

this, the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Women's Caucus. With a collective voice, we say thanks to a woman who helped shape the voice of women in Congress.

Since its founding, the Congressional Women's Caucus has championed issues that affect the lives of women and families. The women's caucus has fought for gender equality in the workplace and in schools. It has worked to promote women's health issues and protect victims of domestic and violent crimes. From Congresswoman Boggs' vision to today, the Congressional Women's Caucus has become the primary voice of women in Congress.

Thank you, Congresswoman Boggs for your work and dedication to the people of Louisiana and of this country. Thank you for your dedication to the women of this country. And, thank you for your leadership and inspiration. I am honored to represent you in the Congress and to serve the people of the 2nd District of Louisiana as you did so honorably for so many years.

CONTINUING AZERI WAR
RHETORIC THREATENS PEACE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the continuing war rhetoric coming from Azerbaijan regarding Nagorno Karabagh.

Following the fall of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan launched a military offensive against Nagorno Karabagh in a failed attempt to impose its rule.

In 1994, a cease-fire was negotiated which is still in effect.

However, that fragile cease-fire is presently being undermined by calls for a military solution from senior Azeri officials.

A recent example was in a July 2, 2002 speech by Azeri President Heydar Aliyev where he said, "we will return our land by any means."

This type of irresponsible war rhetoric makes the OSCE peace mission co-chaired by the United States incalculably more difficult and serves to mislead the citizens of Azerbaijan into thinking a second military offensive is preferable to negotiations.

The United States must stand strongly against Azerbaijan's threats to insure a peaceful resolution to this dispute.

NATHAN WEINBERG

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to recognize the accomplishments of Nathan Weinberg and thank him for his service to his country and his community as he retires as a trustee of the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation and his appointment as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

After his family emigrated from Eastern Europe, Nathan Weinberg, the sixth of seven children, was born in America in 1917. In 1941, he was inducted into the U.S. Army and on December 25, 1945, Mr. Weinberg was discharged as a 2nd Lieutenant after service in Texas, Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines.

After returning home to Baltimore, Mr. Weinberg worked in real estate and lived briefly in Texas and Pennsylvania working on business interests of his brother, Harry Weinberg. He remained a member of the standby reserve until October 1995 when he was honorably discharged.

In 1960, Mr. Weinberg became an active officer and trustee of the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation. Since his brother Harry's death in 1990, Mr. Weinberg has remained one of five trustees to the Foundation, which is one of the largest private foundations in the United States. His leadership on the board has included projects supported by his brother, particularly housing and amenities for the elderly from Coney Island to Tel Aviv to Hawaii.

Mr. Weinberg was appointed Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army in 2000. His military experience and his dedication to the Maryland Army National Guard has provided leadership, friendship and financial support for community outreach.

Mr. Weinberg has a strong sense of family and a firmly held belief in equality and equitable treatment for all people. At ground breakings and ribbon cuttings, he is not shy about expressing his concern for the welfare of the audience, unhappy that the dignitaries receive special treatment while the audience is left to stand, swelter in the heat or freeze in the cold. His sense of justice guides his dealings with others and he expects others to pass along that philosophy as well. He is a leader by example and deeds.

I would ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Mr. Weinberg on a life well lived and in thanking him for his service to his country. Our appreciation extends to his family, his wife Lillian and his three sons, Donn, Glenn and Joseph their wives and children.

EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY
SERVICE ACT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Excellence in Military Service Act."

This legislation would increase the active duty service obligation (ADSO) of Military Service Academy graduates from five to eight years. Many Americans do not realize that this free and highly competitive college education costs the average taxpayer approximately \$300,000 per cadet/midshipman.

While I believe that investing in our military is critical to the future stability of our nation, I do not think it is fair to burden the taxpayer with this expense without requiring academy graduates to exhibit a similar commitment in their ADSO. I maintain it is not unreasonable that in return for a free education, with a monetary allowance, that a graduating cadet/mid-

shipman be required to commit to a longer period of obligated service upon commissioning.

As college tuitions continue to skyrocket, I believe our U.S. military academies will become even more attractive to prospective college students. In light of this fact, we need to ensure that a free education does not become a primary motivation for future applicants. I maintain that increasing the ADSO is an effective way to accomplish this without jeopardizing the viability of these historic institutions. I hope my colleagues will join with me in cosponsoring this legislation, and I look forward to working with them to protect the U.S. taxpayers' investment in our nation's future and ensure the integrity of one of our nation's most precious resources.

HUNGER RELIEF

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in honoring my friend, Congressman TONY P. HALL, a tireless advocate for hunger relief programs and improving international human rights conditions.

Congressman HALL's 30 plus years of service to the people of Ohio is indicative of the dedication he holds for improving the lives of all Americans. No one compares to TONY when it comes to his experience and knowledge on human rights, child welfare and survival, and global development. It has been a distinct privilege to serve in the House with him for the past 23 years.

Mr. HALL and I hold a special bond, not only did we both begin our service in the House in January 1979, but we also have experience serving in our state's legislatures. In the beginning, we were able to draw on these similarities the trappings and pitfalls facing new members of Congress, and then use this knowledge to grow as public servants and legislators.

TONY will soon be embarking on a new adventure. He'll bring his lifelong devotion to easing hunger across the globe and improving food security to Rome, Italy as he assumes the position of United States ambassador to the United Nations food and agriculture organizations. I think it is safe to say that we can send no one who would better represent the United States in these important institutions.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I extend my sincerest thanks to my friend, Congressman TONY HALL, and wish he and Mrs. Hall all the best as they embark on this new journey.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH
OF THE EPIPHANY

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 100th Anniversary of Epiphany Catholic Church in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

The Church of the Epiphany was established when the St. Paul Cathedral was

moved from downtown to Oakland more than 100 years ago. The cornerstone for the new church was blessed on August 10, 1902. The boundaries of the old Cathedral parish became the boundaries for the Church of the Epiphany's parish. From 1903 until 1906, when the new Cathedral was finished, Epiphany served as the interim Cathedral.

The Church is a beautiful red brick structure built in the Romanesque style. It was designed by Edward Stotz at the turn of the last century with a pair of twin towers, slate roofs, and terra cotta trim. The church design also features several statues from the old Cathedral. The interior decoration was designed by John Comes, who designed a number of Catholic churches in the Pittsburgh area. Most of the original artwork has been preserved and restored.

Father Lawrence O'Connell founded Church of the Epiphany and was its pastor for its first 54 years. He is credited with developing and operating parish programs that ably served downtown residents, workers, and the many immigrants who were streaming into Pittsburgh at that time. Under his leadership, the parish created and ran a residence for working women, a nursery, a home for infants, a home for older children, an elementary school, summer camp for under privileged children, an athletic association for young men, a prison ministry, and other religious, cultural, and education programs. In the first half of the 20th century, the Church served a parish of roughly 2,000 families.

Over time, however, the neighborhood changed. Grand plans for the first Pittsburgh renaissance dictated that much of the land covered by the parish be converted to new uses. In 1957, much of the Lower Hill neighborhood around Epiphany, including church property, was razed as part of an urban redevelopment project. Eighteen hundred families were relocated, and only 350 parishioner families remained.

The urban renewal efforts of the late 1950s and early 1960s marked the beginning of a difficult time for the Church of the Epiphany. Due to declining enrollment, for example, Epiphany School was closed in 1973—after 70 years of educating children from the community. Against all odds, the parish has struggled valiantly to survive under the leadership of a series of worthy successors to Father O'Connell. The 1960s and 1970s were a challenging time, but the congregation of the Church of the Epiphany preserved, and the Church carved out a new mission for itself in the dramatically different Lower Hill area of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Father Jim Garvey, the current pastor of Epiphany Catholic Church, and his congregation on the momentous occasion of the Church's 100th anniversary—and I want to share with them my best wishes for the future.

SAVE HISTORIC VETERANS
BUILDINGS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for more than 40 years, since the enactment by Con-

gress of the landmark National Historic Preservation Act, preservation of our historic landmarks has been a mission of the Federal government and its agencies. That is no less true of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which owns 1,860 nationally significant buildings—more than any department except the Departments of the Interior and Defense. However, no department faces more challenges than the Department of Veterans Affairs in preserving its historic buildings. That is why today I am introducing the Veterans Heritage Preservation Act of 2002, a bill establishing a comprehensive approach to assisting the department in fulfilling its historic preservation mission while honoring Americans veterans.

The sheer scope of the task is daunting. The VA's historic buildings go back to a 1735 mill on the bank of the Susquehanna River in Perry Point, Maryland, and include a series of residential communities built for Civil War veterans. The VA also owns historic hospital buildings and living quarters constructed by the Veterans Bureau following World War I. Many of these buildings have outstanding architecture and some are sites of important events. They are located in almost every state. All represent the commitment made by the Federal government to look after our war veterans.

As the cost of health care has risen in recent years, the Department has focused on providing veterans with cost effective health care. This has made obsolete many of the Department's historic buildings which have been chosen to conserve funds. Some of these treasures have been allowed to deteriorate and ultimately face demolition. Because the Department's historic preservation requirements are funded from the same allocation for patient care, the Department has consistently chosen to underfund its historic preservation mission.

The legislation I offer today eliminates this difficult choice by establishing a Veterans Heritage Preservation Fund dedicated to the Department's preservation needs and authorized at an annual level of \$20 million, subject to appropriations. The fund would be used to evaluate, stabilize, preserve, renovate, and restore the Department's historic buildings. The fund could also be used for grants to State and local governments and non-profit organizations in connection with the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The bill also establishes within the Department a high level Office of Historic Preservation to monitor the Department's historic preservation program.

The bill also encourages leasing historic VA properties to groups that will preserve and restore them and promotes the VA to enter into public-private partnerships for historic preservation. The goal is to keep the VA's historic buildings alive by finding new uses for them. Even if they are used for community purposes that aren't directly related to veterans' care, they will honor our veterans by preserving these important cultural legacies.

The VA's historic buildings represent an important national treasure that can never be replaced. They serve as a link between all Americans and past generations of veterans. Writing in the July 1, 2001, issue of the *Paralyzed Veterans of America Paralegia News*, Thomas D. Davies, Jr., AIA, former director of architecture for Paralyzed Veterans of America, said, "The VA's historic structures provide

direct evidence of America's proud heritage of veterans' care and can enhance our understanding of the lives of soldiers and sailors who fashioned our country."

The need quickly to preserve historic VA buildings increased in June when the VA announced an initiative to identify and close more buildings that are considered outdated. The initiative, Phase II of the ongoing planning process called the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES), is expected to be completed in two years. It is critical for the VA to prepare to handle the large number of its historic buildings which could join the endangered list.

The legislation follows a joint recommendation earlier this year by AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, which called on Congress to enact legislation to systematically preserve the most important historic buildings owned by the VA and to promote the reuse of historic properties by local communities.

Most of the threatened buildings were part of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, created by one of the last acts signed by President Lincoln before his assassination, and constructed between 1867 and 1930. The buildings are now owned by the VA. The National Home evolved into complete planned communities with barracks, mess halls, chapels, schools, hotels, libraries, band stands, amusements halls, theaters, and shops, many of which still stand, and include outstanding examples of 19th and early 20th century architecture.

The National Home had facilities in eleven cities. The cities, and dates the branches were founded are: Togus, Maine (1866); Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1867); Dayton, Ohio (1867); Hampton, Virginia (1870); Leavenworth, Kansas (1885); Santa Monica, California (1888); Marion, Indiana (1888); Danville, Illinois (1898); Johnson City, Tennessee (1901); Hot Springs, South Dakota (1902); and Bath, New York (1929).

The National Home represents many historical developments, including the Nation's first the first large-scale attempt by the Federal government to care for veterans. The buildings included the first non-religious planned communities, the first Federal effort to establish large-scale rehabilitation programs, a significant expansion of Federal benefits to citizen-veterans, a landmark in the development of Federal responsibility for the social safety net, and the first permanent churches constructed by the Federal government.

Before it was merged with the VA in 1930, the National Home cared for more than 100,000 Civil War and other veterans, many of whom were shattered physically and spiritually from the carnage of war. These buildings are an important part of our national heritage as well as significant contributors to the history and culture of the communities where they are located.

According to Professor Patrick J. Kelly, author of *Creating a National Home* (Harvard University Press), "The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers is an institution that all Americans can treasure. This institution was an early and strikingly generous example of the federal government's commitment the care of the nation's veterans."

Kelly wrote, "The surviving buildings of the National Home offer contemporary Americans