

is a welcome addition to this to this wonderful park, and one that has been long sought.

The monument itself has long stood as an inspiring reminder of the enduring peace of nearly two centuries between the United States and Canada. It is a moving and educational destination for thousands of families.

The park and monument commemorate one of the most important and decisive battles in American history. The victory of Commodore Perry and American naval forces over the British off the shores of this island changed the course of American history, and facilitated the westward movement of our nation across the continent. It ushered in an unprecedented period of peace and friendship.

The visitors' center for the first time provides a means of explaining to visitors the significance of these events. It is the culmination of the efforts of many over a period of years. Some years ago I met with the leaders of the Perry Group, citizens joined together to promote this park, to begin discussions regarding the need for this center and how to achieve it. I commend the group and its strong leaders such as Judge George Smith and Ann Heidenreich Fisher for their tireless and successful work.

I was fortunate to obtain approximately two million dollars in federal funds so that this project could come to fruition, and I wish to thank my colleague, Congressman RALPH REGULA, for his invaluable help in making it happen. I also commend the superintendents at the park during this period for their efforts in support of this center, including our current Superintendent Ralph Moore, and his predecessors Dick Lusardi and Phyllis Ewing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the diligent effort and unwavering spirit of those individuals determined to see this project through to completion. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens who care about the education that future generations receive so that our historical landmarks are preserved well into the future. I am confident that this new visitors' center will serve as an educational tool for all, and be our link to a piece of American, and Ohio, history.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 24, 2002 I missed the following votes. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on the following votes:

Rollcall Vote No. 249—H.R. 3937, a bill to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

Rollcall Vote No. 250—H.R. 3786, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Boundary Revision Act of 2002.

Rollcall Vote No. 251—H.R. 3971, a bill to provide for an independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment or turnover.

Rollcall Vote No. 252—H.J. Res. 95, Designating an Official Flag of the Medal of Honor and Providing for Presentation of that Flag to each Recipient of that Medal of Honor.

#### REAFFIRMING OUR SUPPORT FOR NATO AND ENLARGEMENT

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a Resolution which addresses the importance of NATO, its future, enlargement and continued U.S. support for the Alliance.

In just five months, the Heads of State and leadership of NATO will meet in Prague to, among other things, discuss the future of the Alliance and its capability to address new and emerging threats and to make a decision on the enlargement of the alliance. It has been eight months since the House of Representatives debated NATO enlargement and overwhelmingly passed the Gerald Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act.

Since then, there has been a great deal of debate within the Bush Administration, within the international community of experts and among the NATO partners with respect to NATO's future.

But since we last discussed whether new members should be invited into NATO, I felt we should take a moment to discuss exactly what type of alliance we will be inviting new members to join and what we believe the role of this alliance should be in the future. I also wanted to address the relationship between NATO and Russia which many Members raised during the House debate on the Solomon bill last November.

To that end, as Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee I held three comprehensive hearings on the question of NATO and enlargement. We heard from outside experts, we met with the Ambassadors of the ten candidate states and we heard from the Bush Administration and our SACEUR. The resolution I am introducing today is the work product of those hearings and all the other meetings and briefings which have taken place in between.

Clearly, NATO must maintain its political purpose and military coherence.

In this context, I disagree with those who believe that in this post-Cold War and post-September 11 era, NATO may no longer be relevant to the overall security of the United States.

NATO is indeed relevant to the U.S. NATO remains the foundation of American security policy in Europe. NATO has proven to be a strong and viable alliance preserving the collective security of Europe for over 53 years.

Back in 1949, when the Senate debated the ratification of the North Atlantic Treaty there was concern about what Article 5 would commit the U.S. to do in Europe. Isn't it ironic that the first time in 53 years Article 5 was invoked, as it was on September 12, it was invoked by our allies in defense of the U.S.

NATO was relevant in ending the brutal conflicts in both Bosnia and Kosovo. Today, our NATO Allies provide eighty percent of the military forces remaining in those countries. And, NATO, working with the European Union, was instrumental in helping resolve the problem in Macedonia before things got out of hand.

Since September 11, NATO's relevance has been clear with respect to the campaign against global terrorism and the war in Afghanistan. Although the Afghan campaign was

never a NATO operation, fourteen of our allies from NATO, with some 5,000 troops are operating today side-by-side with U.S. military forces in Afghanistan as many of them have been since the first days of the conflict. Just last week command of the International Security Force transferred from British forces to Turkish forces, both NATO partners. Where would the U.S. effort be if these NATO partners considered themselves too irrelevant to help keep the peace in Afghanistan. Whose 5,000 troops would be patrolling the streets of Kabul if not for NATO forces.

I also disagree with those who believe that unless NATO is willing to undergo major restructuring to become a global rapid reaction force in the war on terrorism, it can no longer be relevant. Global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction are challenges worthy of NATO concern and capability to act against and NATO must seriously address these issues between now and Prague. But at the Ministers meeting in Reykjavik in May and the Defense Ministerial in June, NATO leaders did address the realities of the new and emerging threats and have committed, with strong U.S. support, to build the capabilities necessary to address them. For many, NATO does not have to be present in places like the Philippines, or Sudan or Kashmir or even Iraq to be relevant. These matters, while important, should not be seen as the only issues which define NATO for the future.

With respect to Russia, I believe the concerns expressed by some of our Colleagues last November and since then had great merit and needed to be clarified by NATO. At the Iceland summit, the U.S. and NATO initiated a new relationship with Russia which resulted in the formation of a new NATO-Russia Council which was inaugurated in June at the Rome summit between NATO heads of state and Russia President Putin. I believe this new relationship represents a breakthrough in NATO-Russia relations and should address the concerns of many.

Finally, an essential aspect of NATO is the welcoming of new members into the alliance.

I believe enlarging NATO does contribute to the overall security of the United States because membership in NATO does enhance overall European stability and security. We are encouraged by the number of applicants for NATO membership and their dedication and enthusiasm to achieving that goal. As we all know, there are ten applicant countries who have decided that NATO is certainly relevant to them and an organization in which they wish to be a member. But, NATO membership for them is more than joining a military alliance. For them, it will be a validation of their return to being democratic, European and pro-western states. The process under which these applicants are being evaluated, called the Member Action Plan, has been a useful tool for us to analyze their own commitment to meeting the political, economic and military standards expected of all members of the Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution addresses all of these issues in a comprehensive way. Our Subcommittee intends to mark this resolution in the Fall and will consider endorsing candidate countries for NATO membership at that time and based on the best information we have on their readiness to contribute to the overall security of the Alliance. It is my hope that the House Leadership will then make time

for another opportunity to debate NATO and the enlargement issue.

Mr. Speaker, I believe NATO is as important for transatlantic security today than it was fifty three years ago when it was created. I ask my Colleagues to cosponsor my resolution and to continue to support NATO.

**SUPPORTING H.R. 4635—ARMING  
PILOTS AGAINST TERRORISM ACT**

**HON. JIM MATHESON**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4635 the Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act. This is a very sensible piece of legislation. We have a duty to provide pilots with the same tools shop keepers and mall security guards and others use in the protection of their property and the safety of their customers.

As the events of the morning of September 11 unfolded, the President gave the Air Force the authority to shoot down any commercial airline that did not respond to authorities. For the first time in our history, the American military had the authority to take action against American civilians.

That single horrible thought—that the United States government might have to use lethal force against American citizens who were unlucky enough to get on the wrong flight—should give us enough reason to pass this legislation.

Pilots need a last line of defense. They need the ability to defend the plane, the cockpit, and most of all, the passengers. We need to give our pilots the same opportunity for self-defense our Constitution provides to everyone else.

This is a good compromise. It is the product of good legislating workmanship by Chairman YOUNG, Chairman MICA, and Congressmen OBERSTAR and LIPINSKI. It is an example that debates about the Second Amendment need not be filled with mischaracterized rhetoric, but rather be premised on what's good for the American people.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall votes 247 through 257 on June 21, 24, and 25, 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 247. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 248 through 257.

**HONORING STUDENTS, PARENTS,  
TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS  
OF CSD 30**

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge to the parents, teachers and stu-

dents of Community School District 30 in Queens, NY.

Community School District 30, comprised of the neighborhoods of Sunnyside, Woodside, Astoria, Long Island City, Jackson Heights, and East Elmhurst is one of America's most diverse school districts and truly represents the face of America.

School District 30 serves some of the most diverse students in New York City and over 50 languages are spoken in the homes of the kids who go there.

A recent state-mandated report noted that the most recently reported test scores are among the best in the city.

In fact, for 2 years in a row, the district beat its target scores on State tests. And this year the suspension rate is down by 58.9 percent. These results are not coincidence. These results are because of the district's commitment to improving its schools. They employ innovative approaches to addressing the problems faced by all schools such as peer mediation and crisis intervention before students become a problem. Their Operation Return program, sends students with disciplinary problems to one school where they can get one-to-one counseling and receive excellent instruction in small groups. The program gives the kids confidence they need to succeed when they return to their permanent schools.

School District 30 is a wonderful story and credit is due to a lot of people, but one I would like to credit is superintendent, Dr. Angelo Gimondo. And also the wonderful United Federation of Teachers members who give their heart and soul to teaching the kids of School District 30. School District 30 can serve as an example, not only for other school districts, but also for us in Congress. School District 30 is an example of what happens when public officials—who provide adequate funding for educational programs—work with teachers, parents, and administrators to care for our young people.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 2002, due to a delayed flight, I missed three votes on the House floor.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 249, 250, and 251.

**HONORING JUSTICE MOSES M.  
WEINSTEIN**

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Justice Moses M. Weinstein, a distinguished public servant and a good friend on the occasion of his very special birthday.

Moses Weinstein served for eleven years in the New York State Assembly, where he was Majority Leader from 1965 to 1968. He was Speaker of the Assembly in 1968 and served

as Acting Governor of the State of New York during August 1968. In 1970, Moses Weinstein was elected to a fourteen-year term as a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York State.

During his time as a legislator, Justice Weinstein sponsored the following important pieces of legislation: Creation of Crime Victims Compensation Board; creation of Temporary State Commission for Transplantation of Vital Organs; increasing number and amount of Regent Scholarships; and creating Mid-Atlantic States Air Pollution Control Committee.

Justice Weinstein has also been an integral member of his local community. The following is a list of some of his countless activities in his home community: Director and Treasurer of the Queens County Multiple Sclerosis Society; organizer of the Queens Children's Rehabilitation Service; charter board member of the Mid-Queens Child Guidance Center; and counsel to the Kew Gardens Hills Athletic Association.

Justice Weinstein has also been the recipient of countless awards and dedications. Among his awards are: "Human Rights" award from B'nai B'rith for "outstanding and distinguished leadership in the cause of human rights"; and commendation during Battle of the Bulge, United States Army; U.S.O. Man of the Year; Queens Lighthouse Man of the Year; Distinguished Service Award from the Queens Country Optometrical Society; Anti-Defamation League award from B'nai B'rith; Annual Legislative Award from the Jewish War Veterans of New York State; Annual Meritorious Citation from Affiliated Young Democrats of New York State; "Man of the Year" award, 1983, from Brooklyn Law School; Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, 1983, by Brooklyn Law School; President, Zion Organization of Kew Gardens Hills; Member of the National Executive Committee of Zionist Organization; President, Patrons Club of Long Island Zionist Region; Long Island Chairman of Israel Bonds Campaign; and United Jewish Appeal, Chairman.

Justice Weinstein is a resident of Kew Gardens Hills where he lives with his wonderful wife, the former Muriel Marshall. The Weinsteins are the proud parents of three sons, each of whom have followed their father's example into the field of law. His son Jonathan is currently a Supreme Court Examiner in Queens County; his son Peter, formerly a State Senator in Florida, is presently a Circuit Court Judge; and his son Jeremy, a former New York State Senator, is a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Justice M. Weinstein on this special birthday occasion. Justice Weinstein's illustrious career, tireless dedication and unmatched kindness will be a beacon of guidance for future generations of civil servants, jurors and legislators.

**CONGRATULATING MS. DELORES  
A. HOLMES**

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Ms. Delores