

pleading on Reid's behalf that she had to trust the courts to do the right thing.

"I don't know that my apology to you will help you at all," Molina said. "I can only say I apologize for not being more attentive."

Promising to personally pursue the issue, Molina said, "We've got to really take the gloves off on this thing, because this is a real battle. If that department [the Department of Children and Family Services] could not protect those children, then we should not be empowering that department to carry out this work."

Supervisor Mike Antonovich quickly added his apology. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said the whole board apologized for what happened to Jonathan.

After the meeting, Reid said Molina's apology "meant a lot. She was sincere. That is the first sign of remorse I have seen in the county."

Reid said Tuesday's hearing and the conclusion of two civil cases filed over Jonathan's death and Debin's placement in foster care were gratifying milestones in her family's quest for justice.

The determination to press for further action on Jonathan's death has occupied Reid and her family for years, she said Tuesday. At each step of the way, nine family members have gathered to vote on strategic decisions about how to pursue the case, she said.

Along the way, the family has turned to one lawyer after another—seven in all.

"Every time a lawyer didn't believe in me or in this case we got rid of them," Reid said. "Jonathan is still very much a part of this family."

VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF CITYHOOD

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the citizens and civic leaders of Victorville, California on the 40th anniversary of cityhood for the Mojave Desert community. The history of this rapidly growing city is a fascinating glimpse of the growth of the inland areas of California.

Like many of the towns of the Southwest, Victorville began its existence as a railroad stop. Around 1885, a station was established at the Mojave River crossing on what ultimately became the Santa Fe Railway's on its Mojave Desert. It was named for Jacob Nash Victor, a railroad construction superintendent who was a pioneer in the early development of the expansion of the railroad to the west. In 1901 the US Postal Service renamed the city to Victorville to eliminate a name duplication problem with Victor, Colorado.

When it was incorporated on Sept. 21, 1962, the city of Victorville had grown to just over 8,000 residences; by 1995 the city boasted a bustling population of 60,649 and had increased its size to 67.68 sq. miles, an increase of over 58 sq. miles. Rich soil and an abundance of water encouraged the development of the agricultural community. Large deposits of limestone and granite led to the cement manufacturing industry, which has emerged as the most important sector of commerce in the Victor Valley.

With the historic Route 66 running through Victorville and heading on up to Chicago, the town has always provided numerous activities

for tourists, included a Route 66 museum and the San Bernardino County Fair. The city has become the commercial hub of the Victor Valley, which includes more than 300,000 people in a wide range of communities.

One of the most important national connections with Victorville began in 1941 with the construction of the Victorville Army Airfield. Later renamed George Air Force Base, the base construction was completed on May 18, 1943. When fully activated, the base housed two jet fighter wings of the Tactical Air Command whose primary aircraft was the F-4 phantom Wild Weasel, which provided vital electronic reconnaissance from the Vietnam War through the Persian Gulf War. The base also employed over 6,000 military and civilian personnel. In January 1989 the Secretary of Defense announced the closure of the base. In the past decade since the closure, Victorville annexed the base, renamed it the Southern California Logistics Airport, and has turned it into a booming new commercial center and international cargo airport that is expected to serve the entire Southwest region.

Mr. Speaker, I have proudly represented the City of Victorville for more than two decades in Congress, and I have watched it grow into a dynamic city that is well-governed and fiscally sound. The City Council now oversees a budget of \$77.6 million for 69,298 citizens who are known for their friendliness, self-sufficiency and optimism. Please join me in congratulating the city leaders and the community for their 40 years of cityhood, and wishing them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF TIM HOLMAN, GERMAN TWP. FIRE AND EMS

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2002

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Tim Holman, who is the chief of the German Township Volunteer Fire Department and EMS. Chief Holman was recently named "Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year" at the 2002 International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Kansas City.

Tim has volunteered for the German Township Fire Department for 27 years, and he has served as chief since 1991. By incorporating his private sector business experience into the management of the fire department, Chief Holman successfully consolidated two township fire departments, while also implementing an officer development program, a quality improvement process, and a team building process. Chief Holman has been essential in the streamlining of his fire department, allowing the brave volunteers of the German Township Fire Department to better serve their community. I applaud Chief Holman, and the men and women of the volunteer fire departments throughout my district, for the dedication, sacrifice and commitment that exemplifies volunteer fire departments.

AMENDING THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today, along with my colleague in the other body, the Senator from New Mexico [Senator BINGAMAN], who serves as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, to introduce this important legislation. The bill we introduced today will amend PL 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, to clarify the treatment of Title III funds reserved by counties under such Act.

Since 1908, Congress recognized that federal land deprived counties of revenues they would have otherwise received and therefore accorded a measure of compensation to counties by sharing revenues derived from National Forest System lands. Further, Congress annually appropriates funds for counties that are considered payments in lieu of taxes (PILT), an amount that is based upon a formula derived from the amount of federal land and revenue sharing receipts.

In recent years, counties have increasingly suffered hardship due to the severe fluctuation of shared federal receipts. Local education and road maintenance programs have been the most affected by the declines. PL 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, was borne as a result. The intent of the bill was to address the fluctuation of shared federal receipts and restore stability and predictability to the annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management for use by the counties for the benefit of public schools, roads, and other purposes. Congress further created opportunities within this Act to enhance the restoration, maintenance and stewardship of Federal lands. For example, under Title II of this Act, eligible counties have the opportunity to place a percentage of their payments toward cooperative projects on federal land.

PL 106-393, originally introduced by Representative Nathan Deal and Senator Ron Wyden, enjoyed bi-partisan support in both Houses of Congress and was ultimately signed into law on October 30, 2000. It set forth three categories by which eligible counties could elect to receive their stabilized payments under Title I, II, or III, or a combination thereof. Eligible counties receive Title I and Title III funding directly while Title II funding is directly held by the federal government and allocated toward cooperative federal projects that I briefly mentioned above.

As it stands however, PL 106-393 undermines the stability and predictability of payments it purports to provide the counties. To understand the enormity of impact, it is critical to remember that PILT is the only form of federal payment that a county can use for its day-to-day operations. While appropriated PILT funds have always been impacted by shared federal receipts, the Act kept Title I consistent with the shared receipts and its relationship with PILT payments. However, the intent of the Act was that Title II and Title III would not impact PILT.

Yet, in fact, the Department of Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture have determined otherwise in that Title III payments will affect an eligible county's PILT payments because the funding is directly received and spent by them. I have been told that the margin of impact could be anywhere from fifty cents (\$.50) to a dollar for dollar reduction in PILT depending upon the amount the county could elect to receive under Title III. For example, Ferry County, located in northeast Washington, received a PILT payment in 2001 of approximately \$200,000. The county elected to receive \$182,000 under Title III for fiscal year 2002. Conservatively, an estimate of fifty (\$.50) cents on the dollar would equate to a \$91,000 reduction in PILT. Further, eligible counties are required to specify their allocations under PL 106-393 prior to the PILT calculations, so they have no way of knowing the impact their allocations may have on their PILT payments from year to year. It is also important to note that no other source of federal funding could replenish the PILT funding lost. Although Title III funding is received directly, specific parameters are set to its spending. Bluntly put, PL 106-393 pits a county's potential desire and need for reimbursement for the emergency services it renders on federal land against its need for PILT funding for general operations. This is contrary to the intent of PL 106-393.

The legislation I introduce today is narrow in scope. It will amend PL 106-393 to re-establish the stability and predictability of payments by directing that Title III funds not be considered when PILT payments are calculated.

Time is of the essence. It is imperative Congress act before we adjourn this session. Please join me in cosponsoring this most important measure.

HONORING VERLYAN RUTH BYRD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Verlyan Ruth Byrd, an honorable federal employee who loyally served her country throughout her life.

During World War II, Mrs. Byrd was recruited by the United States Army as a typist at the Granite City Army Depot in Granite City, Illinois. She worked part time at the depot as a high school student, and upon graduation she got a job as a full-time clerk typist. She continued to serve her country with the Department of Defense through 1978, when she suffered a severe heart attack. Mrs. Byrd was forced into early retirement in 1979.

Upon her retirement, the Social Security Administration told Mrs. Byrd that she could file for social security upon her 65th birthday. However, when she entered the office after she reached the age of 65, she was told that due to the Government Pension Offset (GPO) law she was not eligible to receive Social Security.

This law, which went into effect after she was forced to retire, reduces pension funds for spouses for work that was not covered by Social Security. While the law was originally intended to prevent "double dipping" into social

security funds by government workers who receive substantial pensions, many seniors have been forced by the law to live in poverty while being denied the money they paid into the system.

Mrs. Byrd spent the latter years of her life living in an old house that was desperately in need of repairs. She also had substantial medical bills and used as many as 15 prescription drugs on any given day. Despite her life as a loyal government employee, Mrs. Byrd was forced to live in poverty in the waning years of her life.

Mrs. Byrd was said by her friends to be a considerate, generous, family oriented woman with a kind disposition. She wrote to government officials to have the GPO law repealed, but action was not taken quickly enough. Mrs. Byrd died on Sunday, July 28, 2002 at 7:20 p.m. She was not alone in her struggle with the GPO law. Many other government employees, particularly in the teaching community, are ill-served by this law.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ruth Byrd and wishing the best for her family, and to urge immediate action by the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 664, legislation I have cosponsored to address the GPO problem.

ACT NOW

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday (September 6, 2002), an outstanding article by our distinguished former Secretary of State, George P. Shultz, was published in a number of American newspapers. Secretary Shultz eloquently explained why he believes we must act decisively against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

As Secretary of State for President Ronald Reagan, George Schultz exhibited remarkable experience in foreign affairs. Since leaving the Department of State, Secretary Shultz has continued to deal with international relations as a Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, an institution dedicated to public policy analysis of international and domestic questions. In recognition of Secretary Schultz's outstanding commitment to education and public service, the Hoover Institution's Foreign Service Institute was recently renamed in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all of our colleagues in the United States Congress would benefit from reading Secretary Schultz's excellent analysis on the issue of Iraq, and I ask that it be placed in the RECORD.

ACT NOW—THE DANGER IS IMMEDIATE SADDAM HUSSEIN MUST BE REMOVED

(By George P. Shultz)

Are we to be the Hamlet of nations, debating endlessly over when and how to act? Saddam Hussein's performance as ruler of Iraq is a matter of grave concern not just for the United States but for the international community as a whole. The major debate going on in the media, in Congress and with our friends and allies is necessary. But it is also necessary to move beyond debate and create the clarity that is the basis for action.

The world now has entered the third decade of crises and dangers to international

peace and security created by Saddam Hussein. In 1980 he launched an eight-year war against Iran. Chemical weapons were used, and at least 1.5 million people were killed or severely wounded. In 1990 he invaded Kuwait in a war aimed at eradicating another state's legitimate sovereign existence. As he was forced out, he deliberately created environmental degradation of gigantic proportions. He has used chemical weapons against the Kurdish people in an attack on a genocidal scale, and he has sent his forces into Kurdistan to conduct widespread slaughter. He has relentlessly amassed weapons of mass destruction and continues their development. He has turned Iraq into a state that foments, supports and conducts terrorism. No other dictator today matches his record of war, oppression, use of weapons of mass destruction and continuing contemptuous violation of international law, as set out by unanimous actions of the U.N. Security Council.

Against this background, much of the current debate ignores the facts of the United Nations' long series of steps to rein in Saddam Hussein and authorize action against his regime. A strong foundation exists for immediate military action against Hussein and for a multilateral effort to rebuild Iraq after he is gone.

A remarkable series of U.N. Security Council resolutions in 1990 and 1991 authorized war to oust Hussein's forces from Kuwait. This was the basis for the Desert Storm campaign that won the Gulf War in 1991. With that military victory, a Security Council resolution declared the "suspension" of offensive operations, deliberately leaving intact the original authorization to use force. Then Security Council Resolution 687 imposed a series of demands upon Iraq with the objective of restoring peace and security in the area. This carried the case against Hussein beyond the matter of liberating Kuwait to focus on the elimination, under international inspection, of his weapons of mass destruction. In other words, the threat to the region and the world of a decisively armed Iraq was fully recognized and declared unacceptable.

In the first years after Desert Storm, U.N. inspectors uncovered Iraqi facilities used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction. They dismantled uranium-enrichment and other nuclear weapons installations and destroyed a chemical weapons plant and hundreds of missile warheads armed with poison gas. Threats of Iraq's noncooperation were countered by U.S. airstrikes. But even limited Iraqi compliance decreased sharply over time.

The U.N. inspectors did what they could. They found a lot, but they missed even more. In 1995 Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel Hassan Majeed, a son-in-law of Saddam Hussein, defected and revealed that Hussein was making biological weapons at a center where inspectors had found nothing. The center, which had produced 30,000 liters of biological agents, including anthrax and botulinum toxins, was destroyed, but the inadequacy of inspections in Iraq was demonstrated.

In 1997 Saddam Hussein escalated his campaign of harassment, obstruction and threats against the inspection effort. He activated ground-to-air missile systems to deter inspection flights. He expelled all American members of the inspection teams. In early 1998 Hussein refused access to "presidential sites"—the numerous palaces he had built for himself around Iraq. The United States responded with a military buildup, including ground troops deployed to Kuwait. In a speech at the Pentagon in February 1998, President Clinton gave details of Iraq's violations and declared that Hussein must grant