

Peace Corps connection for me is my mother, who served as a volunteer in Nepal decades ago.

Because of these connections I have a special interest in advancing the ability of the Peace Corps to play an important role in these new times.

As Americans, we have never been more proud of our country, our freedoms, our democracy, our diversity. We know how fortunate we are to live in the United States. And yet we were sent a clear message on September 11th that we are not necessarily viewed abroad the way we view ourselves at home. Why is this so? More importantly, how can we change this?

One way is to take multilateral action against terrorism, which we have done with the help of our allies in the months since 9–11. Another way is to continue to promote world peace and friendship through the people-to-people approach of the Peace Corps.

For over forty years, Peace Corps volunteers around the world have taught English and other subjects to foreign students, worked with small farmers to increase harvests, taught local people how to monitor their environment, and raised community awareness of health issues, among other things. The Peace Corps is one of the most admired and successful initiatives ever put in place.

But the Peace Corps's first director, Sargent Shriver, said in a speech at Yale last November that its founders made one mistake when they created the Peace Corps: They didn't go far enough or dream big enough. As he put it, "Our present world cries out for a new Peace Corps—a vastly improved, expanded, and profoundly deeper enterprise. . . . Peace is much more than the mere absence of war. Peace requires the simple but powerful recognition that what we have in common as human beings is more important and crucial than what divides us."

I think he was right. And the bill we are introducing today echoes that vision. The Peace Corps mission reflects the fact that with economic development and mutual understanding come greater opportunities for peace. And every small step we take to help and understand people in other countries has its own rewards.

A pebble tossed into a still pond creates ripples that begin small and grow larger. Peace Corps volunteers have had this same effect on the people they have touched. The Peace Corps experience exemplifies how individuals can make a tremendous difference in the lives and perceptions of people in developing countries as well as people right here at home.

More than 166,000 Americans have served in 135 countries over the past 40 years. Many more are prepared to serve; since the beginning of this year, requests for Peace Corps applications have increased by 77 percent. This is good news, as we are finally building solid support behind the idea of doubling the size—as well as the impact—of the Peace Corps.

It was the Reagan Administration that first articulated the notion of expanding the size of Peace Corps to 10,000 volunteers. We're pleased that President Bush has embraced this important goal and has pledged to seek to double the size to 15,000 in five years. The bill we're introducing today builds on that concept and goes beyond it to propose a new post-9-11 "Charter" for the Peace Corps.

The "Peace Corps Charter" strengthens the Peace Corps in a number of ways. It restates and further promotes its goals—to provide technical assistance to those in need around the world, to promote better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, and to bring the world home to America. It authorizes funding to allow for a Peace Corps expansion to 15,000 volunteers in five years. It reaffirms the independence of the Peace Corps. It authorizes a number of reports, such as one on host country security. It spells out a commitment to recruit and place Peace Corps volunteers in countries where they could help promote mutual understanding, particularly in areas with substantial Muslim populations. It establishes training programs for Peace Corps volunteers in the areas of education, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. It streamlines and empowers the Peace Corps Advisory Council, with an added focus of making use of the expertise of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Finally, the bill creates a grant program to enable Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to use their experience and expertise to continue to carry out the goals of the Peace Corps through specific projects.

As Sargent Shriver stated in his November speech, we need a new world of peace. Today we join with the Administration in its call for an expanded and refocused Peace Corps that can take on the new challenges that September 11th has presented to us, a Peace Corps that can be "a pragmatic and dramatic symbol of America's commitment to peace." I believe that passage of the Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century will help us head in this direction.

I look forward to working with our colleagues in the House as we move forward with this vital legislation.

RECOGNIZING JIM NEELY FOR HIS YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the years of selfless public service of a dear friend of mine, Mr. James Neely. Jim recently received the Pinnacle of Excellence Award, the highest honor offered by the people of Huntingdon, Tennessee, which I am proud to say is also the hometown of my wife, Betty Ann.

Mr. Neely and his wife, Rachel Todd Neely, live in Huntingdon in Carroll County, Tennessee. They have a daughter and son-in-law, Hope and Michael Turner, a granddaughter, Neely Turner, and a second grandchild on the way.

Jim is a graduate of Huntingdon High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin. Since that time, he has been a leader in our community and in the state, including serving as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and as President of the Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council.

Other state positions he has held include seats on the Employment Security Advisory Council, the Cabinet Council on Indigent Health Care, the Commission on Higher Education, the Advisory Council on Worker's Com-

pensation and the Safety Congress Board of Directors, which he also founded. He has chaired the Planning Committee for the Tennessee Job Partnership Council and the state Workforce Development Planning Committee.

His other accomplishments include past Chairman of the Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education and past Member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Advisory Board.

Jim has said he is proud to be from Huntingdon, Tennessee. Today, Mr. Speaker, I say that we are proud to have such a fine leader as one of our own. I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing my friend, Mr. James Neely, for all he has done to make a difference.

CONGRATULATING TIGER WOODS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer my congratulations to Tiger Woods. Over the weekend, he won the 102nd U.S. Open, held this year at Bethpage Black Golf Course.

The victory did not come easy. A strong field started the tournament on Thursday and the players had to fight through three days of torrential rain. The course, the longest in U.S. Open history, was also regarded as among the most difficult courses ever played.

But Tiger's poise and concentration, as well as wealth of talent, helped him through the week. He managed to shoot a 277, three under par. Tiger was the only golfer of the 155 that competed, who managed to finish under par.

With the victory, Tiger's tally of major tournaments won climbed to eight. He has won six of the last nine major championships, and seven of 11—an unbelievable streak.

Despite all his accomplishments, Tiger is still aiming higher. He now says he wants to win all four majors in the same year, a grand slam—something that has never been done before. But, I'm certain with Tiger's discipline and talent he will accomplish this as well.

So as I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate Tiger in his most recent victory. I would also like to congratulate and thank Tiger for being such a positive role model for our nation's children. He is a great inspiration for them. Lastly, I would like to wish him good luck in his efforts to win the grand slam and achieving all the other goals he sets for himself. He is a tremendous athlete and fine individual and deserves all the best.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. RUTH C. GIST

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Ruth C. Gist of Union, South Carolina on occasion of the Union County Pacolet River Baptist Association declaring Saturday June 22, 2002, Mrs. Ruth C. Gist Day in Union South Carolina.

Mrs. Ruth C. Gist has devoted her life to her family, her community and Christian service.

She has served as a role model for her family and fellow community members. She is described as a "woman of strong moral values, great strength, integrity and dignity."

Mrs. Ruth C. Gist has five children all of whom I have had the privilege to interact with professionally and socially. She has five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In addition, she has served as a surrogate parent to numerous other children in her church and local community all of whom she tries to serve by precept and example.

Because of her selfless devotion and tireless community service, Mrs. Gist's, church family, and the citizens of Union County have deemed it appropriate to recognize her for her years of unselfish service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Gist on this momentous day, Mrs. Ruth C. Gist Day, in Union County, South Carolina. I wish her good luck and Godspeed.

ON INTRODUCTION OF BILL THAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO STEVEN PINIAHA

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that pays tribute to an especially brave man from New Jersey, Private First Class Steven Piniha. This bill would authorize the President to award Private Piniha, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his gallantry in action near Pirkenbrunn, Germany, on April 25, 1945. For his courageous and selfless actions on the battlefield, this man is truly a great American patriot.

In response to the call of duty, Private Piniha was unable to dislodge a force of enemy riflemen from their dug-in positions on a hillside with tank fire. Private Piniha dismounted his tank and boldly stormed the hill. Although twice thrown to the ground by concussion grenades he continued forward until he was mere yards from the enemy and then forced the surrender of twelve of the enemy. Private Piniha's fearless courage, dauntless initiative and devotion to duty reflect credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest military traditions.

After leaving the service, Mr. Piniha, spent a quarter of a century coaching little league baseball and football. He is married and has eight grownup children. He is currently retired.

Although the American colonists were victorious in the revolutionary war 219 years ago, the American pursuit of liberty did not end there. Throughout the past 2 centuries, young Americans like Private Piniha have fought to preserve our country's values both inside and outside its borders. In this struggle, one of our most valuable resources has been our soldiers and their dedication to upholding American ideals.

This July 4th, when we celebrate the birth of our beloved nation and all it means to us, we must acknowledge the brave and selfless actions of dedicated American soldiers like Private Piniha. Through his courageous military service, Private Piniha has done his part to ensure that America may celebrate its independence year after year.

I urge support for this bill that honors Private Piniha's contribution to American military history. Thanks to brave soldiers like Private Piniha, we retain our freedom and we protect democracy around the world. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Private Piniha's sacrifice for our nation.

HONORING ERNEST R. GRECCO

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ernest R. Grecco, an extraordinary leader and community activist who serves as President of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions. Mr. Grecco is recognized for his commitment to "the right of all working people to join unions" and his ongoing work in serving the Baltimore area.

Mr. Grecco's distinguished involvement with the labor movement has flourished since his initial engagement while working for Calvert Distilleries. Ernest Grecco's perseverance and open mindedness have allowed him to rise through the ranks of AFL-CIO Unions leadership. First serving as the COPE Director of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions in 1976, he became the director of the Maryland State and District of Columbia branch of this organization in 1983. Then in 1987, as a result of his genuine dedication to bettering the lives of people, Mr. Grecco advanced to his current role as the President of Metropolitan Baltimore division of this organization.

Since then, Ernest Grecco has maintained his commitment in providing services to working people. His support for the Community Service division of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions has strengthened projects in areas of education, job placement and community action.

However, his message of hard work, dedication and justice is not confined to the labor movement. Ernest Grecco is extensively involved in all facets of the community. Not only is he the Secretary of the United Way Board of Directors, but Mr. Grecco also serves as a member of the Private Industry Council, the Governor's Work Force Investment Board and the Empower Baltimore Committee, among countless other distinguished organizations.

Through all his public service, Mr. Grecco has distinguished himself in the state of Maryland. He proclaimed that "Labor is alive and well in Maryland" and works hard each day to improve the lives of workers.

In July, Mr. Grecco will be celebrating his 60th birthday with family and friends. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Ernest R. Grecco for his service to the AFL-CIO Unions and devotion to the people of Maryland.

CONGRATULATING THE WILLIAMS SISTERS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Williams sisters on their mag-

nificent play during the 2002 French Open. The two sisters, Venus and Serena, met recently in the finals of the French Open and provided an exciting game for us to watch. In the end, Serena defeated her big sister in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3 to become champion. It was a great match and I look forward to watching them compete in the future. I would not be surprised to see them competing against each other in other finals over the next few years.

Recently, Venus was ranked number one in the world by the Women's Tennis Association. And Serena was ranked number two. It is the first time sisters have ever held the top two spots in the world. It is quite an accomplishment.

Venus and Serena have dominated the tennis scene since they arrived in 1994 and 1997, respectively. Together, they have won over 27 tournaments and six grand slam titles. When Venus won the 2000 Wimbledon championship, she became the first female black champion since 1958 when Althea Gibson won the title. In the same year, she teamed up with her sister to win the doubles championship. Venus went on to win Wimbledon last year and is the top ranked woman this year. She also won the Olympic gold medal for singles and doubles in the Sydney Games. To win the Olympic doubles gold medal, she paired up with Serena. The two sisters overwhelmed the competition with power and hard work, winning the gold medal match 6-1, 6-1. With that victory, Venus became the first woman, since 1924, to win the gold in singles and doubles competition.

Serena is also quite accomplished. She has fifteen career wins under her belt. As I mentioned, she won her second Grand Slam title at the French Open this year, her first coming at the 1999 U.S. Open. When she won that title, Serena became the lowest seed to win the women's title in the Open era. She is ranked number two at Wimbledon this year.

So it appears that most expect the sisters to reach the Wimbledon finals this year. If it does happen, it would be the third all-Williams Grand Slam final in 10 months. And their seventh championship in the past 12 Grand Slam singles events.

In closing, I wish Venus and Serena the best of luck at Wimbledon and offer my sincere congratulations to them for their remarkable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brookland Baptist Church, of West Columbia, South Carolina, on the occasion of their Centennial year.

This Sunday, June 23, 2002, will be Brookland Baptist Church's Men's Day Celebration during which they will celebrate 100 years of Christian service. Although this church—as many others—is made of bricks and mortar, to its community it symbolizes the body of Christ. In times of need, Brookland Baptist has been, and continues to be, a place of comfort and support. In times of joy, it has