

their relative's name engraved on the marble, and understood something about their family they never really knew before. One daughter of a victim from Texas, Raye Adkins, who was born after her father's death and was named for him, has dedicated herself to researching the families of the victims.

One year ago, several dozen Members of the Congress joined me in sending a letter to President Bush, asking that he examine the Port Chicago case and the impressive record developed in conjunction with the Meeks pardon. We asked him to use his Executive powers to grant clemency to all the sailors prosecuted for protesting the racism under which they were forced to live and work, even as they served their nation during a war against racism and persecution. I am so pleased that the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha, a sorority with more than 140,000 members throughout the nation, has sent dozens upon dozens of names on a petition to the President urging him to accede to this request for his intervention.

The Port Chicago story lives on as an increasingly fascinating piece of U.S. history and as a moving tribute to the men who served and died that terrible night 58 years ago. I know the Members of the House of Representatives join me in honoring all the men of Port Chicago for their selfless service, their courage and their sacrifice.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO
MS. IDA HILL-MOORE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a special birthday tribute to Ms. Ida Hill-Moore, who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Saturday, July 20th.

Ms. Hill-Moore was born in Columbia, South Carolina and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She attended Detroit Public schools, after which she attended many institutions of higher education.

Ida Hill-Moore has dedicated her life to her family and friends in all of the communities in which she has lived. She loved her two sons, John and Jeffery, very dearly. Sadly, both have passed away.

In 1957, Ms. Hill-Moore moved to Los Angeles, California, where she worked for the Los Angeles Police Department. Afterward, she worked for the prestigious Los Angeles County Museum. Ms. Hill-Moore has a long history of civic duty and continues to remain active in her community. She has served as a Member of the Conference of Concerned Citizens, and she is the current President of Angeles Place residential home.

I am proud to join Ms. Hill-Moore's family and friends as we celebrate her commitment and dedication to her family, friends and humanity itself. Today, I wish you a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN GABRIEL/POMONA VALLEY C.O.P.E. OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FEDERATION OF LABOR FOR OVER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley Council on Political Education (C.O.P.E.) for more than 50 years of leadership and service to the Southern California community.

The San Gabriel/Pomona Valley C.O.P.E. has championed the rights of working men and women throughout the community. Through its large network of dedicated union members and their families, C.O.P.E. has actively worked to improve wages, working conditions, health care, education, and the overall quality of life of every worker.

Much of the success of the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley C.O.P.E. is attributed to the efforts of its membership and the tremendous commitment of its leadership. Today, I would like to recognize the service of past leaders that played an important role in the organization's well-being, namely: Arnold F. Hackman, Meat Cutters Local Union #439; Dallas Jones, formerly of the Los Angeles County Firefighters Local #1014 and now serving as Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the State of California; William R. Lathrop, United Food & Commercial Workers Union #1167; Jesse Martinez, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local #1976, #309, and #409; Joseph R. Rocha, Laborers International Union of North America Local #1082; Herb Schisler, Los Angeles County Firefighters AFL-CIO Local #1014; and John M. Wolsdorf, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers AFL-CIO Local #1710.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley C.O.P.E. for their work and contributions to this great nation.

COMMENDING THE COMMUNITY OF LAMAR COUNTY, TEXAS, ON THE PURCHASE OF THE OLD PARIS POST OFFICE

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the vision and leadership of the leaders of Lamar County, Texas, the commitment of its citizens and the recognition of the success that can occur when the federal and local governments work together for the common good.

Tomorrow, on July 19, 2002, the Lamar County Commissioners Court will save a building in Paris, Texas, that reflects the history of this community. Further, the Court will give the building new life and a new public purpose.

In a matter of hours, Lamar County will approve the purchase of the historical Paris Post Office from the United States Postal Service.

This building will be used for courtrooms, office space, and other public purposes. The building will be a center of justice and local government for generations to come.

Our nation is a nation of laws. Our constitution is strong, enduring and based on principles of right and wrong. We believe in freedom, justice and certain unalienable rights that are extended to all people. Many of these issues are considered daily in courthouses all across America.

A courthouse is more than bricks and mortar. A courthouse is a physical testament to the commitment of the American people to the principles we hold dear. Times change. Society changes. Other buildings may come and go.

But a court house remains—visible, strong, and permanent. A courthouse reassures our citizens that our law is here today, was here yesterday and will be here tomorrow.

In addition to being used a courthouse, this historic building will provide the citizens of Paris and Lamar County with additional public space to be used in a way that is deemed appropriate by the community and its leaders. Those uses may change from year to year. This is as it should be. A building such as this recognizes both the stability of our society and the changing needs of that society.

I think it is entirely fitting and proper that the United States House of Representatives recognize and commend Lamar County Judge M.C. Superville, and County Commissioners Michael R. Blackburn, Rodney C. Pollard, Carl L. Steffey, and Jackie Wheeler for their vision in making this opportunity available to the citizens of Lamar County.

The acquisition of this facility by Lamar County is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when we all work together. I appreciate the commitment of the local citizens and the generous attitude of the United States Postal Service. Both were necessary to complete this project.

As a result of their efforts, the public has been well served.

REGARDING H.R. 5067, TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN FROM MICRONESIA WHO RESIDE IN THE U.S.

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, Micronesians residing in the U.S. are classified as lawful non-immigrants and are unable to obtain federal health care services. They cannot obtain Medicaid benefits even though they are members of our local communities and pay taxes.

Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau have made sacrifices for the U.S. The U.S. tested a total of 67 atomic and hydrogen bombs between 1946 and 1958 at the Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the Marshall Islands. The effects of these tests are still felt throughout the region.

Additionally, the Compact of Free Association prevents other countries from entering into

military alliances with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Such military alliances could threaten the security of our nation. Between 1918 and 1941, foreign powers did occupy these islands. And as history will recall, many World War II battles were fought in the islands fortified and occupied by Japan. The Compact prevents this from happening again.

In the Compact, the U.S. government promised to assist Micronesians in exchange for their continued sacrifices. The U.S. agreed to foster economic development and help these countries become self-sufficient.

This same treaty allows Micronesians to freely migrate to the U.S. According to the 2000 Census, 115,247 Micronesians are living in the U.S. Most Micronesians do not become citizens, yet they become members of our communities. They are here legally. They pay taxes, attend our schools, and join our military. They work with and for us. Nevertheless, the federal government denies Medicaid health care benefits to noncitizens and lawful non-immigrants.

My bill, H.R. 5067, will give Micronesian children and pregnant women legally residing in the U.S. access to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Micronesians should be covered because it is in the interest of our nation to improve the public's health, which includes basic health care for poor children and pregnant women regardless of their nationality or citizenship status.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5067 and help the U.S. fulfill its commitment to our neighbors and coworkers from Micronesia. They made sacrifices to ensure the security of our nation. It is time for our nation to fulfill its promises.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to bear witness to the 100th Anniversary of the Faith United Methodist Church in Dickinson, Texas. This extraordinary religious community traces its roots back more than a century to the establishment of the Warren Chapel in the town of Dickinson in 1901. Six years later, the Methodist community in League City founded their own chapel in 1907. These two communities, separated by a mere seven miles shared both the trials and the joys of life together and in June of 1967, the two congregations merged to form the Faith United Methodist Church.

On September 7, this community will commemorate its Centennial with the unveiling of a Texas historical marker celebrating 100 years of faith and community. I ask you to join me in recognizing this remarkable congregation's faith and sense of community that has passed the test of time and remains a shining example of America's strength and unity.

PROTECT CONSUMERS' RIGHT TO TAKE COMPANIES TO COURT WHEN DISAGREEMENTS ARISE

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Consumer Fairness Act of 2002," a bill to address arbitration clauses that are unilaterally imposed on consumers as unfair and deceptive trade practices and prohibit their use in consumer transactions.

Increasingly, companies such as banks and credit card companies, computer makers, insurance firms and car dealers are requiring customers to waive their right to sue when a disagreement occurs. Furthermore, these mandatory arbitration clauses are usually not clearly disclosed in agreements and contracts.

Requiring consumers, as a mandatory condition of providing a service or selling a good, to waive his or her right to pursue a grievance through the United States justice system is problematic for several reasons.

Arbitration can cost more than pursuing a case in court, with fees that often run into the thousands of dollars.

Arbitration limits the evidence that can be used.

Arbitration usually does not allow for appeals.

To address these problems, this Act would prohibit companies from using clauses in contracts and sales agreements that require consumers to agree, in advance, to submit any disagreements to arbitrators. Such clauses ban consumers from suing a company and participating in class action lawsuits. This legislation protects consumers' right to sue and clarifies that consumers can choose to resolve their disputes with companies through arbitration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation for all consumers in America.

RECOGNIZING MCQUADE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McQuade Children's Services, located in New Windsor, NY, for its dedicated service to special needs children of the Hudson Valley. On Sunday, July 21, McQuade Children's services celebrates its 140th birthday.

McQuade's service to Hudson Valley residents dates back to 1862, when it was founded as a home for orphaned or abandoned children. Established by the Newburgh Union Female Guardian Society as the "Home for the Friendless," it was renamed in 1945 to commemorate the life of Dr. Milton Ash McQuade.

Dr. McQuade was an ear, nose and throat specialist who himself was abandoned at a church doorstep as a baby and raised by the Reverend McQuade and his wife. Dr. McQuade emigrated from Canada to Newburgh, NY in 1914 to establish a medical prac-

tice and throughout the years, supported the Home and provided free medical care to the children. Upon his death in 1928, Dr. McQuade dedicated much of his estate to the Home, enabling it to continue to provide services throughout difficult times such as the Great Depression.

Today, McQuade Children's Services provides quality care in a variety of settings to 300 children and their families. Its mission, however, has remained one of providing an accepting, nurturing environment for children. Putting "Children First" is not just a pledge taken annually by staff, but a philosophy that is truly internalized by all those who help McQuade's succeed.

The services available to children are vast and varied, ranging from therapeutic residential care to special education. McQuade's facilities and programs include: a boys and girls Residential Treatment Center, the Kaplan School for special education, Diagnostic Assessment Centers, and community programs focused on family counseling and independent living skills. Teaching responsibility and imparting values to children, McQuade's staff works tirelessly to provide social, academic, physical and spiritual growth.

McQuade's numerous success stories are a testament to its importance to the Hudson Valley community. The McQuade staff and volunteers share an unparalleled commitment to improving the lives of children in need. Once again, I commend McQuade Children's Services for providing quality care to children for well over a century and I look forward to celebrating their 140th anniversary this coming Sunday, July 21, 2002.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, the United States government has a history of leasing lands belonging to Indian tribes and individual Indians. The government has been receiving grazing, timber and mineral royalties from the lease of these lands—royalties that the government was supposed to hold in trust for the rightful owners of the lands.

Unfortunately, the United States government has admitted that it mismanaged these trust funds for decades and lost the money of our nation's first peoples. Federal courts have ruled that the government owes Indians an historical accounting of all Indian trust funds going back to the date the funds were deposited.

This bill includes provisions to restrict the ability of the Federal government to provide an accounting of Indian trust funds. The bill even presumes that all trust fund records prior to 1985 were correct. These provisions defy court decisions and have no place in an appropriations bill.