

the Hispanic American Association for Political Awareness, for his personal achievements and for his outstanding contributions to his community. Mr. Castro will receive the Hispanic American Recognition Award from Mayor Jim McGreevey on February 25, 2001.

George A. Castro, II emigrated to the United States from Colombia in 1985 with only his lucky quarter and a strong desire for success. A short time later, he started his first business, a cleaning company, which grew to 60 employees in just a few years. The rapid growth of the company allowed it to bid on the state's largest jobs.

In 1989, Mr. Castro received his real estate license and gained employment at an ERA office in Union County, where he became the top-producing seller with more than \$10 million in sales after his first year and \$27 million the following year. In 1991, Mr. Castro opened his own office, Countywide-Realty, as an independent broker. Within a year and a half, Countywide was one of the most successful real estate offices in New Jersey. The office joined the Century 21 franchise in 1995, eventually changing its name to Century 21 Atlantic.

Recently, Century 21 Atlantic received Century 21's prestigious Double Centurion Office award for achieving more than \$90 million in sales in 1999, a 300% increase over the previous year.

Mr. Castro is an accomplished businessman and community activist. The success of Century 21 Atlantic and the Ritz Theatre and Performing Arts Center, which he purchased in 1994, has made him a role model for the Hispanic community. Mr. Castro serves as the Chairman of the Hispanic Political Action Committee and is a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Elizabeth. He also participates in the Boy Scouts of America, Eastern Union County.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing George A. Castro, II for all he has accomplished and for all he has contributed to his community.

HONORING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY 28 UNITED STATES SOLDIERS KILLED DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express concern over the second section of H. Con. Res. 39, honoring the sacrifices of the heroic U.S. soldiers killed by an Iraqi missile attack ten years ago.

Mr. Speaker, in this section, Congress "resolves to support appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs to help prevent attacks on forward deployed United States forces from occurring again." Undoubtedly, we must work to ensure that American service men and women are never again victim to such a tragedy. But would the most futuristic theater missile defense system the Pentagon is currently working on the Theater High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, have helped our soldiers ten years ago? Probably not: the system failed six con-

secutive tests before finally intercepting a target missile for the first time in June 1999. Many experts believe this system will be no more effective than our patriot missiles defending an attack like the one on American troops in Saudi Arabia ten years ago. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, projected costs for construction of THAAD are now estimated at \$9.5 billion.

Mr. Speaker, for those who believe in the necessity of missile defense, there are other less expensive and more effective theater missile defense programs in development that might represent an improvement on the system that failed the twenty-eight soldiers we honor today. To the extent we promote such cost-effective weaponry through this resolution, we duly recognize the valor of these men and women. To the extent, however, this resolution supplies blanket endorsement of any theater missile defense system, we do not accomplish a lofty purpose.

HONORING DR. MARGARET DRICKAMER FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Ms. DELAUBRO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure, though a sad heart, that I pay tribute to an outstanding leader in geriatric medicine and a tremendous asset to the VA Connecticut Health System, Dr. Margaret Drickamer, as she retires from her service to the United States Veterans Administration.

It has been nearly fifteen years since Dr. Drickamer first came to the VA Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut as the Medical Director of the then Nursing Home Care Unit. In that time, Dr. Drickamer has been responsible for the complete reorganization of the department as well as the expansion of services available to Connecticut veterans—making a real difference in lives of many. Today, the section of Geriatrics and Extended Care is a multi-faceted program which provides a continuum of inpatient, outpatient and consultative services.

When Dr. Drickamer first came to the VA, she was charged with the oversight of the Nursing Home Care Unit, an inpatient unit which provided long-term, residential nursing care for several dozen veterans. Under her leadership, this small unit has been transformed into a successful continuum of care, including an extended inpatient care unit, a geriatric day hospital program, an expanded geriatrics clinic, a homebased primary care program and a palliative care program. The multitude of services now offered by the Geriatrics and Extended Care section have had an extraordinary impact on thousands of Connecticut veterans.

Dr. Drickamer's success can be attributed to her endless commitment to the patients of the Medical Center and the outstanding compassion she demonstrates each day. Each time I visit the Medical Center, I am told by patients how much they depend on Dr. Drickamer, both as their doctor and, more importantly, their friend. Equally important is her dedication to her staff. Their enthusiasm and generosity a reflection of the example she has set for

over a decade. Led by her innovative vision, Dr. Drickamer has ensured that Connecticut's veterans are receiving quality care.

In addition to her work at the VA Medical Center, Dr. Drickamer is widely recognized for her work as an educator in her field. Articles and abstracts published in the American Journal of Medicine, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Annals of Internal Medicine are only a few of her many professional accomplishments. She has been honored with a myriad of awards and honors—a true testament to her unparalleled dedication.

It is my great honor to join friends and colleagues in thanking Dr. Margaret Drickamer for her many years of service to the West Haven VA Medical Center and our community. Her innumerable efforts on behalf of our country's veterans have left an indelible mark on our nation. My best wishes to you on your future endeavors.

HONORING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY 28 UNITED STATES SOLDIERS KILLED DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution.

It's been ten years since the Persian Gulf War and the allied victory in Operation Desert Storm. We learned a great deal during the war, perhaps most importantly that strong relationships with our allies and others were critical to building the kind of support necessary to see the war through. Those relationships have also been critical in maintaining pressure on Saddam Hussein in the years following the allied victory. The war also taught us that we can achieve our objectives—with minimal loss of life—thanks to our professionally trained troops and technologically advanced weapons systems.

While we know that war inevitably entails loss of life, and that soldiers assume the risks of war, this realization doesn't make it easier to bear the news when a loved one is killed in service to our country. Today we honor the sacrifices of the 28 servicemen killed in February 1991 when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. Army barracks in Saudi Arabia. We extend our sympathy and thanks to their families, and we honor their memories. In the same spirit, we honor the contributions of those serving today in our armed forces. Every day they brave hardships in the name of defending our country and our freedom. We can never be grateful enough for what they do.

This resolution also asks us to resolve to support "appropriate and effective theater missile defense programs to help prevent attacks on forward deployed United States forces from occurring again." I am supporting this resolution for what it says and not for what some may believe it says.

Just to be clear: Theater missile defense systems are different from the proposed national missile defense system, which continues to raise many questions and concerns that I believe must be addressed before deployment can be considered.

There is no question that we must do all we can to defend our troops in the field. We should provide them with the best training, equipment, and weapons. We should also develop better technologies to protect them from incoming enemy fire. This means doing all we can to be better able to counter the kind of threat posed by Iraq's Scud missiles back in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, this ten-year anniversary presents us with a duty and an opportunity. We have the duty to look back in honor of our servicemen, but we also have the opportunity to look forward to identify possible new solutions to longstanding regional problems. This is an opportunity for us to consider anew questions about our overall Persian Gulf policy—the viability of our current sanctions regime on Iraq, the importance of working with our allies in the region, and our overdependence on foreign oil. Along those lines, I was encouraged to learn today of Secretary Powell's proposal to refocus sanctions more narrowly on Saddam Hussein's military capabilities and ease the economic sanctions that have placed an unfair burden on Iraq's population. This is a step in the right direction.

If we can help to bring stability to the region, we can rest assured knowing that our servicemen will be less likely to be put in harm's way in the future.

Again, I stand with my colleagues here today to honor the memories of the U.S. soldiers lost in Operation Desert Storm. We will not forget their sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO RICKY GELB

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Rickey Gelb, recipient of the 2000 Fernando Award.

The Fernando Award is awarded annually in recognition of an individual's lifetime achievement of volunteerism in California's San Fernando Valley. Rickey Gelb is a most worthy recipient.

Rickey has lived in the San Fernando Valley nearly all of his life. He is the managing general partner of development and management company Gelb Enterprises and owner of RMG Properties. He is also a licensed general contractor in California.

Rickey and his wife Robbi are longtime close personal friends of my wife Janice and I. I know firsthand that Rickey's success is well-earned. He graduated from Valley Junior College with an associate's degree in 1967. With that, he went to work for ATA Stores, where over the next 25 years he worked his way up from truck driver and repairman to senior corporate officer and major stockholder. During that time, he also founded Gelb Enterprises.

Since 1985, Rickey has devoted his entrepreneurial efforts exclusively to the development and expansion of Gelb Enterprises.

He has also been an extraordinary volunteer.

Rickey Gelb serves on the board of the First Commerce Bank and is a past president of the West Valley Police Activity League (PALS). He is currently CFO of the Encino Chamber of

Commerce, a member of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation Mobile Action Committee, a Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles, a member of the Ventura/Cahuenga Boulevard Review Board and Treasurer of Mayor Richard Riordon's Valley Job Recovery Corporation.

In addition, Rickey is on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Valley Jeopardy Foundation, on the Police, Fire and Public Safety Committee, Encino/Tarzana Hospital Community Foundation and on Councilwoman Cindy Miskowski's Encino Community Council.

Rickey Gelb is a recipient of the Criminal Justice Award and has received numerous appreciation awards from City, County, State and Federal agencies and charitable foundations. He now serves as a member of the Patrons Association of LAVC and is president of the Alumni Association. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 50th Anniversary celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Rickey Gelb for the honor of receiving the 2000 Fernando Award and thank him and Robbi for decades of service to our community.

THE PARITY FOR PART-TIME WORKERS ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, unemployed part-time workers who meet monetary eligibility requirements are precluded from receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) in at least 31 States merely because they seek part-time, rather than full-time employment. This means that a laid-off parent who wants to continue to work part-time to care for a child is denied UI benefits while looking for employment, despite having earned sufficient past wages to be eligible for such assistance.

For this reason, I am reintroducing the Parity for Part-time Workers Act. This legislation would prohibit the denial of UI based solely on the fact that an individual is seeking part-time work, if the individual: (1) Otherwise qualifies for unemployment compensation based wholly or mostly on part-time work; and (2) seeks at least 20 hours of work a week. In short, this family-friendly legislation will help level the playing field for part-time workers.

In 1995, the non-partisan Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation recommended prohibiting discrimination against part-time workers. More recently, a working group on UI issues with members representing businesses, workers and the State and Federal UI agencies also recommended that part-time workers be treated more fairly. And finally, a Government Accounting Office (GAO) report released last month clearly illustrates the inequitable barriers standing between part-time and other low-wage workers and UI benefits. I do not think we need any additional evidence that this problem demands an immediate solution.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort to prevent discrimination against unemployed part-time workers.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BLUNT-BENTSEN RETIREMENT PLAN ACT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I wish today, to join with my distinguished colleague, Mr. Blunt, in introducing legislation to give small employers the chance to show how much they care for their employees. The Blunt-Bentsen Retirement Plan Act would establish the "qualified small employer plan," a new kind of design-based plan available exclusively to employers with fewer than 100 employees.

Today, we, as a nation, are experiencing the lowest unemployment rate in a generation. This recent boom in job creation has been driven in large part by growth in the number of small businesses created. However, even as incomes rise, we have an abysmally low savings rate of 3.8 percent of disposable personal income. There is broad consensus that a substantial number of American workers will be unable to afford a retirement that maintains their current lifestyle, at least not without working more years than currently planned. According to the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), 36 percent of American workers are not saving for retirement.

Americans think of retirement income in terms of a "three-legged stool," consisting of Social Security, personal savings, and employer-sponsored benefits. Unfortunately, employer-sponsored retirement plans are not available to all American workers. In fact, only 21 percent of all individuals employed by small businesses with less than 100 employees participate in an employer-sponsored plan, compared to 64 percent of those who work for businesses with more than 100 employees. Moreover, only 11.1 percent of working family heads who work at business with 10 or fewer employees actually participate in employer-sponsored plans. According to EBRI's 2000 survey of small employers, thirty-nine percent who currently do not offer plans, contemplate starting a plan in the next two years.

Under current law, small business employers who want to offer a retirement plan to their employees are forced to choose between unappealing options. They can either establish a traditional qualified plan, and manage the prohibitively high compliance and administration costs or set up a highly restrictive design-based plan (such as the SIMPLE or SEP). The Blunt-Bentsen Retirement Plan offers a third option. The Blunt-Bentsen bill would establish the "qualified small employer plan," a new kind of design-based plan available exclusively to small employers (those with fewer than 100 employees). The Blunt-Bentsen bill seeks to offer small businesses and their employees with opportunities for pension savings commonly available to large corporations and public sector employees. Characteristics of the qualified small employer plan include 100 percent coverage, accelerated vesting, and minimum non-integrated benefits.

The most important aspect of this legislation is that the employer must make an annual, mandatory contribution of at least three percent of an employee's compensation if that employee is at least 21-years-old and has