

were among the dead. Twelve Swiss, two Japanese, two Germans, one French, and nine Egyptians were among the wounded.

1998

U.S. Embassy Bombings in East Africa, August 7, 1998: A bomb exploded at the rear entrance of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killing 12 U.S. citizens, 32 Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs), and 247 Kenyan citizens. About 5,000 Kenyans, six U.S. citizens, and 13 FSNs were injured. The U.S. embassy building sustained extensive structural damage. Almost simultaneously, a bomb detonated outside the U.S. embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing seven FSNs and three Tanzanian citizens, and injuring one U.S. citizen and 76 Tanzanians. The explosion caused major structural damage to the U.S. embassy facility. The U.S. Government held Usama Bin Ladin responsible.

2000

Attack on U.S.S. *Cole*, October 12, 2000: In Aden, Yemen, a small dingy carrying explosives rammed the destroyer U.S.S. *Cole*, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39 others. Supporters of Usama Bin Ladin were suspected.

2001

Bus Stop Bombing, April 22, 2001: A member of Hamas detonated a bomb he was carrying near a bus stop in Kfar Siva, Israel, killing one person and injuring 60.

Tel-Aviv Nightclub Bombing, June 1, 2001: Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing of a popular Israeli nightclub that caused over 140 casualties.

Hamas Restaurant Bombing, August 9, 2001: A Hamas-planted bomb detonated in a Jerusalem pizza restaurant, killing 15 people and wounding more than 90.

Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Homeland, September 11, 2001: Two hijacked airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Soon thereafter, the Pentagon was struck by a third hijacked plane. A fourth hijacked plane, suspected to be bound for a high-profile target in Washington, crashed into a field in southern Pennsylvania. More than 5,000 U.S. citizens and other nationals were killed as a result of these acts. President Bush and Cabinet officials indicated that Usama Bin Laden was the prime suspect and that they considered the United States in a state of war with international terrorism. In the aftermath of the attacks, the United States formed the Global Coalition Against Terrorism.

Downtown Jerusalem Bombing, December 2, 2001: Two suicide bombers blew themselves up in downtown Jerusalem killing ten people and wounding more than 130. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

Haifa Bus Attack, December 3, 2001: A Hamas suicide bomber blew himself up on a public bus in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens of others.

West Bank Bus Attack, December 12, 2001: Palestinian gunman killed eight people and wounded 30 in a grenade and shooting ambush on an Israel bus in the West Bank just minutes before 2 suicide bombers struck in the Gaza Strip.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY ANN ONG

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Betty Ann Ong, the sister of my constituent and friend

Cathie Ann Ong-Herrera. Betty was a woman of remarkable courage who was one of the many to die in the act of war perpetrated on our country on September 11, 2001.

Betty Ann Ong was born in San Francisco on February 5, 1956 to Harry Ong, Sr. and Yee Gam Oy Ong. Betty was the youngest of four siblings, Harry Ong, Jr., Cathie Ann Ong-Herrera, and Gloria Ann Ong-Woo. Betty grew up in San Francisco's Chinatown where she attended Jean Parker Elementary School, Francisco Middle School, Washington High School, and the City College of San Francisco. She excelled in volleyball and bowling. Later in life, Betty also loved to travel, collect antiques and carousels, and had an extensive collection of stuffed animals and dolls.

Betty began her career in the airline industry as a baggage handler and a ticket reservations agent with PSA and Delta Airlines. In 1998, Betty joined American Airlines as a flight attendant and later became a flight attendant purser. Betty loved her job and the people she worked with, and she was voted Flight Attendant of the Year five time by her peers.

Betty's colleagues always described her as a very loving, caring, and always friendly person, both to her co-workers and to the passengers she served. Betty received numerous written compliments from her passengers.

On that tragic date of September 11, Betty was serving as a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles. As terrorist hijackers took over the plane, Betty and her colleagues calmly reported to the ground crew vital information about what was taking place. She identified some of the hijackers' seat locations, which helped investigators later identify the individuals responsible, and asked the ground crew to pray for the passengers aboard. Under over-whelming circumstances, Betty's primary concern was the safety of her passengers.

Up until the moment her life was tragically taken, Betty Ann Ong was a true professional who performed beyond her call of duty. Betty Ann Ong acted heroically under trying circumstances, and her heroism should be a sterling example of service to us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Betty Ann Ong, celebrating her heroic legacy, and wishing her family peace for their loss.

HONORING FRESNO BEE REPORTER, JOHN ELLIS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fresno Bee reporter, John Ellis. Mr. Ellis was recently presented the Unsung Heroes Award given by the Youth Law Center.

The following is the story printed in today's Fresno Bee celebrating John's award:

Fresno Bee political reporter John Ellis received a national award Wednesday night that honors individuals for their work regarding child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The Youth Law Center's annual Unsung Heroes Awards were presented to seven people. Ellis was the only journalist among the

honorees, who included bureaucrats, attorneys, a teacher and a Seattle Police Department deputy assistant chief. Six of the honorees are from California.

His Jan. 14 story, "Fresno County may house foster children illegally," told how Fresno County had been housing some of its most difficult foster children in two area motels, a practice that some legal advocates say violates state law.

The California Department of Social Services, which found out about the situation through inquiries by The Bee, notified Salvador Montana, then director of Fresno County's Department of Children and Family Services, that housing the children in motels was not allowed.

The county quit the practice after the state stepped in; the children were moved to foster-care group homes.

The sponsoring Youth Law Center is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on the problems and needs of children who are placed out of home in foster care or juvenile justice systems.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Ellis both for his dedication to journalism and child welfare. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 495 on December 12, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3447, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important measure and I commend the distinguished chairman of the Veterans Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH.

This legislation provides a number of significant enhancements to veterans health care programs, with the purpose of both expanding those services offered to veterans, and improving the manner in which those services are delivered.

Specifically, the bill makes a number of changes in the policies governing VA nursing staff. It enhances eligibility and benefits for the employee incentive scholarship and education debt reduction programs by enabling VA nurses to pursue advanced degrees while continuing to care for veterans, in order to improve recruitment and retention of nurses within the VA health care system. Furthermore, the bill establishes a 12-member National Commission on VA Nursing that would assess legislative and organizational policy changes

to enhance the recruitment and retention of nurses by the department and the future of the nursing profession within the department, and recommends legislative and organizational policy changes to enhance the recruitment and retention of nursing personnel in the department.

Another issue addressed by the legislation concerns the maintenance of proper staffing ratios and the provision of overtime pay. The bill mandates that the VA provide Saturday premium pay to title 5/title 38 hybrid employees. Such hybrid-authority employees include licensed vocational nurses, pharmacists, certified or registered respiratory therapists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. Moreover, it requires the VA to develop a nationwide policy on staffing standards to ensure that veterans are provided with safe, high quality care, taking into consideration the numbers and skill mix required of staff in specific health care settings. It also requires a report on the use of mandatory overtime by licensed nursing staff and nursing assistants in each VA health care facility, and to include in this report a description of the amount of mandatory overtime used by facilities.

H.R. 3447 offers several improvements in service for those veterans who require specialized medical care. It authorizes service dogs to be provided by VA to a veteran suffering from spinal cord injuries or dysfunction, other diseases causing physical immobility, hearing loss or other types of disabilities susceptible to improvement or enhanced functioning in activities of daily living through employment of a service dog. Additionally, it strengthens the mandate for VA to maintain capacity in specialized medical programs for veterans by requiring VA and each of its veterans integrated service networks to maintain the national capacity in certain specialized health care programs for veterans (those with serious mental illness, including substance use disorders, and spinal cord, brain injured and blinded veterans; veterans who need prosthetics and sensory aids); and extends capacity reporting requirement for 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation makes some important adjustments to regulations governing payment for services from non-service connected veterans. This is done through modifying the VA's system of determining non-service-connected veterans' "ability to pay" for VA health care services by introducing the "low income housing limits" employed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), used by HUD to determine family income thresholds for housing assistance. This index is adjusted for all standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAS), and is updated periodically by HUD to reflect economic changes within the SMSAS. The bill would retain the current-law means test national income threshold, but would reduce co-payments by 80 percent for near-poor veterans who require acute VA hospital inpatient care. This is important for those veterans with low incomes who reside in high-cost-of-living areas, like New York.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the legislation extends the authority of the VA to collect proceeds from veterans health insurance policies for services provided as non-service connected care.

This bill represents the latest step in the longstanding ongoing commitment of Con-

gress to oversee and improve the system that provides health care to our Nation's veterans. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this vital measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PROMPT UTILIZATION OF WIRELESS SPECTRUM ACT OF 2001"

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Prompt Utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001." For longer than I would like to acknowledge, the FCC and Nextwave have battled back and forth about the status of Nextwave's C block licenses. Nextwave obtained these licenses the way every carrier obtains a spectrum license from the FCC: by being the highest bidder at auction.

When Nextwave filed for bankruptcy, the FCC sought to cancel Nextwave's licenses. I asked, begged, and pleaded with Chairman Powell's predecessor, Bill Kennard, not to cancel the licenses, and, more importantly, not to reauction them.

Despite having filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, Nextwave retained a property right in those licenses, a right that could not be rescinded by the FCC or any other agency. Auction 35 went ahead anyway, raising a record amount. But the D.C. circuit confirmed what I had been arguing for some time: that Nextwave's property right to those licenses could not be violated.

Auction 35 has thus placed us in a quandary. Wireless carriers who were auction 35 winners are counting on that spectrum to roll out or enhance valuable services to consumers. And we have a giant hole in the budget that needs to be plugged.

Nextwave's C block licenses have laid fallow for too long and need to be put to good use. The settlement agreement authorized by the prompt utilization of Wireless Spectrum Act of 2001 may not be the prettiest or easiest way to ensure that these licenses are put to good use. But this legislation, and the corresponding settlement, appear to be the best way to put them to good use.

I applaud the parties for spending countless hours reaching this settlement. And I hope that both Houses of Congress can enact this legislation this year so that consumers can reap the benefits of putting this spectrum to its best use.

I thank Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. CONYERS for co-sponsoring this legislation. And I look forward to its prompt consideration.

HONORING EDNA BUTRIMOWITZ
IPSON ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman. Edna Butrimowitz

Ipson was born in a small town outside Kovno, Lithuania in 1911. The youngest of six children, she is a survivor—a survivor of hunger, of hardship, of sacrifice. Mrs. Ipson survived the Holocaust.

When her husband could no longer practice law and opened a motorcycle business in their home, Mrs. Ipson turned her talents to the family business. She may not have been able to ride a motorcycle, but she certainly could sell them. Often times, she had been known to say, "When my husband comes home, you'll see. If this motorcycle isn't everything I said it was, you don't have to buy it."

She and her son, Jay, were in line with the rest of her family to be taken to the Riga Latvia concentration camp when they were pulled out of line by a guard who had known her husband. While the rest of her family did not survive the concentration camps, she was sent to the airport where she worked endless days as a slave laborer, loading and unloading coal cars.

In 1943, the Ipsons escaped from the ghetto to a small farm in Trakai where a Polish Catholic farmer risked his life to save her and her family. For nine months, they lived in a hole in the ground, escaping detection.

Yet even after liberation, their lives were not easy. While her husband sought ways of escaping, Mrs. Ipson took sole responsibility for providing for their family. She risked her life, traveling through Russian Military lines to illegal procure food from the black market. If caught, she would have been jailed and severely punished. However, she persevered and kept their family alive.

Her family finally escaped using Mrs. Ipson's maiden name, Butrimowitz, and forged Polish papers through Poland to the American-Zone in Berlin. Finally, after being sponsored by Mrs. Ipson's uncle Abraham Brown, they immigrated to America.

Once in America, her phenomenal will and fortitude continued to serve her family. Mrs. Ipson became the first female service station attendant. She would wash the windshield and check the oil of the service station customers—a very unusual sight in those days. Yet, she was one of the best salespeople in the area. While servicing the vehicles, she would bring out Like New car wax, shine a spot and convince the driver he needed the wax to make his car look "like new." Her service station sold more car wax than any other in the area.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ipson has led an amazing life of joy, sorrow and unending sacrifice. In fact, she often sacrificed celebrating her own birthday, protesting that Hanukah and her December Wedding anniversary were more important than her birthday. This year, her son, Jay, is honoring her life and celebrating her 90th birthday. Although I cannot be there in person, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in honoring this remarkable woman and in wishing her the happiest of birthdays.