

American heroes. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1922, and community leaders, initiated the project to help recognize these men of valor and to give the citizens of Gainesville the chance to hear, first-hand, their amazing stories.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society announced the project to its members at its October annual reunion. Two Medal of Honor recipients visited Gainesville on Veterans Day.

This program was organized before the tragedies of September 11, but in light of recent events, projects like the Gainesville Medal of Honor Host City Program highlight the sacrifice, patriotism and sense of duty that have been a foundation of our great nation. Our Medal of Honor recipients are living examples of those values and are the best messengers to tell the price of freedom. While in Gainesville, these extraordinary individuals will meet with school classes, speak to civic groups and others who would like to hear about their experiences. It gives the honorees a forum for their thoughts and gives Gainesville the chance to thank them for all that they have done for their country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mayor Kenneth Kaden for his leadership in promoting this project. It is an honor to recognize such a unique and special program—The Medal of Honor Host City Program—and I look forward to seeing it succeed in Gainesville.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district during the following roll-call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below. Rollcall No. 499: Yes; 500: Yes.

IN MEMORY OF HONORABLE R.
LAWRENCE COUGHLIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today is a bitter-sweet day. It is with both great sadness and immense pride that I rise today in honor and celebration of the life of my friend, the Honorable R. Lawrence Coughlin.

Robert Lawrence Coughlin was born on April 11, 1929 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and grew up on his father's farm near Scranton, PA. He served distinguishably as a Republican Member of the United States Congress for 24 years, from January 1969–January 1993 representing a portion of Philadelphia, PA and its surrounding suburban Main Line area.

Lawrence's accomplishments were great during his tenure in Congress. He was a man of great honor and truly a gentleman. I had the pleasure of serving with him while I was Chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control and he served as the Ranking Republican Member.

At first glance, one would perceive our relationship as that of the "Odd Couple" as Law-

rence and I strolled side by side through the Capitol as he donned his signature bow tie and me wearing a more conventional necktie. He represented the wealthy suburban Main Line area of Philadelphia and I represent the vibrant Harlem area of New York City. However, we had many shared interests and experiences.

Lawrence Coughlin served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. His military training was evident in the way he conducted himself in the Congress. He was a very disciplined man who took a dogged approach to tackling the difficult problems that face the nation and the Congress. I remember his passion for the youth of our great nation. This passion was the source of his drive to do whatever was necessary during his tenure on the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control to rid our communities of the scourge of drugs. Although some would say, Lawrence had a Patrician air about him I would say he had the air of a proud ex-marine who viewed the war on drugs as a series of unending battles to be confronted head on until the war was won and victory proclaimed. As a man of great consciousness, I will forever remember his stamina and commitment in his efforts to eliminate drugs from our communities, making the world a better place for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating the life and the political accomplishments of my great friend, the Honorable R. Lawrence Coughlin.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL INDIAN RECOGNITION REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, our Federal Indian recognition process is broken. Recognition decisions don't take months to decide, they take years—and sometimes decades. Towns and other interested parties—sometimes forced to spend millions because of federal recognition policies—rightfully believe their concerns and comments are often ignored. Criteria for recognition has been overlooked rather than upheld under previous BIA administrators. In short, the public and Indian tribes have lost faith in the current recognition process.

A new administration has brought some hope in fixing this important process. To this end, I am rising today to introduce legislation that lays out a seven-point plan for reforming the federal Indian recognition process.

Specifically, my bill would first require the BIA to notify states whenever a tribe within them files for federal recognition. The state must in turn ensure that notice is given to towns adjacent to that tribe.

Second, the legislation would require the BIA to accept and consider any testimony—including from surrounding towns and others—that bears on whether or not BIA recognizes a tribe.

Third, under my measure, the BIA would be required to find affirmatively that all recognition criteria are met in order to confer federal recognition and any decision conferring recognition must be accompanied by a written set of

findings as to how all criteria have been satisfied.

Fourth, I put forth language that would double—from \$900,000 to \$1.8 million—the resources for the BIA's Branch of Acknowledgment and Research Division to upgrade its recognition process.

To help localities adversely affected by federally recognized tribes, my bill provides \$8 million in grants to local governments to assist such governments in participating in certain decisions related to certain Indian groups and Indian tribes. These grants could be applied retroactively to any local government that has spent money on decisions related to certain Indian groups and/or tribes.

In addition, my legislation also creates a grant program of \$10 million to be made available to federally impacted towns for relevant infrastructure, public safety and social service needs directly related to tribal activities.

And lastly, the measure would institute a "cooling off period" of one year, in which any high-level BIA official could not appear before their former agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this bill with three of my colleagues from Connecticut—Mrs. JOHNSON and Messrs. SHAYS and MALONEY—and the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. GREEN. I urge others who care about federal Indian recognition issues to join us in working toward a recognition process that is fair, open and respectful to all parties involved.

STUDIES ENDORSE PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the results of two recent studies on the value of project labor agreements (PLAs) to the attention of my colleagues.

The California Research Bureau, a non-partisan confidential research arm of the Governor's office and the state legislature concluded that project labor agreements are "valued by owners and construction firms alike [because of] the role PLAs play in resolving disputes over roles contractors and subcontractors play in large and complex projects." The CRB report also credited PLAs for promoting local economic development, workforce training, and employment goals for women and minorities.

The UCLA Institute for Labor and Employment has also recently released a study that found that PLAs do not increase labor costs, do not exclude non-union workers, encourage competition, promote stability, cooperation and productivity, and reduce the likelihood of work stoppages or delays.

Mr. Speaker, these studies merely confirm what has long been understood by those involved in private and public sector construction who are not otherwise driven by ideology: Project labor agreements promote the timely completion of construction projects and increase productivity. They are good for business. They also promote apprenticeship training and help secure better working conditions. They are good for workers.

Unfortunately, among those who are most driven by ideology is the Bush Administration.

According to the December 13, 2001 issue of *The Washington Post*, Maryland has been forced by the Bush Administration to proceed with the enormous Wilson Bridge construction project without the ability to use a project labor agreement. I am sure that my colleagues recall that last February, shortly after taking office, President Bush tried to ban project labor agreements for any construction project receiving federal money. In a decision that specifically involved the Wilson Bridge project, a federal judge ruled in November that the ban issued by President Bush violated federal law and the Constitution. Following the decision, the Maryland State Highway Administration again sought permission from the Federal Highway Administration to implement a project labor agreement. But according to the *Post*, the Federal Highway Administration rejected Maryland's request saying the state had not proved the need for a PLA.

By effectively prohibiting the use of a project labor agreement on the Wilson Bridge project, the Bush Administration continues to thwart good business practice and good labor policy to the detriment of taxpayers and continues to deny working Americans the protections they are entitled to under law. I commend to my colleagues' and the administration's attention the reports concerning project labor agreements by the California Research Bureau and the UCLA Institute for Labor and Employment, and I sincerely hope that the Administration reconsiders its unwise hostility for these proven agreements that benefit business, taxpayers, workers and the public in general.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLK COUNTY, GA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, formed in 1851 by an act of the Georgia Legislature, Polk County, Georgia, was named for James Knox Polk, a former governor of Tennessee and the 11th President of the United States. With a population of 38,127 people and a land area of 311 square miles, Polk County is located in northwest Georgia.

For more than a hundred years the Cherokee and Creek Indians reigned supreme in north Georgia. The southernmost village in the Cherokee Nation was on Cedar Creek, which is located just off Main Street in present-day Cedartown, the county seat of Polk County. In 1826, two white men, Linton Walthall and Hampton Whatley, visited the area. They returned in 1832 to establish stores, and the community began to develop. In 1838, the Cherokee were moved into small forts, and then forced west on The Trail of Tears. In 1852, the first courthouse was built on a 20-acre site which had been donated to the town of Cedartown (then called "Cedar Town") by Asa Prior. Two years later the town was incorporated.

The War Between the States was not kind to Cedar Town. However, after the war, in 1867 the area began to grow and the town of Cedartown prospered, as did much of the surrounding area, including the towns of Rockmart and Aragon.

The residents of Polk County are preparing for Polk County's 150th birthday celebration. Tentative plans include special music, recognition of the oldest living person in the County, the oldest married couple, the longest married couple, the youngest citizen, and the oldest church in the County. Commemorative coins and Christmas ornaments have been designed, cedar trees have been requisitioned to be presented to schools, and a game of Polk historical trivia is being compiled and will be distributed to schools. Students in Polk County schools are being asked to follow specific guidelines to design a flag which would best represent the County. Some items which could be represented on the flag are the City of Aragon as a manufacturing utopia; the City of Cedartown for its cedar trees and for its original inhabitants; the Cherokees; and the slate quarries in Rockmart.

Polk County's sesquicentennial Birthday Celebration will be held on the evening of December 20th, 2001, on the steps of the Courthouse in Cedartown, Georgia. It would behoove us all to take the time to celebrate our heritage and stop to share the stories of our past with our children and grandchildren. The term "home town USA" truly describes the people of Polk County. They are kind, generous, caring folks and I am pleased to call many of them my friends. Happy Birthday Polk County!!

JUDGE GERARD DEVLIN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Irish-American success story, Judge Gerard Devlin of Prince George's County, Maryland. Judge Devlin is called Jerry by his friends of which I am fortunate to be one. I have known Jerry for over thirty years, since I was an intern in Senator Brewster's office and Jerry was an elevator operator in the Capitol.

I have valued Jerry's friendship over those three decades and have always enjoyed his boisterous and comic Irish sensibility. We have also shared a close professional relationship and Jerry was always a faithful ally through our days in the Young Democrats, the Maryland General Assembly and beyond.

I pay tribute to Jerry today not simply because he is a good and old friend but to thank him upon the occasion of his retirement. His distinguished career in public service is not matched by many and his affable and courteous manner is appreciated by all.

Jerry was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts on May 29, 1933. He attended public schools in Dorchester and Boston, and served in U.S. Marine Corps from 1955 to 1957. He went on to Boston College and Suffolk University, and graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1969. He also earned his masters from the University of Maryland in 1970.

Jerry began his career in public service as a staff member in the United States House of Representatives in 1959 and later worked in the United States Senate. His service was not limited to the national level however. He served his local community for five years as a

member of the Prince George's County Board of Election Supervisors from 1964 to 1969, and as a member of the Charter Review Commission of the city of Bowie.

Jerry also served his community as a teacher to Prince George's County's youth at Gonzaga High School, Bowie State University, and Prince George's Community College.

In 1975, Jerry took his talent to the Maryland General Assembly where I had the pleasure of serving with him for six years. He was a member of the House of Delegates for eleven years and was named Freshman Legislator of the Year by the Maryland Young Democrats in 1975. He was also named Legislator of the Year by the Prince George's Municipal Association in 1983, 1985, and 1986.

Jerry stepped down from his position as Associate Judge in the 5th District Court of Maryland this past September and retired from a long and praiseworthy career in civic affairs. During his tenure as a judge, Jerry was well-liked and respected by both bench and bar for his even-handedness and wisdom. He had a good feel for fundamental fairness and through it all his Irish wit and humor shone through.

Judge Bob Sweeney, the former Chief Judge of the Maryland District Court, said this of Jerry, "One of the ten things that a good judge needs is courage. For a judge that means doing the right thing even if it is not the popular thing. Jerry Devlin personifies that type of courage."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to repeat today an Irish Blessing for my dear friend Jerry Devlin to thank him for his years of service and to wish him well in retirement: May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,/And may trouble avoid you wherever you go./May the road rise up to meet you,/May the wind be always at your back,/May the sun shine down upon your face,/And the rain fall soft upon your fields,/Until we meet again,/May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great Irish American who gave forty years of public service to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR ULRIK FEDERSPIEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Ambassador Ulrik Federspiel, who was sworn-in as Denmark's Ambassador to the United States in May of 2000, for his record of achievement in fostering transatlantic ties. Throughout his remarkable career, Ambassador Federspiel has worked tirelessly to strengthen the already close relationship between the United States and Denmark. Indeed, the Danes are fortunate to have such an illustrious representative in Washington, and the United States has no better friend and ally in the Diplomatic Corps here in Washington than Ambassador Federspiel.

Mr. Federspiel began his career in the Danish Foreign Service in 1971, and was immediately assigned to the prestigious European Community office within the Foreign Ministry.