

A speakers' bureau was begun to promote community awareness. In 1978, the task force established the first shelter for battered women in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Within one week, the unadvertised shelter was completely filled to capacity. That June, the Womencenter incorporated as the Domestic Violence Service Center. A board was formed and the first officers were elected.

The number of clients served by the DVSC has grown from approximately 700 in the 1985–86 fiscal year to more than 2,400 per year at present. The Domestic Violence Service Center has served the area as a shelter, an advocacy agency, an outreach center, and a counseling center.

The DVSC has been on the forefront of public education of domestic violence and involved with other social service agencies and the District Attorney's office in creating a county-wide protocol for the handling of domestic violence cases. The center has coordinated with local police forces to create a common protocol in handling the actual distress calls and has coordinated with local health care providers to develop a family violence medical protocol that has been adopted by all hospitals in the county as well as by numerous home health care professionals and physicians' offices. Most recently, in July 2001, the center received funding to support its partnership with Northeast Counseling Services to implement a Mental Health Advocacy Project, a first of its kind in the state. The project will cross-train mental health and domestic violence staff and provide informed services to clients of both agencies.

Led by President Mary Ellen Roberts and Executive Director Ellen Moyle Harris, the DVSC serves as an example to the entire State of Pennsylvania. The center also plays a leadership role statewide through representation on PCADV committees including ones that handle legal advocacy, contracts, legislative and planning matters. In addition, Pat Kwetkauskie, a DVSC representative, chairs the Pennsylvania Medical Advocacy Task Force and has also chaired a committee of the former Attorney General's Domestic Violence Task Force. DVSC staff and training team volunteers have also presented workshops and lectures at state, regional and national conferences. At a statewide PCADV conference in 1991, 12 members of the DVSC board, staff and advisory committee were honored with Leadership in Action awards.

The DVSCs Court Advocacy, Medical Advocacy, STOP Violence Against Women Projects continue to be integral parts of DVSC services, and the center continues to provide technical assistance to agencies in other counties that are interested in duplicating DVSC programs.

Most importantly, the Domestic Violence Service Center has provided shelter for thousands of battered women who flee their homes, often in the middle of the night, afraid for their lives and the lives of their children.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of domestic violence affects the entire community. Each year, the center conducts a solemn and poignant candlelight vigil at the Luzerne County Courthouse to commemorate Domestic Violence Month. I have had the honor of participating in this event. I am proud to commend the hard-working staff, board of directors, and volunteers on their dedicated effort to help those who would otherwise be trapped indefinitely in

a crisis situation. Through their work and dedication, they offer a place for women and children to turn to break the cycle of violence. Although this anniversary is not a celebration, it is a call to each of us to help stop this devastation of the American family. Mr. Speaker, I hope this anniversary will expand public awareness of the important work that the DVSC does.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3253, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CENTERS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3253, the National Medical Emergency Preparedness Act of 2001, I strongly support this important legislation which will improve our national ability to respond to acts of terrorism and other medical emergencies. I look forward to quick action on this legislation and commend my friend and colleague, Chris Smith, for authoring this measure.

The National Medical Emergency Preparedness Act of 2001 would create National Medical Preparedness Centers within the Department of Veterans Affairs. These centers would have several important missions. In addition to training medical personnel to recognize the symptoms of exposure to chemical, biological and radiological weapons, the National Medical Preparedness Centers will provide important national leadership in the development of new diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatments for chemical, biological and radiological terrorist threats.

Last month, on October 15, the Committee on Veterans Affairs received testimony on VA contingency missions to the Department of Defense in times of war or national emergency and as a participant in the Federal Response Plan during disasters. Federal agencies described a critical role for the Department and expounded upon additional roles, given the resources, the Department could play.

In response to that hearing, H.R. 3253 was introduced. The National Medical Emergency Preparedness Centers established by this legislation will provide important contributions to innovation and leadership in the detection of biological, chemical, and radiological hazards, the development of vaccines to prevent devastating consequences we have seen from exposures to toxins such as anthrax and effective treatment for exposures to pathogenic materials.

VA has many successful models of Centers that combine research, education and training, and patient treatment. Among such "centers of excellence" are its Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Centers, its Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Centers, its Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers and other centers selected on a competitive basis in order to create living laboratories for applying state-of-the-art care to patients that need it. The synergies of these centers' missions combine to produce innovative research and technologies to their respective fields.

VA has much to offer the Nation in establishing Centers that can build upon its existing expertise, but break new ground in further exploring areas that directly affect the lives of all Americans. I believe the benefits to our public health would far outweigh the \$20 million annual cost to fund these Centers. As we continue our quest to protect our homeland, we must find leaders within the community to assist our efforts to protect Americans. VA can and should be part of this leadership team.

RECOGNIZING EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT, DR. RAMON DOMINGUEZ

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual who has done an exceptional job at the El Paso Community College (EPCC). Dr. Ramon Dominguez is retiring from EPCC after 28 years of public service to this institution, the 4th largest community college in the state of Texas. Dr. Dominguez has done an outstanding job in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the college's five branches and an operating budget of about \$77 million. He has provided leadership and direction to the 2,800 employees and about 24,000 students, 82 percent of whom are Hispanic.

Dr. Dominguez is easy going and has a soothing nature about him. He received overwhelming support from the faculty, staff, and students when he became the President of the Community College in May of 2000. Shortly after being sworn in as President, Dr. Dominguez began reorganizing EPCC's top administration. He demonstrated his beliefs in being highly inclusive and sharing the governing of EPCC. He also showed that he is approachable, fair, willing to listen, hard-working and committed to the students and the college.

Dr. Dominguez graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 1971 with a secondary education degree. As soon as he completed college, Dr. Dominguez began his focus on serving people. He has always held the goals of teaching, counseling, and mentoring as his top priorities and has contributed greatly to the success of others, especially the students.

Dr. Dominguez began at EPCC as an instructor for the Veterans Upward Bound Program where he used teaching and counseling skills to work with veterans that were returning from the military, specifically Vietnam. He then spent 15 years as a counselor. In fact, Dr. Dominguez was so committed to serving his students better as a guidance counselor that he returned to school and received his masters in counsel and guidance from UTEP. He went on to earn an Educational Specialist in Administration Degree at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and finally a PhD in Administration with a minor in counseling and guidance. Before becoming the President of EPCC, Dr. Dominguez served the Community College as an assistant vice president of Student Services, executive vice president, and as the interim president twice.

Mr. Speaker, this institution played an important role in my life and it continues to play

an important role in the lives of the residents of our city. I am proud of the fact that in 1977, I received an Associates Degree from the El Paso Community College. The El Paso Community College continues to provide educational opportunities and support services that prepare individuals to improve their quality of life. I applaud the role that this institution has played in El Paso and the leadership, dedication, and service that Dr. Dominguez has provided to this school and its students.

At the dawn of this new century, I see community colleges such as the El Paso Community College as playing a critical role. I believe that community colleges must expand and become more accessible to all people who desire personal enrichment, growth, and development. Over the years, community colleges have assisted many people who would otherwise not have access to higher education by providing them with quality, affordable education. It is critically important to give our students every opportunity to compete in this new global economy. I applaud the efforts and the work that Dr. Dominguez has contributed to further these goals and the role that El Paso Community College continues to play in the fabric of El Paso.

Dr. Dominguez has guided the El Paso Community College well. I know that this institution will continue to flourish and educate future generations of El Pasoans. Dr. Dominguez is a pillar of integrity in the El Paso community and I want to thank him on behalf of El Paso and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

INTERNET GAMBLING BILL

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Internet Gambling Bill introduced on November 1, 2001. This important legislation, authored by Representative GOODLATTE, provides a much-needed update to existing law, which is no longer adequate to prohibit gambling on the Internet.

Minors can easily use the Internet to access illegal content, including Internet gambling websites. This is a dangerous loophole to existing law. Gambling is a potentially addictive habit which should be restricted to adults.

As technology continues to change the way we communicate and learn we must ensure that our laws change and adapt concurrently. Regulations previously used to prevent gambling over telephone lines are no longer sufficient to address gambling over the Internet, which increasingly relies on wireless communications. The Internet Gambling Bill modernizes existing law by bringing the current prohibition against interstate gambling up to speed with the development of new technology.

This important legislation also defines gambling more specifically to include interactive games on the Internet, including poker and blackjack which are not clearly included in current law. Violations under the act are punishable by prison terms of up to five years.

Gambling on the Internet has become increasingly prevalent in recent years. More than 650 Internet gambling websites operated just last year. In 1999, the total revenue asso-

ciated with Internet gambling exceeded \$1.2 billion, an 80 percent increase from the previous year.

It is time to stop illegal gambling on the Internet. This legislation is an important first step.

DEDICATION OF THE PURPLE HEART MONUMENT IN PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 522 of Paramus, New Jersey, as they dedicate a Purple Heart Monument today in Paramus. In this time of remembrance for those killed on September 11th, it is important to remember all who have put their lives on the line for our nation. Our nation's veterans offer us wisdom and guidance in these troubled times. I thank Chapter 522 for honoring our veterans as we support and defend our country in this new war.

Decades ago, President Ronald Reagan addressed the Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. His words were profound: "No one wants peace more than the soldier, for the soldier understands better than anyone, the pain and destruction of war." Implicit in his message is that preserving the peace is an everyday job. It's a job that requires hard work. It's a job that requires firm resolution. It's a job that absolutely requires sacrifice.

I stand here today and honor the Military Order of the Purple Heart with great pride. These are the Americans who have done the hard work. Who have displayed the firm resolution. Who have sacrificed. These are our nation's heroes.

As we commemorate those who have fought for our country with this Purple Heart Monument, the eyes of the nation turn to the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Our nation thanks you.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Chapter 522 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and all who have served and those who have died for our country. May God bless them and God bless America.

67TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE FAMINE AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINIAN HELSINKI GROUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the memory of innocent victims of an abominable act perpetrated against the people of Ukraine in 1932-33. Seven million innocent men, women and children were murdered so that one man, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, could consolidate control over Ukraine. The Ukrainian people resisted the Soviet policy of forced collectivization. The innocent died a horrific death at the

hands of a tyrannical dictatorship which had crushed their freedom.

In an attempt to break the spirit of an independent-minded and nationally-conscious Ukrainian peasantry, and ultimately to secure collectivization, Stalin ordered the expropriation of all foodstuffs in the hands of the rural population. The grain was shipped to other areas of the Soviet Union or sold on the international market. Peasants who refused to turn over grain to the state were deported or executed. Without food or grain, mass starvation ensued. This manmade famine was the consequence of deliberate policies which aimed to destroy the political, cultural and human rights of the Ukrainian people. In short, food was used as a weapon in what can only be described as an organized act of terrorism designed to suppress a people's love of their land and the basic liberty to live as they choose.

This month also marks an important milestone in more recent Ukrainian history. Twenty-five years ago, on November 9, 1976, 10 courageous men and women formed the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords. The work of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group focused on monitoring human rights violations and on the Ukrainian national question as an integral component of human rights issues. The Ukrainian Helsinki Group eventually became the largest of its kind among similar groups in the Soviet Union, but also the most repressed by the Soviet regime. Of the 37 Ukrainians who eventually joined the Group, virtually all were subjected to lengthy terms in labor camps and internal exile. Three—Oleksiy Tykhy, Yuri Lytvyn and Vasyl Stus—died in the mid-1980s while serving camp terms under extremely harsh conditions. Their courageous, active commitment to human rights and freedom for the people of Ukraine laid the foundation for the historic achievement of Ukrainian independence in 1991.

As we honor the memory of the millions of innocent victims of the Ukrainian Famine, let us also not forget to honor the work and, in some instances, the martyrdom, of the valiant members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

While similar atrocities are highly unlikely, Ukraine has yet to realize its full democratic potential. Despite the real progress made in the decade since independence, the unsolved murders of Georgiy Gongadze and other journalists and political figures, the assaults on media freedoms, the pervasive corruption, and the lack of respect for the rule of law demonstrate a democratic deficit that must be overcome. An independent, sovereign, democratic Ukraine—in which respect for the dignity of human beings is the cornerstone—is the best guarantee that the horrors of the last century become truly inconceivable.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT RONALD A. GISEL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Technical Sergeant Ronald Gisel as one of this year's U.S. Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.