate to join the President on that historic visit.

While here in Washington, the Prime Minister will focus on economic relations between the two countries, as well as the role of the Indian-American community as a bridge between the two democracies.

Since the early 1990's, I have been advocating for the U.S. to build a long-term and enduring relationship with India. This relationship makes sense since both countries share common democratic traditions. Portions of India's constitution were modeled after the U.S. constitution, and both countries share the same views of freedom of expression, protection of individual rights and a vitality of the political process.

India and the U.S. have forged close economic and commercial links. India represents enormous opportunities for U.S. firms to make new investments and enter new markets. Good relations with India can only increase the economic ties we currently have. A strong economy in India is a basis for lifting people out of poverty and for creating a strong democratic base.

The two countries also have become linked as centers of scientific and technological innovation. In the fast-changing world of high technology, the U.S. and India have already begun sharing process of information, of skills and of people who provide great benefits for consumers in both countries. India has a highly trained corps of software engineers whose talents are being utilized here and in India.

Both countries, victims of terrorism in the past, have teamed up to establish a Joint

Working Group on Counterterrorism, which should enhance the effectiveness of both nations' efforts to combat terrorism worldwide.

As the region's only democracy, India will play a major role in security issues throughout Asia for years to come. I have believed for some time that India should receive a permanent seat on the United Nation's Security Council and am anxious to hear from the Prime Minister if there were any new developments while he was in New York last week. Providing this seat to India will help make the world a safer place.

While I was in India with the President earlier this year, I was fortunate to attend the signing ceremony in Agra of an historic agreement to promote cooperation in the areas of clean energy and the environment between our two countries. This agreement marks a major step toward promoting clean energy in India and protecting India's and our global environment. As part of this agreement, joint trade and investment efforts will promote clean energy technologies in India.

India and the U.S. also are conducting joint public-private partnerships in the energy sector. In fact, one New Jersey utility, PSEG, is on the verge of signing an agreement with the Indian government to carry out just such a partnership. This utility also is exploring creative methods for improving the electric supply and system reliability with partners in Karnataka. These types of efforts will promote clean energy technologies and help India avoid the pollution we experienced with our industrial development. India does not need to sacrifice its economic growth because its local businesses will conserve energy and improve their "bottom lines". I look forward to working with the Prime Minister during this week's visit to further these efforts between India and the U.S. to conserve resources, improve energy supply, and protect our environment.

As the founder and past Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, as well as the Representative for one of the largest Indian-American communities in the country, I am excited by the developments of the past year between our two countries. It is my hope that Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit will strengthen relations between the world's two greatest democracies.

IN CELEBRATION OF MARTHA BARRETT'S DEDICATION TO EDUCATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Martha Barrett, whose energy and dedication in her classroom and to her profession has earned her the honor as Ventura County's Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Barrett brings an entrepreneur's drive to teaching, totally immersing herself in her chosen profession, which isn't surprising when one considers that business was her chosen field when she entered San Diego State University. However, the future educator found joy by teaching a weekend religion class and switched to education, earning her master's degree and teaching credential.

She now teaches students and her peers at Oxnard Elementary School District.

Mrs. Barrett is a 17-year teaching veteran, teaching our youngest students to read, write and think. She is also a lifelong student, remaining current on the latest technology and teaching tools and sharing them with her peers.

After years of serving as a mentor to her fellow teachers, Mrs. Barrett was assigned to the district's Peer Assistance and Review program last week. In that role, Mrs. Barrett will help struggling teachers and coach others who wish to improve their skills.

There is little doubt her peers will benefit from Mrs. Barrett's insight. Administrators say they often have to turn away teachers who clamor to attend the numerous teaching workshops Mrs. Barrett has conducted. Her superintendent, Richard Duarte, has been quoted as calling her "truly a master teacher."

The mother of three also is active in her own children's schools and has been a team mom for her children's soccer teams. The Barretts have hosted exchange students from Japan and Spain.

Mr. Speaker, as America focuses on improving education, Mrs. Barrett serves as a model of what we expect and need from our teachers. Teaching is not a job to Mrs. Barrett. It's a calling. She works hard, she cares about her students, and she cares about her profession. She also cares enough to help her peers reach higher, so their students can too.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Barrett on her achievement, in thanking her for a job very well done, and in wishing her future successes in the classroom and in her profession.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT EDWARD LOWRY AND DEPUTY SHERIFF DAVID HATHCOCK

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to State Highway Patrolman Edward Lowry and Deputy Sheriff David Hathcock for their distinguished service and courageous leadership on behalf of the citizens of Cumberland County, North Carolina.

These two veteran law enforcement officers gave their lives in the line of duty during a traffic stop along interstate 95 on September 23, 1997. By risking their lives to protect the lives of others, they made the ultimate sacrifice that any citizen of this nation can make. They left behind not only their loving families, but also a community and a state who will forever be grateful for their heroism.

As lifelong residents of Cumberland County, both Sergeant Lowry and Deputy Hathcock dedicated their entire careers to protecting the rights and freedoms of others. Together they had over forty years of experience in law enforcement and were recognized for their integrity and strength in promoting and defending the laws of justice.

In order to acknowledge and honor Officers Lowry and Hathcock for the valiant actions they displayed on that fateful day and their outstanding service to the communities they fought to protect, I am pleased that the North Carolina 59 bridge over I-95 near Hope Mills, Cumberland County will be named in their

memory. This will serve as a constant reminder of the gratitude we all feel toward these two brave individuals, along with all other law enforcement personnel who have lost their lives serving as guardians of our communities.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "For those to whom much is given, much is required. And when at some future date when history judges us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities to the state, our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions: First, were we truly men of courage . . . Second, were we truly men of judgment . . . Third, were we truly men of integrity . . . Finally, were we truly men of dedication?"

Deputy Sheriff David Hathcock and Sergeant Edward Lowry would truthfully have been able to answer each of these questions in the affirmative! They were indeed men of courage, judgment, integrity, and dedication. May the memories of these two brave individuals live on in our hearts and may God's strength and peace always be with their families and friends.

WELCOMING EDGEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the Edgewood Middle School located in Edgewood, New Mexico. The school is a brand new institution of secondary learning. The need for the school is a testament to the growth and innovation of this area of my state, portions of which I proudly represent.

Edgewood is a lovely community situated amid the East Mountains and arid lands of New Mexico. Edgewood and its nearby neighbors—Moriarty, Sandia Park, Tijeras, Cedar Crest, and Stanley—are committed to the community values that make for a high quality of life. It is not surprising to me the enthusiasm and welcome that the Edgewood Middle School has received.

Someone once said that a journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step. I must commend Moriarty school superintendent, Dr. Elna Stowe, for her tireless work and devotion in making this school a reality. Additionally, the first principal of this institution, Sandy Beery, will shepherd the school as it grows and blossoms.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, it takes a team effort to achieve great goals. I fully believe that the educators, administrators, and the surrounding communities will come together to have an exceptional body of learning. Schools are hallowed places, and I am very enthusiastic about the students who will be educated here and then move on to higher learning. A good education is the start of a good future.

I close by taking you back to 1787. It was a time much like today, when this Nation's future was at an exciting crossroads. At the close of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin rose and made an observation about the chair from which General Washington had been presiding. On the chair was

the design of a Sun that was low on the horizon, and many of the delegates had wondered whether it was a rising or a setting Sun. 'We know now,' Franklin said. 'It is a rising Sun and the beginning of a great new day.'

The people of the East Mountains are proud of their strong community spirit and devotion that have helped build the Edgewood Middle School. I commend these community members for their dedication to education and for the enrichment of their students, present and future. Because of all these things, I see a rising Sun and the beginning of a bright future for the East Mountain community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA 25TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a resolution that recognizes and honors the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Congress first authorized IDEA in 1975 as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142). Since 1975, Congress has refined and improved the law several times. In 1990 the statute was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As most everyone knows, this act assists states and local school districts with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities.

IDEA has ensured greater access to education for all students with disabilities. Not only has access to education improved, so has quality. Students with disabilities are increasingly completing their high school education and embarking on post-secondary education.

I believe strongly in the goal of IDEA—that every child should have the opportunity to receive a quality education. I know that teachers and school administrators also support this goal. However, I understand that schools need additional funds to make this goal a reality. To this end, I have been persistent in fighting for increased funding for IDEA during my years in Congress.

From the time the Republicans took control of Congress in 1995, we have seen the most dramatic increases in the federal funding for IDEA since its creation. Our work has paid off. The federal share of funding for IDEA has risen from roughly seven percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to 13 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure. I am proud of our efforts.

Of course, I realize that we still have a long way to go to reach the federal government's promise to provide funding to states and local schools in the amount of 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure. While I will not be in Congress next year to push for increased funding, I know there are many members who will continue this fight.

Over three years ago, Congress passed the IDEA Amendments of 1997, which brought many improvements to the education that children with disabilities receive. These amendments focused the law on the education a child is to receive rather than upon process and bureaucracy, gave parents greater input in determining the best education for their child, and gave teachers the tools they need

to teach all children well. For instance, under these amendments the Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed with the general curriculum in mind, and students with disabilities are taking district and state-wide assessments in greater numbers. The 1997 amendments also decreased the amount of paperwork required of teachers so that now they will have more time to spend with students.

I am pleased with the progress that has been made in recent years and it is appropriate that on the 25th anniversary of the passage of P.L. 94-142 we recognize the many accomplishments brought about by IDEA. IDEA has continually been refined to better serve students, parents, teachers, and schools. To continue these successes, we must continue our support for IDEA and the students it serves. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO LABOR AND MANAGEMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA: FOR WORKING TOGETHER IN A COMMON CAUSE TO SAVE A HOSPITAL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to West Virginia's labor and management team who have come together to help save a struggling hospital in Man, West Virginia, forced to close in June 2000 due in large part to Congressional cuts in Medicare reimbursements to hospitals. I salute the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Arch Coal Company for setting an example for labor and management teamwork to save a hospital.

As we all are deeply aware, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997—or BBA97 in its short form—caused draconian cuts in Medicare reimbursements to health care providers across this country—hospitals, home health agencies, skilled nursing homes, and physical therapy programs.

I voted against the BBA97 because I knew first, you cannot cut providers without cutting services to seniors, and secondly, you should never vote for projected cuts of \$115 billion in Medicare, period. That projected cut of \$115 billion has today risen to \$227 billion, with two more years to go of planned cuts under BBA97.

Congress in passing the BBA97 rhetorically assured the American people that they were "only" cutting providers—not services to seniors who rely upon Medicare for all their health care needs. I knew then, and Congress knows now, that services were reduced to seniors, and that access to health care was denied to hundreds of thousands of patients.

In the interim, these past 3 years have seen hospitals, skilled nursing homes and home health agencies closing their doors in record numbers, leaving vulnerable elderly patients without local access to health care of any kind. The safety net that used to be in place is gone. Put bluntly, it is only now that Congress pretends it has just been made aware that 2 years of balancing the budget on the backs of senior citizens has caused hospitals