

and improvement of direct detection tests for Lyme a priority. Second, we must double the funding at CDC and bring total Lyme disease funding to \$16 million. The CDC has admitted that "the (Lyme) disease is greatly under-reported." Thus, we must urge CDC to re-examine its surveillance system to see where improvements can be made and accurately enhanced. In order to do this, they need adequate funding and oversight.

Lyme disease continues to harm tens of thousands of Americans who engage in outdoor activities, both from work and from recreation. Symptoms of Lyme disease can include a reddish skin rash, chills, flu-like symptoms, headaches, joint pain and fatigue. Without treatment, Lyme disease can result in acute headaches, arthritis, and nervous system and cardiac abnormalities. The CDC notes that Lyme disease is the leading cause of vector-borne infectious illness in the U.S. with approximately 15,000 cases reported annually. Over 125,000 cases of Lyme disease infection have been reported since 1982, and some studies indicate cases of Lyme may be under-reported by as much as 10 or 12 fold. Furthermore, various estimates of the cost of Lyme disease on our society at between \$500 million and \$1 billion annually.

Consequently, I believe funding to address detection and surveillance would greatly assist Congress in ensuring the constituents in Lyme disease endemic areas that Lyme disease research is on the right track.

The case is amply made that extra monies for Alzheimer's disease, Autism, and Lyme disease will be very well put to use and represent a small payment toward preventing future health care costs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of Congress to support increased funding for Alzheimer's, autism, and Lyme disease.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE IRON WORKERS LOCAL 17

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the hard working men and women of Iron Workers Local 17 of Cleveland, Ohio as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

The brilliant craftsmanship of the thousands of dedicated men and women who comprise the Iron Workers Local 17 is evident across the landscape of Northern Ohio. The bridges that span Ohio's beautiful rivers and The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame are both fine examples of the permanent imprint that Iron Workers 17 has cast on thousands of structures in the state. This community of working people who understand the value and importance of family are committed to creating a tradition of excellence. Performing one of the ten most dangerous jobs in the world, courageous ironworkers brave the tough Cleveland weather and risky working conditions to build the office towers, sports stadiums, and highway bridges that illuminate the skyline.

Early on when structural steel construction was in its infancy, ironworkers often worked ten hour days and seven day weeks for as little as twenty cents an hour, only expecting to

hold positions for ten years before death or major injury ended their career. When Local 17 gained its charter in 1901 money was tight, but the union persevered and provided help to its members. In the turbulent years that followed, union iron workers learned how to deal with steel industry giants, often initiating strikes to gain fair labor practices. By the end of World War I, the unions successfully established the eight-hour day and five-day work-week.

Local 17 thrived in the midst of the great industrial expansion of the 1920's. In this decade, the largest building project in Cleveland's history, The Cleveland Union Terminal complex including the landmark Terminal Tower, was completed. During World War II, ironworkers, dedicated to the ideals of the United States, served in all branches of the military and were even recruited to work as "seabees" by the Navy to repair aircraft carriers and battleships. Iron workers on the homefront assisted in war munitions production or worked around the country building power plants, hydroelectric facilities, and dams needed in the war effort. In the decades following the war, iron workers were busy rebuilding the bridges and highways in disrepair after many years of use. Presently, Local 17 is enjoying renewed respect with growing membership and cordial relationships with contractors.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in saluting the thousands of dedicated men and women that brave tough conditions at great personal risk to keep Cleveland growing.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 802, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act, which would create a national medal for public safety officers who exhibit extraordinary heroism in the line of duty.

As someone who once aspired to serve in law enforcement and a proud member of both the Congressional Law Enforcement and Firefighters Caucuses, I deeply admire those who devote their lives to public safety.

We are blessed to have dedicated men and women public safety officials throughout this nation who consistently risks their lives on a daily basis to protect our families and communities. It is absolutely critical that we recognize these loyal public servants and ensure that the risks that these brave individuals assume in the course of their duties are not taken for granted.

Although many local public safety organizations honor those who have demonstrated bravery, the federal government does little to reward and recognize these individuals. By passing the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act, Congress would have the unique opportunity to express its appreciation for the unnoticed acts of valor committed by public safety officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Further, this legislation will help send a positive message across the country that our public safety officers deserve

our utmost respect for their service and sacrifices.

I will continue to applaud the courage and dedication to duty of all public safety officers and would strongly urge my colleagues to support the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act.

INDEPENDENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Independent Telecommunications Consumer Enhancement Act of 2001. This bill would provide regulatory relief to small and mid-sized telephone companies that generally serve small town and rural communities. The current regulatory burdens on these small companies are the same as those placed on large companies; but, because of their size, these regulations are very costly and time-consuming.

These regulatory burdens tend to discourage competition in rural communities by impeding the entry of new companies into these markets. These burdens also pose obstacles to the development in rural communities of advanced services such as broadband Internet access.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 provided for reduced regulations and greater competition in our country. This has fostered many new telecommunications and information services including advanced services. However, the benefits of these technological advances have been enjoyed by urban and suburban communities much more than by persons who live in small towns and rural communities. Large telephone companies and other entities tend to have the resources required to develop these advanced services and find the urban and suburban markets more attractive. The deployment of advanced services in urban areas contrasted with the difficulty of small companies offering these services in rural areas has exacerbated the digital divide in our country.

We must find ways to bridge this divide. Relieving certain regulatory burdens may help achieve this objective. The proponents of this bill and many small telephone companies promise that they will use the savings resulting from the elimination of these regulatory burdens to extend advanced services. Some question whether the savings resulting from this measure would simply increase profits of the small telephone companies with no corresponding increase in services. Some note that this bill does not impose a reciprocal obligation to extend services following the relaxation of current regulatory requirements, and does not include any enforcement mechanisms. We hope that the small telephone companies which benefit from the adoption of this bill will do the right thing and act in the best interest of the communities in which they operate. That is the intent of this measure and the

basis for my support. It is proper for the federal government to foster a regulatory framework that stimulates competition and encourages deployment of advanced services to people who live in small towns and rural communities.

IN HONOR OF GINA QUIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, please join me today in welcoming Ms. Gina Quin, Chief Executive Officer of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, to Cleveland as guest of honor at the Collins and Scanlon, 22nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Open House.

Educated at University College Dublin with an undergraduate degree in psychology and a Master of Business Administration, Ms. Quin currently represents 3000 Business Members in the Greater Dublin City Area. Her position requires her to develop policy that will aid in the overall development of Dublin by maximizing enterprise and investment opportunities within the Capital city.

Ms. Quin has held various other executive positions before her appointment to the Dublin Chamber of Commerce in 2000. She was an executive for both Lansdowne Market Research and the Irish Export Board. For six years prior to her work with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Quin served as chief executive for Gandon Enterprises where she was responsible for managing business activities across both manufacturing and service industries.

My fellow colleagues, let us welcome our distinguished friend from Ireland, Mr. Gina Quin, to Cleveland to join in our celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

**SALUTING THE EXCHANGE CLUB
CASTLE PROGRAM OF FORT
PIERCE, FLORIDA**

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, next month marks an important milestone for those who battle child abuse. This will be the date when a key facility in my district marks its twenty year anniversary. In my community we are blessed to have as our neighbor the Exchange Club CASTLE program in Fort Pierce, Florida. In celebration of their 20 years of fighting violence against children, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this achievement.

The CASTLE program (Child Abuse Training and Life Enrichment) is a true American success story. In fact, what was once a small program has spawned a legion of 100 similar facilities in 27 states. CASTLE began two decades ago with a budget of just \$40,000 serving just 25 families and has grown exponentially. Today it provides crucial services to more than 10,000 families in and around my Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, child abuse is a silent scourge that strikes families from all walks of life and

in every community rich, poor, small and large. Without the services of agencies like the Exchange Club's CASTLE program, our nation would bear the burden of thousands more cases of child abuse and suffer the effects of families torn apart.

What makes CASTLE so successful is their broad approach to the problem, working not just with parents, but with community officials, educators and children themselves in many cases working to stop violence before it occurs. CASTLE has developed dozens of community-wide programs to target at-risk youngsters and ensure that those most in need get the care, comfort and protection our society owes to them. Their message has resonated loudly throughout Florida and across the country: violence has no place in our homes and families.

Mr. Speaker, April marks the start of national child abuse prevention month. I am proud to salute the Exchange Club's CASTLE program on this important occasion and look forward to their continued success in our community and throughout the state. They have indeed made our nation a better place to live.

IN HONOR OF SCOTT MICHAEL
DANIELSON

HON. EDWARD SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Petty Officer Second Class Scott Michael Danielson who passed away in service to our nation during a training exercise on February 22, 2001.

Petty Officer Danielson was a member of U.S. Navy Seal Team Eight, based at Little Creek Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach, Virginia. A native of Royal Oak, Michigan, Petty Officer Danielson joined the Navy in 1992 and owing to his exemplary service, was given the opportunity of joining the elite Navy Seals.

Petty Officer Danielson served our nation supporting Task Force Falcon during Operation Guardian in Kosovo. During his outstanding career, Petty Officer Danielson earned several medals and commendations including the Navy Commendation Medal, three Navy Achievement Medals, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Mr. Speaker, America lost one of her finest with the untimely passing of Petty Officer Second Class Scott Michael Danielson. His passing reminds us of the danger that the men and women of our military face in both times of peace and war.

Our grateful nation mourns the loss of Petty Officer Second Class Scott Michael Danielson and extends its sympathies to Scott's loved ones. His family should be proud of the life he lived and should never doubt the gratitude of his nation for his courageous and exemplary service.

REGARDING THE RECENT PRESIDENT BUSH DECISIONS TO RELAX ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the recent decisions by President Bush to renege on a campaign promise to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by power plants. The President in the last week and a half has also rescinded a strict new standard for arsenic levels in drinking water, suspended new cleanup requirements for mining companies, and threatening to challenge a logging ban on nearly 60 million acres of national forest land.

Americans want to have the environment dealt with in a responsible way, and this way does not include cutting the acceptable level of arsenic in our drinking water from 10 parts per billion to 50 parts per billion. A responsible way to deal with the environment does not include allowing electric utilities to decide not to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide. I am concerned that unilateral decisions are being made without thought about the long-term consequences that these decisions will have on our environment and the health of our people.

The United States-Mexico border suffers disproportionately from pollution. For example, my district of El Paso, Texas is an air-quality, non-attainment area and experiences huge problems with emissions from power plants and other airborne pollutants. If there is one thing that we cannot afford to do at this juncture in our history, it is to begin relaxing environmental standards in our country without taking into consideration the long-term effects of these actions.

I urge the administration and my colleagues in Congress to act in a more responsible manner when it comes to environmental policy and the development of legislation that may have dire long-term consequences.

IN HONOR OF JOHN D. BAKER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John D. Baker on being awarded the 2001 Irish Good Fellowship Club's Good Fellowship Award. This prestigious award is a well-deserved honor which recognizes the dedication and commitment John D. Baker has shown to his family and the workers of our nation.

John D. Baker has had three children during his forty years of marriage. Always ready with a smile or kind word, Mr. Baker has been a living example of compassion for his children. He has worked hard to make sure that they grew up in a loving, caring environment.

Throughout his life, John D. Baker has exhibited a dedication to working men and women throughout the Cleveland area. He has been an active member of the International Longshoremen's Association since 1959, and now serves as the Vice-President to that organization. John D. Baker has committed his life