of the Pennsylvania Army Guard will deploy to Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands to provide additional security for American military bases in those countries. The Keystone Taskforce will be stationed in Europe for six months and mobilize and train in the United States this summer. Already nearly a hundred engineers from the 201st Civil Engineering Flight Air Guard unit—a.k.a. Red Horse—has made its way to central Asia to build and repair runways, continuing the fight against Al Qaeda. And, all of this follows immediately upon the return of nearly 900 Pennsylvania Air Guardsmen of the 193rd Special Operations Wing who have been flying Commando Solo PSYOPS missions over Afghanistan consistently since October of last year as an essential part of Operation Enduring Freedom/Noble Eagle.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot mention every unit or every Guardsman who has contributed during this time of War in our struggle to preserve America's democratic way of life. Each and every soldier and airman of the Pennsylvania National Guard has contributed in some way. Simply by enlisting or seeking a commission they have made themselves ready to defend this great Nation in our time of need, and have earned our thanks. Yet, so many have been called upon since September 11th to serve at home and abroad, and so many more will be deploying in the future. Each and every one of our Guardsmen has made Pennsylvania proud, and those who will deploy overseas this fall will continue to bring honor to themselves, our Guard and our Commonwealth. For this they deserve the commendation of a proud and thankful Congress of the United States.

Credit must go first to the soldiers and airmen themselves who have taken on this responsibility with patriotism and courage. We must also thank the leadership of Pennsylvania's Guard units for training our men and women to serve in peace and war, providing them with the skills they need to defend our freedom here at home and abroad. They may be citizen-soldiers, but they are indubitably professionals thanks to the leadership of our Pennsylvania Guard. Those in Congress who commend our Guardsmen today will ensure that they receive the resource they need to fight and win wars. Moreover, we resolve to work even more closely with the leadership of the Pennsylvania National Guard to make sure our men and women are properly supported.

I would like to thank our Adjutant General, Major General William Lynch, a veteran fighter pilot and an exemplary leader. His stewardship of our Guard has brought credit to our Commonwealth and pride to our units. The Pennsylvania Guard stands ready to continue serving wherever and whenever called upon, under his command. My congratulations to Deputy Adjutant Generals James Skiff and Jessica Wright for ably leading our Air Guard and Army Guard through this demanding wartime period. I am confident that our forces remain in more than capable hands with Generals Skiff and Wright at the helm.

To our Army Guard unit commanders, Major General Walter Pudlowksi of the 28th Infantry Division, and his deputies Brigadier Generals John von Trott and Wesley Craig, I give my thanks. As they prepare to lead over three thousand Pennsylvanians into Europe to defend American interests abroad, they should know that this Congress supports them and places trust in their leadership.

To Brigadier General Steve Speer of the 193rd S.O.W. my gratitude for a job well done in leading 900 officers and enlisted Air Guardsmen in Operation Enduring Freedom. You are in desperate need of new equipment to replace the forty year old aircraft that you fly today. Yet you still fly critical missions around the globe and fly more frequently than any other unit in the United States. We will take care of you, and we will supply you with the equipment you need. We thank you for your leadership in our War Against Terror.

Let me extend my thanks also to Brigadier General William Boardley and Colonel Steve Sischo, commanders of the 171st and 111th Wings. Both have led their men and women admirably in Operation Southern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom totaling over a thousand sorties for both wings combined in these wartime missions. Under your leadership our men and women have performed outstandingly under tough conditions.

The Pennsylvania Guard carries on its proud tradition and lives up to its motto: ''Civilian in peace. Soldier in war.'' We are proud of each and every one of the 22,000 Guardsmen in uniform today. This Nation owes a debt of gratitude to all of them, and to their families. For us they sacrifice their precious time in peace and potentially so much more in war. I beseech my fellow Members of Congress to resoundingly express their gratitude today for the men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Pass this resolution and send it to the Senate, so that those who serve will know that we honor them always.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1372, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I could not support this legislation that supports an organization that has acted directly against the interests of our domestic steel industry. Last year the Ex-Im Bank agreed to guarantee an $18 million loan to the Benxi Iron and Steel Company in China that allowed it to increase its steelmaking capacity. This decision, in the face of mounting bankruptcies of U.S. steel companies, was unbelievable. While our domestic steel companies were struggling for funds to keep themselves alive, the Ex-Im bank was promising funds overseas to Chinese steel.

There has been some talk that this conference report includes provisions to prevent such future lapses. I do not think that these provisions are sufficient. Furthermore, the conference committee actually took out a provision that would have required the Ex-Im Bank to reevaluate the Benxi loan guarantee. I cannot understand why this was done in the face of the ongoing crisis in the steel industry, and the clear impropriety of the Benxi decision.

I will not vote for this organization that has not stood with our domestic steel industry. I oppose this re-authorization—the Ex-Im Bank has shown through its actions that it does not merit our support until it can act responsibly and in our domestic interests.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE QUEENS GAZETTE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to The Queens Gazette, a leading community newspaper in the New York City borough of Queens.

The twentieth anniversary of the Queens Gazette is cause for celebration across the borough from Astoria to Flushing, Long Island City to Jamaica. For two decades, the Gazette has been a premiere and outstanding publication for Queens residents who value accurate and timely news coverage and in-depth reports on the neighborhood issues that matter.

In recent months, the Queens Gazette has helped raise awareness in the community on issues that affect us all. These issues range from the need to stop the Asian Longhorned Beetle from killing our trees, to the successful quest for affordable housing in Astoria's Marine Terrace housing development. The Gazette has reported, with in-depth analysis, on the campaign for increased transit connections between Long Island City's residential areas, business sectors and new public parks, retail stores, and cultural institutions. The Gazette has also provided Queens readers with consistent and accurate reporting on efforts to make LaGuardia Airport safer. Clearly, the Gazette excels in providing comprehensive news coverage in many arenas. Information on such issues, and countless others, is invaluable to the members of our community.

I look to the Queens Gazette every week for thorough reports on local news, politics and governments affairs. I always appreciate the Gazette's special editions that focus on everything from social services in Queens to a review of entertainment and cultural activities for borough residents. I commend the entire staff at the Gazette for publishing an exemplary newspaper for the community and for being an excellent source for neighborhood news.

Congratulations to Tony Barsamian, Julie Wager, John Toscano, Linda Wilson and everyone at the Gazette for twenty years of excellence in journalism and outstanding public service for the people of Queens.

In recognition of its outstanding contributions to the community, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting the Queens Gazette.