

adverse effects of rail traffic on safety, vehicle traffic flow, or economic development; involving the vertical or lateral relocation of the rail line in lieu of the closing of a grade crossing or the relocation of a road; and provide at least as much benefit over the economic life of the project as the cost of the project. The Department of Transportation would fund 90 percent of the cost of these rail line relocation projects out of the general fund of the Treasury. The state or local government would be required to pay the remaining 10 percent, but would be allowed to cover this cost through appropriate in-kind contributions or dedicated private contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to evaluate the needs of the communities in their states in relation to the location of rail lines and join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING NATIONAL STUDENT
BUSINESS CHAMPIONS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the thirty five young men and women who comprise the 2001 National Championship Students in Free Enterprise Team from Drury University in Springfield Missouri. This is the first time in SIFE's 27 year history that a team from Missouri has won the national competition sponsored by this international organization headquartered in Springfield, Missouri.

These outstanding young academics achieved their top rating in open competition with teams from 111 other four year U.S. colleges and universities. The team took top honors for their multi-media presentation detailing their year's accomplishments.

Drury's SIFE team devoted more than 7,000 hours to 35 educational and community service projects. All of the projects were designed to develop leadership and communication skills through free enterprise education. Besides receiving excellent practical experience in business skills, the students were also investing themselves in their local and national communities.

Among their almost three dozen projects this year the team continued to develop and expand the Young Entrepreneurs Association, a web-based organization devoted to free enterprise education for middle school teachers and students. Only three years old, the program now serves 510 middle schools, representing 17 countries and all 50 states.

The Team also built on a three year relationship with an "at-risk" middle school in Laredo Texas and this year conducted a three day educational program built around the principles of free enterprise, ethical marketing and entrepreneurship. The project culminated with a "mercado," in which 800 customers purchased products designed and produced by the middle school students.

Their win qualifies them for the first SIFE World Cup, to be held in London on July 11-13. Teams from 23 nations will compete for the title of SIFE Global Champion.

SIFE is a grassroots student movement active on more than 1,000 college and university campuses in 48 states and 20 foreign coun-

tries. Seventy five percent all four year colleges and universities in the United States participate in SIFE and their programs reach some 4 million students annually.

I know my Colleagues, especially those from Missouri, join me in offering their heartiest congratulations to the team members and their advisors—Dr. Charles Taylor and Dr. Robert Wyatt at Drury University. I further offer the best wishes of all the Members of this Congress for a successful competition in London later this summer.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITIES ACT
OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 801, the Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I am proud to be able to say that the committee referred a bill that has practical and immediate effects for many veterans and their loved ones. This legislation comprehensively addresses many issues associated with veterans and their dependents.

What I would like to speak about today is one section of this legislation that I believe will have an immediate and practical effect for the surviving families of many of our recently deceased veterans.

As you may know, I recently introduced a bill, H.R. 1015, the SGLI Adjustment Act. The substantive language of this bill was incorporated by the committee directly into H.R. 801. This legislation will directly and immediately help many of the families and beneficiaries of those killed since October 1, 2000.

I am extremely pleased and grateful the Veterans Committee included my legislative language in the final version of H.R. 801.

Mr. Speaker, I know you are aware that our military has recently suffered numerous tragedies: the bombing of the USS *Cole*, the crash of an Osprey, a Blackhawk, a National Guard airplane, and the accidental bombing of our own troops in Kuwait. All of these accidents were unforeseen, and all of these accidents resulted in the tragic loss of life.

Recently, on November 1st of last year, the President signed a bill increasing this maximum benefit to 250,000 dollars. Unfortunately for those recently affected families, this increase in coverage does not take effect until April 1st of this year.

By incorporating the substantive language of my bill, we will retroactively grant this increase to those families who had opted for the maximum benefit and subsequently lost a loved one in the performance of their duty.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not thank the committee and its staff for their hard work and dedication in seeing this bill brought to the floor. In particular, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, and the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. HAYWORTH, and the gentleman from Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, for ensuring that my legislation was attached to this bill in the form of a friendly amendment.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Richmond, VA, April 4, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
U.S. Representative, 1st Congressional District of Virginia,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DAVIS: I would like to thank you for your support and concern for the members of the 203rd Red Horse Flight Virginia Air National Guard and their families as we all struggled to cope with their tragic loss. I appreciate your participation in the Memorial Service March 10th for our 18 Guardsmen who lost their lives while serving their country.

While only time will heal the wounds, I take some solace in the knowledge that H.R. 1015 was, with your steadfast support, passed overwhelmingly and the members of the National Guard will enjoy increased benefits.

Your thoughtfulness and consideration is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

GARY K. ARONHALT,
Secretary of Public Safety.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,
 Arlington, VA, March 14, 2001.

Hon. JOANN DAVIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. DAVIS: The Air Force Association applauds your efforts to include those service members killed in the line of duty and covered at the maximum limit of the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Program since November 1, 2000 under the proposed increased limits for SGLI.

Your initiative will ensure that service-families mourning these tragic losses will receive the same benefits as those affected after the passage of the legislation.

We look forward to working with you to enact this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. SHAUD,
General, USAF (Ret.).

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 14, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: On behalf of the members of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), I wish to extend our support for H.R. 1015, legislation that will provide for an increase in the amount of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of members who died in the line of duty.

With the increased level of operations for all members of the Armed Services, there have been an unfortunate increasing number of training accidents. This was all too evident when 21 members of the National Guard tragically lost their lives on March 3rd, in a military airplane crash. These good men died while serving their country, their state and their community. The severity of this accident is a grim reminder of the risks we ask of the members of the National Guard, along with all men and women who serve in uniform.

On November 1, 2000, the President signed into law S.1402 that increased the maximum benefit for the SGLI from \$200,000 to \$250,000. However, implementation of the increase was delayed until April 1, 2001. The legislation you introduced will provide those service members who previously contracted for the maximum benefit of SGLI and died in the line of duty to receive the increased maximum amount of \$250,000.

The National Guard Association of the United States fully supports your efforts and therefore I am proud to offer the endorsement of the NGAUS for H.R. 1015.

Respectfully,

RICHARD C. ALEXANDER,
Major General, OHARNG (Ret),
Executive Director.

NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Alexandria, Va., March 16, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
U.S. House of Representatives, Longworth
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Thank you for introducing legislation to provide an increase in the amount of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of members of the Armed Forces who died in the performance of duty between November 1, 2000, and April 1, 2001.

Recognizing those men and women whom made the ultimate sacrifice, and ensuring that their family members are cared for is of utmost importance to the NCOA.

The NCOA strongly supports your proposed piece of legislation. Accordingly, it will be our privilege to provide testimony on behalf of H.R. 1015, or whatever other assistance you may require.

Sincerely,

ALEX J. HARRINGTON,
Director of Legislative Affairs.

THE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, March 16, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: On behalf of the 390,000 members of The Retired Officers Association (TROA), I wish to extend our support for H.R. 1015, a bill to provide for an increase in the amount of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of members of the Armed Forces who died in the performance of duty between November 1, 2000, and April 1, 2001.

Your legislation provides an important and timely correction in the implementation of the recent increase in SGLI coverage from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The legislation is also consistent with action taken to increase SGLI after operational accidents such as the Gander, Newfoundland disaster. H.R. 1015 will ensure that those not covered at the higher SGLI level during the period between passage and implementation of the increase authorized under P.L. 106-419 will now be covered.

With the increased level of operations for all members of the Armed Services, tragic accidents are occurring more frequently. From the USS Cole to the most recent crash of an Air National Guard plane, our servicemen and women risk their lives on a daily basis. The severity of these accidents serve as a reminder that liberty is not procured without the constant vigilance of those who freely give up theirs to protect us.

TROA greatly appreciates your leadership on this issue and we offer our full endorsement of H. R. 1015, a bill that will help surviving family members to meet critical family needs following the tragic loss of their servicemembers in recent terrorist attacks or training accidents.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. NELSON,
President.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: On behalf of the 75,000 members of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, chartered by Congress in 1922 to support the development and implementation of a military policy that will provide adequate national defense for the United States, I want to congratulate you for introducing HR 1015, legislation that would provide for an increase in the amount of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SIGLI) paid to the survivors of service members who die in the line of duty. I want you to know that the Reserve Officers Association fully supports your efforts in this regard.

Since the end of the Cold War we have witnessed a three-fold increase in the level of deployments of our Armed Forces. Our men and women in uniform are increasingly called upon to support contingency operations around the world, operations that expose them to danger on a continual basis, as the headlines daily remind us. Over the past several years, members of the Reserve components have annually provided more than 12,500,000 workdays of contributory support to our Active component forces. Truly the level of our military operations is remarkable. So, too, are our men and women of the uniformed services. Your bill will help recognize the value of these contributions and of the men and women who make them.

Again, let me thank you for sponsoring HR 1015. ROA appreciates your efforts and is pleased to offer our full support.

Sincerely,

JAYSON L. SPIEGEL,
Executive Director.

ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES,

Alexandria, VA, March 19, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: On behalf of the enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) wishes to thank you for introducing H.R. 1015, a bill to increase the amount of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance paid to survivors of servicemembers who died in the performance of duty recently.

Although an increase was signed into law last November, the increase doesn't go into effect until April 1. Your bill would cover those who died in the recent tragedies and ensure that their survivors will receive the new maximum benefit.

EANGUS fully supports this bill. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our uniformed men and women who serve their country and sometimes pay the ultimate price in that service.

Working for America's Best!

MSG MICHAEL P. CLINE (RET),
Executive Director.

March 16, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: On behalf of the members of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions, I wish to extend our support for H.R. 1015, a bill to provide for an increase in the amount of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of members of the Armed Forces who died in the performance of duty between October 1, 2000, and April 1, 2001.

Your legislation provides an important and timely correction in the implementation of

the recent increase in SGLI coverage from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The legislation is also consistent with action taken to increase SGLI after operational accidents such as the Gander, Newfoundland disaster. H.R. 1015 will ensure that those not covered at the higher SGLI level during the period between passage and implementation of the increase authorized under P.L. 106-416 will now be covered.

With the increased level of operations for all members of the Armed Services, tragic accidents are occurring more frequently. From the USS Cole to the most recent crash of an Air National Guard plane, our servicemen and women risk their lives on a daily basis. The severity of these incidents serve as a reminder that liberty is not procured without the constant vigilance of our servicemembers.

The members of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue. We offer our full endorsement of H.R. 1015, a bill that will help surviving family members meet critical needs following the tragic losses of their loved ones to recent terrorist attacks or training accidents.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. EVANS,
Washington Representative.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DAVIS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States strongly supports your bill, H.R. 1015, to provide an increase in the amount of the Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of Armed Forces' members who died in the line of duty since November 1, 2000 through April 1, 2001 from its presently authorized amount of \$200,000 to the maximum amount of \$250,000. This two million-member service organization believes this is the equitable thing to do under present circumstances.

It is an unfortunate fact that, even during peacetime, military service members lose their lives while training for wartime scenarios and are targets of international terrorists. Your legislation is consistent with prior legislation taken to increase the SGLI—after the operational accident that resulted in deaths in the Gander, Newfoundland, disaster. H.R. 1015 will retroactively extend the maximum coverage five months, from November 2000 and carry it forward to 1 April of this year, when P.L. 106-419 authorizes the new maximum rate of insurance coverage. While it is impossible to place a dollar value on anyone's life, the VFW believes that the added cost of your proposal is absolutely miniscule when considering the Department of Veterans Affairs' current budget.

Again, thank you for taking the initiative to correct a small but very important gap in the life insurance program our nation provides to the military community.

Sincerely,

DENNIS C. CULLINAN,
Director, National Legislative Service.

HONORING RANNEY SCHOOL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Ranney School's dedication of