

Member introduced H.R. 1705 to provide the necessary funding flexibility. By authorizing the use of appropriated funds in addition to the non-appropriated funds, National Guard units face fewer budget constraints when hosting competitions and when sending teams and individuals into competition. Health, pay, and personal expenses could be covered for participants who otherwise might not be able to afford costs stemming from physical injuries.

This bill levels the funding playing field so that National Guard units are not at a financial disadvantage when sponsoring competitions and participating in these valuable competitions. It should be emphasized that the legislation does not create participation incentives for National Guard members which are greater than those incentives for Active Duty military.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to review H.R. 1705 and to favorably consider co-sponsorship and legislative action on the measure.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, AFL-CIO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The Central Labor Council of Alameda County has a long history of organizing, advocacy, activism and progressive leadership over the past century. I would like to highlight some of their many accomplishments and contributions.

The Central Labor Council was one of the first labor organizations in the country to take a high profile position in support of the Civil Rights Movement. Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Groulx joined Martin Luther King, Jr. in the march in Selma, Alabama in 1964.

The Central Labor Council was in the forefront in the demand for divestiture in apartheid South Africa. Long before the issue captured national attention, the Central Labor Council of Alameda County joined with religious, community and student groups to demand divestiture by the University of California. Secretary-Treasurer Groulx spoke to a rally of over 20,000, vowing labor's support for the divestiture.

The Central Labor Council of Alameda County was one of the first labor bodies to recognize the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and Cesar Chavez by lending money and physical support to the fledgling organization.

When the Port of Oakland was locked in a year-long bureaucratic quagmire in its attempts to dredge the shipping lanes to accommodate the new larger container ships, it was the Central Labor Council of Alameda County and its Secretary-Treasurer Owen Marron who brought the stalemate to an end. He brought business, labor, elected officials and the Port together in a coalition. As a result, the impasse was broken and dredging within an acceptable environmental plan is underway.

Thanks to the political clout of the Central Labor Council in partnership with a coalition of

local unions, community and religious organizations, Living Wage ordinances have been passed by the cities of Oakland, Berkeley and Hayward as well as a major employer, the Port of Oakland.

A collaboration of the Central Labor Council, under the leadership of the present Secretary Judy Goff, and the Labor Immigrant Organizing Network, has lead to the passage of a resolution of immigrant's rights. The immigrant rights resolution was sent to the California Labor Federation and the AFL-CIO leading to a change in the AFL-CIO's position on immigrant worker's rights.

Congratulations Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO on your centennial birthday and best wishes in your continued successful efforts to organize for justice in our community.

HONORING DR. KENNETH L. MATTOX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox, on the occasion of his receiving the 2001 Distinguished Houston Surgeon Award by the Houston Surgical Society on May 15, 2001, in Houston, Texas. I believe this is an honor that is well deserved, and I want to congratulate Dr. Mattox for this accomplishment.

Dr. Mattox is an internationally recognized cardiovascular, thoracic, and trauma surgeon who has saved many lives in the Houston area. I believe he has contributed much to our community through his career of direct patient care, teaching and research.

Dr. Mattox was born in Ozark, Arkansas and attended high school in Clovis, New Mexico. He graduated with a B.S. degree from Wayland College in Plainview, Texas and a M.D. degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Mattox currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. In addition, he has served as the Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff of Ben Taub General Hospital since 1990. During his tenure at Ben Taub, he has made significant contributions in trauma resuscitation, trauma systems, thoracic trauma, complex abdominal trauma, and multi-system trauma. The "Mattox Maneuver" for abdominal aortic injury is used internationally. His recent research in preoperative fluid restriction for penetrating trauma is shaking the foundation of surgical doctrine in this area.

Dr. Mattox is a dedicated teacher and has contributed to the education of thousands of physicians. In total, Dr. Mattox has published more than 500 articles on research that he has conducted and has expanded the medical knowledge of our nation. In addition, Dr. Mattox is well known for serving his community in leadership positions both locally and internationally. In the past, he has served as president of nine organizations and received numerous awards for his dedicated service to the surrounding community.

Dr. Mattox has also served our country in numerous ways. He was a Flight Surgeon Captain in the United States Medical Corps

from 1965 through 1967. In 1967, he received the Legion of Merit, United States Army Presidential Citation for his dedicated service to the nation. He also served as Aeromedical Consultant to the Department of the Army from 1967 through 1970. He currently supervises trauma training of Armed Forces personnel at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston as Clinical Professor of Surgery and Adjunct Professor of Military/Emergency Medicine of the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences.

Again, I want to congratulate Dr. Mattox for receiving this Award. I wish to extend my congratulations to him and his family upon this important acknowledgment of his service to the Houston area.

THE MELISSA FROELICH MEDICAID CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT WAIVER ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I come before you to introduce the Melissa Froelich Medicaid Congenital Heart Defect Waiver Act. This legislation would permit a State waiver authority to provide medical assistance in cases of congenital heart defects.

My interest in sponsoring this legislation stems from contact with a special constituent, Melissa Froelich. Melissa is a five-year old who has undergone numerous painful procedures and operations because she was born with multiple congenital heart defects. The medical expenses for Melissa's family during the first 18 months of her life totaled more than one million dollars. More than \$270 thousand of those dollars were not covered by the family's two health insurance policies. The family discovered that carrying two health insurance policies was of little help due to a Coordination of Benefits provision, which prevents a family from taking advantage of the benefits of both combined health plans. Even though the family has been paying for two separate health plans they can only receive the best benefit from each policy. This bill would help middle-class families with children like Melissa whose only current options are unacceptable.

More than 32,000 American babies are born each year with cardiovascular defects, which translates to 1 out of every 115 to 150 births. To put these numbers into perspective, 1 in every 800 to 1,000 babies is born with Downs Syndrome. Congenital heart defects make up 42 percent of all birth defects, making Congenital Heart Disease the most common of all birth defects. The American Heart Association estimates that there are approximately 1 million people living with heart defects in the United States today.

Prior to 1960, most children with heart defects died within the first year of life. In the subsequent decades of the 1960's, 70's and 80's, research produced by skilled surgeons and cardiologists led to a variety of different treatments and interventions which allow the vast majority of infants with heart defects to survive. However, these medical procedures place an enormous burden on the families of children born with congenital heart defects. In addition, many of these children who survive

infancy still face a life of dependency on medications, medical procedures, and open-heart surgeries.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help reduce these families' burden and allow them to focus their resources on providing the best possible care for their child.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S MEMORIAL DAY AND 53RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, these are troubling and arduous times for Israel. Over the past seven months, the continuous clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have claimed the lives of more than 70 Israeli citizens. Car bombings, mob attacks and widespread terrorism in residential areas have caused an outbreak of panic and worry among the residents of Israel. Men and women fear that an ordinarily simple trip to their local shopping center will result in tragedy. Children no longer feel safe to ride their school buses, for they fear that they will be the next targets of this senseless bloodshed. Sadly, terrorism and fear are everywhere, and the violence continues to escalate.

Two weeks ago, Israelis commemorated the 53rd anniversary of their independence and mourned the lives lost as they marked their Memorial Day. Grieving countrymen gathered together to remember the thousands of men and women who sacrificed their lives in the fight for Israel's existence. Those commemorating these events were reminded that despite their independence, Israel must continue in their struggle for recognition and liberty.

Before and since being elected to Congress, I have supported a strong Israel. America has had for a long time, and should continue to have for a long time, a unique relationship with Israel—the only democratic nation in the region, our most important strategic ally in this volatile area, and a nation whose founding and existence clearly makes the world a better place. I believe that the United States must continue to voice its support for Israel and for the peace process that the Israelis have courageously undertaken. As I have stated many times before, the United States must be prepared to provide the diplomatic, military, and economic support that Israel needs.

The United States plays an essential role as a broker of peace in the region. However, we must not let that role keep us from speaking the truth. I am saddened to see that optimism for quick and lasting peace in the Middle East has been thwarted by the Palestinians' continued violence. I believe it is time for our government to acknowledge that the Palestinians are contradicting the promise Chairman Arafat made in January—a promise to continue working for peace. It is time for our government to exert pressure on the Palestinians to persuade them to put an end to the uprising and to prevent terrorist attacks on Israel. If the Palestinian leaders act as the Palestine Liberation Organization of old, seeking conflict rather than peace with Israel, then we must be clear in our disapproval and resolute in our efforts to once again promote peace negotiations.

Most importantly, the Palestinians must end the violence against the Israelis, and Israel must respond, as I am confident it would, with corresponding steps to reduce the level of violence on its side. That is the only way to get back to the peace table. Only peace discussions can achieve the lasting, just peace that will best serve the interests of all Israelis, all Palestinians and indeed, all of us throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, my personal sense of commitment to Israel has only been strengthened by recent developments. We must put an end to this terror and return to a period of goodwill. I believe the same is true for many of my colleagues. Let us reaffirm our solidarity with Israel as they commemorate their independence and struggle for freedom.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I express my support for 34th annual National Nursing Home Week. When the very first National Nursing Home Week began, the theme was to let millions of Americans know the "fuller life" elderly lead in America's nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker in Woodmere, New York, there is an outstanding nursing home that I commend for giving Long Island's elderly a fuller life. Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center offers incredible rehabilitation services and skilled nursing services to Long Islanders. This year, Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center celebrates its 30th year and I am proud of their work they do.

I especially thank Director Anthony Matese, whom made changes and improved the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. The 2001 theme is the effect Nassau County nursing boxes have on the community and that nursing homes in the Nassau County area have had on the community, and how the administrators are striving to create a warm, homelike environment without an institutional atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center on their success and wish them and all our nursing homes the best during National Nursing Home Week.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA A. PHILLIPS, 2001 ATHENA AWARD HONOREE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor Judge Virginia A. Phillips, the recipient of the 2001 ATHENA of the Inland Valleys Award, which recognizes Judge Phillips for her professional excellence, community service and mentoring of fellow women.

The ATHENA Foundation Award Program originated in 1980 by Martha Mayhood Mertz,

who realized that in the 75 years of presenting community awards, her Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, of Michigan, had only once honored a woman. This realization led her to establish ATHENA so that focus would be given to the incredible number of professional women found throughout our communities nationwide.

In the 43rd congressional district Judge Virginia Phillips not only epitomizes all that the ATHENAs stand for but also all that we could possibly hope for in a role-model for the young women of today.

Judge Phillips received her B.A., Magna Cum Laude, from the University of California, Riverside in 1979, and later obtained her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law. Additionally, her professional and community activities include: Board of Directors member of the Federal Bar Association—Inland Empire Chapter; Chairperson of the City of Riverside Law Enforcement Policy Advisory Board; Board of Directors member with the Riverside Youth Center; member of the Riverside Human Relations Committee; and much, much more. Judge Phillips' life long commitment to the Inland Empire community is obvious and compelling.

Presently, Judge Phillips serves as the first female district court judge from the Inland Empire appointed to the Central District of California, which encompasses over 18 million people, with more than three million people in the Eastern Division—the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, California. And Riverside County, while being one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, has over 1.5 million people alone. In this position, Judge Phillips fills a critical need given the sheer number of cases that come before the Central District each month.

Mr. Speaker, my district is fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated community leader in Judge Phillips. She has given her time and talents providing motivation and inspiration to the young women with whom she comes into contact.

Judge Virginia Phillips' outstanding work makes me proud to call her a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Riverside, including myself, is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of our community and salute her on May 10th with the 2001 ATHENA Award.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and the many professional women of Riverside County for the good of our community. I would like to close with the ATHENA Foundation motto by Plato: "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARIA OCHOA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Maria Ochoa, Ph.D. Dr. Ochoa has been director of the Sun Gallery in Hayward, California, for five successful years and is leaving to conduct art history research. Her exemplary leadership at Sun Gallery will be missed.

Sun Gallery is a community based gallery that obtains its funding through foundation