

above. From that altitude, armed with the responsibility and collective memory of our people's history, one can see the past, present and future. We were given the opportunity to engage and destroy the immediate threats that faced the Jewish nation. And we committed ourselves to diminish the threats to future generations.

However, the dangers to humanity are not always military in nature. They are also found in the realm of ideas: in the promotion of evil, in the active denial of evil, or even in the refusal to see evil. The United States played an important role in the founding of the State of Israel, as a shelter for the Jewish people. The commandment "To Remember" is also a commandment to remember the positive, and so we will. The Jewish People remember the American role. The Jewish People see the United States as a symbol and example of moral principle and justice. We pray that this superpower will continue to lead the world so that tragedies such as the Shoah will never be repeated in the 21st century.

COMBATING FRAUD AND ABUSE IN THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to combat fraud and abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Since 1975, when the Child and Adult Care Food Program became a separate program under the National School Lunch Act, it has provided nutritious meals and snacks to children in day care facilities and family day care homes. It operates in 37,000 day care centers and 175,000 day care homes.

Unfortunately, in recent years there have been reports of widespread fraud and abuse and deficient management practices in the program. This has meant that the full value of nutrition benefits the program delivers has been denied to many participating children. Sadly, funds that could be better used to serve children have ended up in the hands of unscrupulous program sponsors and care providers.

Hopefully, this bill puts an end to this practice. We owe it to the approximately 2.7 million children participating in this program to end the fraud, abuse, and mismanagement that is depriving them of the nutritious meals.

In August, 1999, the Office of the Inspector General (IG) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a report outlining fraud and abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food program. This report, "Presidential Initiative: Operation Kiddie Care," found that the program was highly vulnerable to abuse because most of the controls for combating fraud were vested in CACFP sponsors without any federal or state oversight. The IG found that some sponsors were using program funds for personal use and depleting the funds available to provide an effective food service program to children in day care.

Three months later (November, 1999) the General Accounting Office (GAO) issued their report, entitled, "Food Assistance: Efforts to Control Fraud and Abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food Program Should Be Strength-

ened." The GAO report found that the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) had not effectively directed the states' efforts to protect against fraud and abuse. According to the GAO, state agencies claimed that a lack of resources, inadequate training in the identification of fraud and abuse, and unclear regulations on the removal of noncompliant sponsors were among the reasons why they could not strengthen the amount of control over the fraud and abuse.

To address the issues raised in these two reports, I have worked with the Early Childhood, Youth, and Families Subcommittee Chairman, Congressman MIKE CASTLE, and his Ranking Member, Congressman DALE KILDEE, the nutrition community, and the Department of Agriculture to develop a proposal that will address many of the concerns raised by the IG, the GAO, and the nutrition community. The legislation outlined below will go a long way toward ending fraud and abuse in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Key provisions of this proposal would:

Require USDA to develop a plan for ongoing periodic training of state and sponsor staff on the identification of fraud and abuse in order to ensure that current and new employees can assist in efforts to prevent fraud and abuse.

Require a minimum number of unannounced and scheduled site visits. These visits would be in addition to site visits to program sponsors and providers with a bad record or where there is a suspicion of fraud and abuse.

Permit the secretary to withhold, in whole or in part, state administrative funds in instances where states have not met their responsibilities for oversight and training for sponsors and providers.

Provide notification to parents that their children are enrolled in a child care center or group or family day care home participating in the CACFP Program. This provision will allow parents to take action if they suspect fraud and abuse and to understand the benefits their children should receive under CACFP.

Bar the recovery of funds lost due to fraud and abuse from food dollars which benefit participating children.

Make it clear that sponsors applying for participation in CACFP must meet specific qualifications and will not automatically approved. Require the development of detailed criteria for approving new sponsors and for renewing sponsors which would include factors such as whether or not they are capable of performing the job, have appropriate business experience and adequate management plans, and whether or not there is a need for an additional sponsor in a specific area.

Limit administrative costs for sponsors of day care centers to 15 percent of the funds they disburse to decrease the potential for abuse.

Require USDA, working with states and sponsors, to develop a list of allowable administrative costs for sponsors of family day care homes and child care centers.

Require the Department of Agriculture to establish minimum standards regarding the number of monitors sponsors should employ to ensure there are sufficient monitors to visit providers and detect fraud and abuse.

Require state agencies that administer CACFP to deny approval of institutions determined to have been terminated with cause or that lost their license to operate any federally funded program.

Limit the ability of day care homes to change sponsoring organizations to once a year unless they can demonstrate they are transferring for good cause.

Require the return and reallocation of non-obligatory CACFP audit funds to the secretary for reallocation to other states with a demonstrated need for additional audit dollars.

Require sponsors to have in effect a policy that restricts other employment by employees that interferes with their responsibilities and duties with respect to CACFP.

Require the secretary to develop procedures for terminating sponsors for unlawful conduct and failure to meet their agreements with the state.

Provide for the immediate suspension of sponsors and providers in cases where there is a health or safety threat to participating children.

Finally, it appears that this bill will result in a small amount of savings in mandatory spending. It is my intention to work closely with Congressman KILDEE and others to ensure that these resources are used in a responsible way. In particular, In particular, we should explore ways to use these savings to improve the health and maintenance of those served by federal nutrition programs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman CASTLE, Congressman KILDEE, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the nutrition community for working with me to develop this proposal. We created the Child and Adult Care Food Program to benefit children, not line the pockets of unprincipled sponsors and providers. I believe the bill we are introducing today will ensure that the program works the way it was originally intended. Most importantly, it will give the states and the Department of Agriculture the tools they need to attain the goals set for the program. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to put an end to the waste, fraud, and abuse that has plagued this program.

THE RETIREMENT OF WAYNE SHACKELFORD, COMMISSIONER, GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne Shackelford, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation, for the dedication and commitment he has made to the people of Georgia, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Shackelford became Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation on November 1, 1991. He has been active in both regional and national transportation policy development since becoming Commissioner. He continues to serve on many state, regional, and national transportation committees, and has also earned many national and state awards.

As Commissioner, Mr. Shackelford administers an annual budget of \$1.4 billion and manages approximately 5,900 employees statewide. He successfully provided the mobility that gave the world the opportunity to travel the state before, during and after, the 1996

Summer Olympic Games. He is a man of vision; whose integrity, responsiveness, and hard work are legendary.

Wayne and his wife, Anne, have three grown children, and reside in Snellville, Georgia. They attend the First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, where he has served as a Deacon. Wayne will bring an end to this phase of an outstanding public carrier, when he retires on May 31, 2000. I congratulate Wayne, and wish him and his family the very best. The state of Georgia, and all who travel within its borders, are in his debt.

HONORING SHARON CHRISTA MCAULIFFE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincerest congratulations to Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior High is among eight schools in San Antonio and 198 schools nationally, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior High will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

COLORADO STATE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE RON MAY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Rep-

resentative Ron May. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative May's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1992, a seat he would hold to the present time, he sponsored many bills on workers' compensation, unemployment, insurance, highway speed limits, right-to-work legislation and information systems. He works diligently to bring his colleagues up to speed on a whole range of technological issues.

Representative May received many honors. In 1996 he received the National Right to Work Legislator of the Year award, the NFIB Guardian of Small Business award in 1994 and the CACI Business Legislator of the Year award.

2000 marked the end of Representative May's tenure in elected office. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative May a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

HONORING RABBI ALBERT MICAH LEWIS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Rabbi Albert Micah Lewis, who is retiring from Congregation Emanuel in my home city of Grand Rapids, Michigan after 28 years of leadership. Not only has he been a tremendous force within his congregation, Rabbi Lewis has also provided outstanding leadership and dedication to numerous organizations and projects within our community. His strong academic background and intellectual ability have led to national respect for his work and writings.

Even though he is ending his day-to-day role at Temple Emanuel, Rabbi Lewis will continue to be a driving force in Grand Rapids. He will continue his duties as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Religion and Aging at Aquinas College where he has been teaching since 1972. He will also remain as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology and Gerontology at Aquinas College, and will continue on the staff at Hope College as an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies, where he has served since 1994.

Rabbi Lewis' contributions to our community have been numerous and generous; they could easily fill many pages in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I will highlight just a few of his many contributions. He is the founder and coordinator of Interfaith Forum for Understanding and Growth. He also founded and served as President of the Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids and the Western Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Society for Gerontology. In 1999 he was honored as Man of the Year by the Jewish Community Fund of Grand Rapids. Earlier this year, he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of Michigan and to the Board of Directors of the Henri Nouwen Literary Society. He has also authored numerous publications on a variety of subject matters.

On a personal level, I have always appreciated Rabbi Lewis' moral presence in our community. He has thoughtfully and insistently spoken on behalf of issues important to us, our community, and our relationships with God. Such moral leadership is enormously important as we strive to lead the people of this nation toward our common goals of freedom, liberty, and respect for each other.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rabbi Lewis for the tremendous impact he has had on our community. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Lewis is a outstanding individual committed to service to God and fellow human beings. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his contribution to society.

HONORING ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Associated Builders and Contractors as it prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary Convention in Baltimore beginning May 31.

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national trade association representing over 22,000 contractors, subcontractors material suppliers and related firms from across the country and from all specialties in the construction industry. Seven contractors called the very first ABC meeting to order on June 1, 1950 in Baltimore, Maryland. Since that day, ABC has been the industry's voice for merit shop construction.

ABC is the only national association devoted to the merit shop philosophy, which aims to provide the best management techniques, the finest craftsmanship, and the most competitive bidding and pricing strategies in the industry. Merit shop companies employ approximately 80 percent, or 4 out of 5, of all construction workers in the nation.

ABC believes that union and merit shop (open shop) contractors and their employees should work together in harmony and that work should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder regardless of labor affiliation.

ABC is committed to developing a safe workplace and high-performance work force through quality education and training with comprehensive safety and health programs. ABC is dedicated to fighting for free enterprise, fair and open competition, less government, more opportunities for jobs, tax relief, increased training, and elimination of frivolous complaints and over-regulation. ABC promotes and defends the individual's rights to unlimited opportunities. Merit shop construction provides unlimited growth and career advancement to workers who recognize the value of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I send my sincere best wishes as Associated Builders and Contractors celebrates this milestone in its history. It is with great pride and appreciation that I recognize the accomplishments of this fine group.