

used the money to expand a talent search business called Direction and Exposure.

She says, "This is one of the smart moves I made to have more money to invest in my business." She feels good about herself, and she's saving money to make a dream come true. And she's no longer raiding her cookie jar.

Jacqui's is just one success story among many. This program is working in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has one of the largest IDA programs in the country. The Commonwealth has appropriated \$4.5 million dollars to the program to date, and another \$1.5 million is included in this year's budget. Right now, there are 2584 contracted accounts divided among 15 financial institutions around the state. At the end of last year, IDA investors in Pennsylvania had saved almost three-quarters of a million dollars.

IDAs are a proven success in many other states too. But they are under utilized. Where they have been made available, they have worked. They are meant to be a springboard to continued prosperity. Making higher education possible makes prosperity possible. Helping people start small businesses makes prosperity possible. But without hopeful that will be very soon. I look forward to working with the President, House Leadership, and all of the cosponsors of this legislation to make this dream come true.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FATHER'S DAY GALA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great institution that is serving the needs of families in my district and the entire Delaware Valley.

For the past two years, the Father's Day Gala Program Committee, led by Karen Burton, has honored that most important of all men, the father. As Father's Day approaches, all of us are compelled to think of our fathers and the role they played in our lives. Those of us who are privileged to have had the support of strong fathers know that our paths were made easier by the love, the advice, the nurturing and the discipline they gave us. Those who have not had that privilege know well the void that lack left in their lives.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we don't often take the time to honor our fathers, or step fathers. Most Dads are too busy being Dads to worry about that. But it is wonderful that a group of citizens would come together as volunteers to say thank you to all the fathers out there. I must say that I am especially proud of this gala, since so much of the work on this event was done by Karen Burton, who was born and raised in my district. Ms. Burton, her mother Sara, and her entire family have worked tirelessly to make my district a better place. This event is in keeping with their family tradition.

And so, to all the fathers at the Gala, and to all the women and children who love them, I say Happy Father's Day and keep up the good work.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Child Poverty Reduction Act. Senator CHARLES SCHUMER is introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

During the welfare debate of 1995–96, I had concerns that too much emphasis was placed on kicking people off of welfare rolls rather than reducing poverty. Unfortunately, my concerns—and those of several of my colleagues and administration officials who quit their jobs in protest of welfare reform's passage in 1996—proved accurate.

The emphasis on reducing welfare caseloads has caused welfare caseloads to drop faster than the poverty rate. From 1996–99, the number of people receiving welfare dropped 41 percent, while child poverty was reduced only 16.3 percent in the same period. As a result, almost one in six children (12 million) continue to live in poverty.

Child poverty can have devastating impacts that last a lifetime. Studies show that poverty has harmful effects on children's cognitive ability and school performance and can contribute to early sexual activity and pregnancy, crime and incarceration, and unemployment.

To encourage states to use funds to improve the well-being of our nation's children, this bill amends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program by making reducing child poverty an explicit goal of the welfare law and creating a \$150 million high performance bonus grant to states that reduce child poverty.

To receive this new TANF high performance bonus, states would have to reduce their child poverty rate from the previous year's poverty rate. To ensure that states sustain their efforts to reduce child poverty, the high performance bonus is only awarded to states whose most recent child poverty rate does not exceed their lowest poverty rate since the beginning of this bonus program.

I find it even more troubling that almost 5 million children live in extreme poverty in which their families' incomes are less than 50 percent of poverty (\$8,731.50 annually for a family of four, or just \$728 a month). This bill attempts to help those especially needy children by only rewarding states that reduce poverty for children at all levels of need.

Thus, the high performance bonus is only given to states that both reduce the overall poverty rate and prevent any increase the percentage of poor children living in extreme poverty.

Children have no choice as to whether they are on welfare and I will continue to look for methods to protect them from the effects of TANF. While this legislation is not the overall solution to reducing child poverty, it is a clear step in the right direction.

Reducing child poverty is one of the smartest policy initiatives that this Congress can embark on since children are our nation's future. I urge my colleagues to please join me in this small, but important, investment to reduce child poverty and improve child well being by enacting the Child Poverty Reduction Act.

IN MEMORY OF TIMOTHY LAWSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Lawson, a young man who lived a life of honor, patriotism, and had a keen sense of service to our nation.

I was deeply saddened when I heard of Timothy's passing. However, we can take comfort in this trying time by knowing that he served our country courageously. Timothy embodied a truly dignified manner during his service to our country.

While enlisted in the Navy during the Persian Gulf War, he received a Navy Achievement Medal for saving two people out of a liquid oxygen fire. After returning to California from the Persian Gulf, he studied criminal justice together with his brother, Gary, at California State University, Sacramento. Before enlisting in the Marines, Timothy held a position in the United States Secret Service while attending California State University, Sacramento.

Not only did Timothy emanate dignity in his professional life, but he also strove to lead a life modeled on the lessons he learned from his family. His parents instilled this sense of service during his childhood in Northern California and Clinton, Iowa.

During a training mission Timothy's plane went down in the desert in California's San Joaquin Valley. He and Navy Lt. Timothy Gilbreth were flying a T-34C Turbo Mentor about three miles north of the El Centro Naval Air Station.

During my time in the United States Army I witnessed the passing of many of my fellow soldiers. Whether during peacetime or in times of conflict, when a member of our Armed Services passes away in the line of duty, we should not fail to recognize the sacrifices they made.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the service and patriotism Timothy Lawson. It is appropriate, during a week in which we are remembering Americans who lost their lives in the Armed Services, that we all acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices that Timothy made for our country.

EUGENE AND CONNIE ROTH HONORED WITH SHOFAR AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my very good friends Gene and Connie Roth, who will receive the Shofar Award on June 14 from the United Hebrew Institute of Kingston, Pennsylvania.

The shofar, or ram's horn is a religious musical instrument having profound significance in the Jewish religion. It constitutes an important part of the Jewish prayers in the synagogue during the festivals of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

The name of this award is certainly fitting. Just as the shofar plays an integral role in the

Jewish faith, so too have Gene and Connie been an integral part of the United Hebrew Institute family for more than 40 years. All of their children, Joan, Steven, Jeffery and Larry, are graduates of LJHI. Both Gene and Connie have served and still serve on the Board of Trustees, including Gene's service as chairman from 1967 to 1969. In addition, Connie served as president of the PTA from 1971 to 1973 and still serves as president of the Ladies Auxiliary of Talmud Torah.

But UHI is far from the only Wyoming Valley institution to benefit from the services and talents of this dedicated couple. Among the organizations which have benefited from their expertise and commitment are the Gelsing Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Wilkes University, the Jewish Community Center, Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund, Congregation Ohav Zedek and its Sisterhood, the Jewish Federation, United Jewish Appeal, the United Way, the Osterhout Library, the Jewish Home, Queen Esther Hebrew Ladies Aid Society, Jewish Family Service, Martin Luther King Committee for Social Justice and Hospice St. John.

Mr. Speaker, both Gene and Connie are pillars of the community. Gene has been honored many times by groups including B'nai B'rith, the Boy Scouts of America, and Who's Who, among several outstanding organizations. For her part, Connie was named the Woman of Valor by Congregation Ohav Zedek and was honored by the Women's Division of the Jewish Campaign and by B'nai B'rith Lodge.

The primary focus for Gene and Connie has always been their family, their community and the preservation of Jewish heritage. Their longstanding efforts on behalf of the school, their synagogue and the community are truly inspirational. I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives this well-deserved award being presented to Gene and Connie Roth as well as their many good works, and I wish them all the best.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRANK MOLINA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the departure of a key member of my staff, Frank Molina, a field representative in my El Monte office who is leaving this Friday to pursue his life-long dream of attending law school.

The single child of working-class parents, Frank became one of the first members of his family to earn a college degree when he graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles last year. Armed with a major in International Development Studies and minors in Latin American Studies and Spanish Literature, Frank set out to give back to the community that had already given him so much.

He started as a field representative in my California State Senate office in August 2000 and moved to the U.S. House of Representatives in January. Beyond helping constituents with casework, Frank assisted with higher education, transportation, immigration and economic development issues in my district of-

fice. The residents of my district are better off because of him.

Frank's fluency in Spanish was an extremely important asset for our office. He routinely communicated with constituents in their native tongue and wrote many of my Spanish-language speeches and position papers.

His biggest asset, though, was his dedication to the residents of the 31st Congressional District. Day after day, Frank worked to ensure that small businesses prospered in our area, that recent immigrants settled into their new community and that high school students benefited from the advantages of higher education.

And now Frank is hoping to reap those same benefits. He plans on spending these next few months studying for the Law School Admission Test and hopes to attend an Ivy League university for law school. Although I and the constituents of the 31st Congressional District will miss Frank, we wish him the best.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO WAIVE FEDERAL WEIGHT LIMITS ON THE MAINE INTERSTATE

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to exempt commercial vehicles traveling on the Maine Interstate from federal weight limits. Maine finds itself in a rather unique and dangerous situation. Canada and states surrounding Maine have much higher weight limits for trucks than those on Maine's Interstate. As a result, when they enter Maine, these heavy trucks are diverted onto smaller state and local roads. This diversion has caused two major problems.

First, the diversion of these trucks onto state and local roads is destroying these roads. Most are not built to handle the wear and tear caused by heavy trucks which would not normally be driven on secondary roads. As a result, the state and local governments are forced to use scarce funds to meet high repair and maintenance costs. In a geographically large state where every transportation dollar counts, such expenditures drain funds away from other high priority projects. By contrast, the Interstate is designed to absorb the wear and tear caused by heavy vehicles, and I believe that is where they should be driving.

Second, having these trucks on secondary roads causes an extreme safety hazard. Heavy vehicles, such as tanker trucks carrying hazardous material and fuel oil, simply should not be traveling through communities with small roads, narrow intersections and difficult rotaries. Regrettably, there have been many accidents—some fatal—between large trucks and private vehicles on these smaller roads. The roadways are not designed to accommodate heavy trucks, whereas the Interstate system clearly is. I believe that getting these trucks back on the Interstate where they belong will enhance safety.

My bill will institute a 3-year pilot program during which time the federal weight limits will not apply to Maine's Interstate. During this waiver period, traffic data will be collected and reviewed by a Safety Committee headed by

the Maine Department of Transportation. If the Committee finds that the waiver in fact has not negatively impacted safety, then the waiver will become permanent.

This important bill represents a good first step in solving this very real and very dangerous problem for Maine's people and Maine's roads.

INTRODUCTION OF SAFE PLAYGROUNDS ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in supporting legislation I introduced today that would ensure that our nation's playgrounds are safe and properly constructed throughout America.

As the school year ends and summer begins, children all around the United States will be spending more time outside playing with friends at our community playgrounds. While most kids enjoy horsing around at the playground, it can be a dangerous place if the equipment is either broken or not up to code. Every year more than 200,000 children are injured on America's playgrounds, and, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 147 children died between 1990 and 2000 from playground equipment-related injuries.

In a 1998 survey, U.S. playgrounds received an overall grade of C—when rated on the presence of physical hazards and behavioral elements, including supervision and age-appropriate design. Mr. Speaker, many may think that this is an acceptable grade because states, counties and local communities don't have any specific standards to follow when building playgrounds.

However this is not true. For the past several decades, the CPSC has written a very detailed national code to help states and local governments build the safest possible playgrounds. Unfortunately, only five states require that all public playgrounds in their respective communities abide by these standards.

My legislation, the Safe Playgrounds Act, would urge states to pass a law that assures that all playgrounds are safe for our kids.

The Safe Playgrounds Act will provide \$1 million grants to states that enact statewide laws regulating public playgrounds according to the CPSC's Handbook for Public Playground Safety. States could use these funds to either build new playgrounds or bring older ones up to code.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting our kids from playground accidents by cosponsoring this bill. Playground accidents will always be a reality, but by making these grounds as safe as possible, we can reduce those accidents that are not the fault of the child but of the playground itself.

MAGNOLIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the