

housing, the CAREN Development Company was developed in 1994. This company provides housing specifically designed to fit the needs of elderly and disabled persons.

Its first project, the CAREN Co-op House, was completed in 1997 and holds 89 apartment units designed for independent living. In 1998, in order to increase opportunities for lifelong learning the Charles B. Wang Senior Center, established through a \$3 million grant from the Charles B. Wang Foundation, was added to the facilities at the Co-op House. As a part of the senior center, CAREN College was created to provide daily activities and learning. The latest project for this motivated group is the CAREN Bilingual Care Home. This project, begun in 1999, will turn four floors of the Co-op House into an assisted living facility with bilingual staff to allow its residents to "age-in-place."

Since having hatched from merely just an idea to its present reality, CAREN has attracted more than three hundred volunteers from the community who have contributed to this unique project. It continues to enlist new volunteers under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey T. Fong, Founding Chairman and Chairman of the CAREN Development Co., Mr. David J. Lee, CAREN Chairman, Dr. Ho-I Wu, CAREN Vice-Chairman, Mr. James Wang, CAREN President, Mr. Wayne Chang, CAREN Co-op Chairman and President, and Mr. Han H. Tuan, CAREN Co-op Vice Chairman. I would also like to recognize the recipients of the CAREN 10th Anniversary Awards who will be honored on Saturday. They include: Mr. Charles B. Wang, Mr. Ching-Ho Fung, Ms. Pauline W. Tsui, Ms. Rosa Hum, Dr. Guan-Hong Zhou, Ms. Charlotte Shen, Ms. Elizabeth Fong, Mr. Jack K.C. Chiang, Ms. Jean P. Li, Ms. Lee N.K. Mark, Mr. Ku-Hua Shih, Rev. Elen Mu-The Sun, Dr. Joseph Yu-Hsu Wang, Ms. Yi-Hwa Shieh Lu, Mr. Shao-Sun Lu, and Mr. Chia-Ming Phua.

Mr. Speaker, CAREN is a true model for community participation and involvement that has enhanced the quality of life of the senior members of our Asian American community. I applaud CAREN for its dedication, its commitment, and its prosperity since 1990. Each day, CAREN's success is reflected in the happy smiles of each of its residents. I congratulate CAREN on a job well done in the past decade and I wish the organization continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 18th, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and was not able to vote on H. Res. 631, H. Con. Res. 415, and H.R. 3218. Had I been present for rollcall No. 531, rollcall No. 532, and rollcall No. 533, I would have voted "yea" on all of these.

HONORING RETIRED WARRANT OFFICER JAMES BLACKSTONE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, next month we will again pay tribute to our nation's veterans, and today I have the privilege of honoring one in particular—James Blackstone of Terrell, TX, a retired Warrant Officer of the United States Navy. James enlisted in the Navy in June, 1934, and retired in 1954. His experiences span the globe—and form part of the fabric of our nation's history.

James volunteered for service in China in 1934 and was granted assignment to the USS *Sacramento*, a seagoing gunboat. His boat rotated coastal patrol duty along the China coast from the Gulf of Chihli to the South China Sea. In 1938 he was assigned duty on the USS *Jacob Jones*, stationed in Villa Franc, France, and in 1939 he was assigned to a new class Destroyer, which was ordered to search and destroy German submarines and their bases on our side of the Atlantic. The next two years his ship was assigned convoy duty, where James served until shortly before the declaration of war in 1941.

In 1942 James was chosen to spend four months in diesel engine school—to train for a new class of diesel-powered ships that represented a great departure from traditional steam propulsion. James graduated at the top of his class and emerged as a leader. He was assigned to the Navy Yard in Vallejo, CA, where a new ship, the USS *Clamp* ARS-33 was under construction. It was a diesel-electric powered Auxiliary Rescue and Salvage Vessel. As Chief Motor Machinist Mate, Warrant Officer, James sketched in detail every part of the ship's engineering plant and oversaw its construction.

The *Clamp* at long last went to sea, its destination the Ellice Islands. The ship was the flagship of the salvage fleet. James participated in the invasion of Tarawa. He remembers being at Midway, Kwajalein, Eniwetock, Majuro, Ulithi and the Philippines. His ship arrived at Saipan on July 4, 1943, where James and the crew inspected and cleared a number of Japanese ships that were sunk during the invasion.

On February 19, 1945, the *Clamp* was part of the fleet that invaded Iwo Jima. "Even for the battle hardened veterans that thought they had seen it all, the battle for the island of Iwo Jima was the most gut wrenching of all that had gone before," James recalls. "The sight of our flag being raised on that mountain top was the most overwhelming, emotional feeling that I have ever experienced in my lifetime."

The *Clamp* departed Iwo Jima some days after the flag raising and arrived at Kerama Retto, about 15 miles from Okinawa in preparation for the invasion. The following days and nights were the longest in his memory, he recalls. Attacks from suicide bombers and suicide boats were a constant threat. The memories of specific episodes James would rather not dwell on.

Okinawa and the Atolls of Kerama Retto were virtually secure when the *Clamp* received

orders to return to Pearl Harbor in preparation for the invasion of Japan. On arrival, they were directed to proceed to a shipyard in Portland, Oregon—where James would meet up again with the "love of his life," Virginia, who was working in a defense plant in Seattle.

James and Virginia quickly married and enjoyed a "fifty-year love life, short of 3 months," James says. Virginia died in 1995, and it is evident that James misses her greatly. James resigned his commission for two months following the War—but was not happy. He reenlisted as a chief petty officer and handled responsibilities of an officer until his retirement in 1954. In 1956 he applied for work with the General Services Administration, Design and Construction Division, Public Buildings Service. He started work as a mechanical-electrical engineer and retired in 1973.

James is now in his 80's and has taken the time to record his enlisted experiences and to share those with me. He has lived a life of integrity and has fought the good fight. He is a man of honor who was devoted to his country, to his fellow citizens, and to his wife. In short, Mr. Speaker, James Blackstone is a great American and a real American hero—and I am proud to call him my friend and to honor him today.

HONORING JAMES RIZZUTO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to a remarkable public servant, the Honorable James T. Rizzuto. Jim is stepping down as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, a position he was appointed to in January of 1999. He has served the State of Colorado well and I would at this time like to honor his service.

Jim began his career in public service by first serving as a First Lieutenant Infantry Commander from 1969 to 1971. His experience in the military as well as his educational background helped to prepare him for the leadership responsibilities he would later take on in public office. After graduating with a degree in economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Jim went on to the American Graduate School of International Management, where he received his MBA in economics and finance.

In 1982, Jim ran and was elected to the Colorado State Senate where he served for 18 years. During his tenure in the State Senate, he served as a member of the Joint Budget Committee for 12 years. His work in the Colorado legislature earned him the LaJunta Community Service Award in 1994 and Colorado Business Journal also named him one of the top 10 effective legislators.

Jim has served his community, State, and Nation admirably. On behalf of the State of Colorado and the U.S. Congress, I would like to thank Jim for his outstanding commitment to public service and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING "A WEEKEND OF GIVING CARE, A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT"

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate "A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment," which will take place around our great nation on December 2–3, 2000. I would also like to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Martin K. Bayne, of Clinton Park, in Upstate New York, who first advocated establishment of this wonderful celebration. Martin is a 50 year old publisher and long-time advocate for our nation's elders. Mr. Bayne has worked closely on long term care issues with several of my House colleagues in the recent past. His work has been instrumental in beginning the slow, long process of re-establishing our ties with the generation who brought us up, fed us and protected us.

A century ago, the average life expectancy was 46 years. Today, improvements in diet and medical practices are keeping us alive to average age of 78. Death, however, is often slow and preceded by years of chronic pain and disability. In 1900, we were usually surrounded by family when we died. Today, we often die alone, surrounded only by the sounds of compressors, ventilators, and electronic displays.

In 1900, aging was a normal part of our life, and an important intergenerational bond within the family. It signaled the natural cycle of birth and death, like the changing of the seasons. Today, aging is an aberration in a culture that is fixated—some say obsessed—on eternal youthfulness. Unfortunately, the old are sometimes even shunned, ignored, abused, and neglected.

As a show of commitment to our elder citizens, Martin Bayne proposed setting aside the first week in December as "A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment." On that weekend, Mr. Bayne, who himself lives with the daily challenges of advanced Parkinson's Disease, will join other members of his community to volunteer in an elder care facility as a demonstration of their genuine commitment to the nation's oldest citizens—a generation too often forgotten and too seldom embraced.

"A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment" will be an opportunity for many elder Americans to see beyond the health challenges of aging. This event also honors a sacred covenant and repays a debt. Our elders were responsible for our care and safety as infants. Now, the wheel of life comes full circle, and we must be mindful and ever vigilant of the well-being of our parents' generation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating "A Weekend of Giving Care, A Lifetime of Commitment." This celebration is an important step in showing our care and concern for elders in this nation. I salute Mr. Martin K. Bayne's efforts to establish this vital celebration, as well as all those volunteers who will participate in the event. I hope our nation pays close attention to the celebration on December 2–3, 2000 and carries the "Lifetime of Commitment" message forward in an attempt to provide respectable treatment and care to all our aging Americans.

PROPOSED SEC RULE COMMENT PERIOD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a rule proposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, that would affect the consulting affiliates of auditing firms.

In response to concerns voiced by some of my constituents, I joined many of my Small Business Committee colleagues in writing to SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt. We asked that the comment period on the proposed rule be extended past its September 25 deadline and that the rule be modified to address the concerns raised by members of the accounting industry.

It was not my intention to delay the final decision to next year. I strongly oppose any attempts to delay the final rulemaking process through legislative means.

As the SEC moves forward with this rule, it is my hope that all interested parties will have adequate time to voice their concerns. That being said, I have no doubt that SEC Chairman Levitt will conduct a thoughtful, inclusive comment period.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was not able to vote during consideration of rollcall votes 500–530.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall numbers 500–505, 507–518, 520–523, 525–528, and 530; "no" on rollcall numbers 506, 519, 524, 529.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, as the information age continues forward, crimes resulting from the use of stolen personal information have occurred with greater frequency. Time and time again, a person's identity is taken from them unknowingly and used to someone else's advantage. Information such as Social Security Numbers, financial records, or medical documents are often easily found and easily abused.

The problem is wide spread. Unfortunately, our own Federal Government, in the form of the Social Security Administration, helps to allow for identity theft to more easily occur. In an alarming practice, the Social Security Administration has the Department of Treasury print a Social Security recipient's name, address, and Social Security Number on their benefits check. This information is then openly displayed in the window of the envelope.

These envelopes are placed in the public mail system when any individual could potentially, and relatively easily, gain access to this information. This practice is irresponsible and must be changed. We cannot allow senior citizens to be the victims of government irresponsibility.

H.R. 3218, "The Social Security Number Confidentiality Act," addresses the practice of printing Social Security Numbers in a place where the number can easily be seen or accessed. This forward thinking legislation directs the Treasury Secretary to take the necessary steps to end the practice of printing a recipients Social Security Number in an open and visible location.

Current law ensures that information obtained by the Social Security Administration is confidential. This legislation will make sure that the Federal Government obeys the law, and that it does not act irresponsibly in its job of keeping personal information confidential.

I urge further action by the Congress to explore where further privacy protection is needed and where the Federal Government is not protecting that privacy. In the same way, it is important that citizens take steps to protect themselves. One should always be careful to guard personal information.

This legislation is a positive step in protecting the privacy of our Nation's senior citizens. I urge my colleagues to help pass this legislation and help keep our nation's citizens' private lives just that—private.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER U.S.S. "COLE"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the valiant sailors of the U.S.S. *Cole* and to express my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones who suffered losses due to an act of terrorism.

On October 12, 2000, the Navy family suffered a tremendous loss, when the U.S.S. *Cole* fell victim to terrorism while attempting to refuel at the Port of Aden in Yemen. My heart continues to go out to the families and friends of the American sailors who were killed, injured or are still missing. I commend our valiant sailors who responded quickly to this tragedy, minimizing casualties and damage to their ship.

It was a honor to assist three families from my District as they waited to hear news on their loved ones. Fortunately, the families and friends of Petty Officer Kevin Benoit of Cairo, NY, Ensign & Deck Division Commander Gregory McDearmon of Ballston Lake, NY, and Chief Petty Officer Charles Sweet of Broadalbin, NY, after hours of waiting, received word that their loved ones were safe.

It is important that we always remember that these brave men and women are serving our Nation and we should pay tribute to them. These sailors have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. This is a loss felt by the entire nation.

This tragedy highlights the constant dangers faced by our armed forces around the world.