

must work closely with President Akayev to encourage additional reforms.

Still, the Kyrgyz people are hungry for democracy and thirsty for economic prosperity. The future of the Kyrgyzstan rests in the hands of its young people. And it is a bright future. With this in mind, it is encouraging to see the hard work of the First Lady of Kyrgyzstan on behalf of the children in her country. The U.S. must continue to support these efforts.

Kyrgyzstan has also been a strong supporter of the United States' war on terrorism. President Akayev has cooperated in allowing the use of an airbase in Bishkek and the government has helped with providing information on terrorist cells in the region.

A prosperous Kyrgyzstan is important for regional security and stability. Therefore, we must work together to continue building relations between Kyrgyzstan and the U.S.

116TH AIR CONTROL WING

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I support many of the transformation initiatives our military is undertaking. Through the vision and leadership of Secretary Roche and General Jumper, the Air Force has been a leading proponent of transformation. The Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, and the 116th Air National Guard unit at Robins Air Force Base are a prime example of a transformational mission. These unique units are on the verge of becoming even more transformational as they blend Air National Guard personnel into the active JSTARS unit.

On Monday, September 30, 2002 the Guard's 116th Bomb Wing and the active duty 93rd Air Control Wing will merge into a first of its kind "blended Wing." The new wing will operate all of the Air Force's Joint STARS aircraft. It is a mission of considerable importance. The J-STARS aircraft can find and track moving targets on the ground hundreds of miles into enemy territory and are prized assets and constantly in demand by theater commanders.

Developing a blended unit has proven to be a daunting task. However, the Air Force and members of both the 93rd Air Control wing and the 116th Bomb Wing have stepped up to the plate and cleared every hurdle in their way. Secretary Roche stated that "Outdated laws and policies would have to change to reflect requirements in command-and-control, fiscal, and personnel issues," and he was right. The members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve have worked tirelessly to achieve a "blended wing" and have done it in an exceptional fashion.

The Air Force has long been the model of full and seamless integration of the Reserve Components. Its Guard and Reserve associate programs are long-term success stories that maximize weapon system utilization while leveraging the expertise of Guard and Reserve personnel. Strong national defense rests on the foundation of a well-equipped, well-trained and mobile military force. The 116th

has been and will continue to be the pinnacle of professionalism and honor; and will continue to be ready—Anytime-Anywhere.

I would like to commend the vision, leadership, and stalwart dedication that Major General David Poythress, Colonel Tom Lynn, Colonel David Fadok, and all the people that helped make this day possible. It is the strong commitment by everyone involved to their country, to the war-fighter, and to Robins that makes this day truly great.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, our nation was forever changed on the morning of Sept 11. The goal of Osama bin Laden was to demoralize us, create fear, uncertainty and instability in our country—he failed. Last week Congress met in New York to pay tribute to those who were killed, and I was reminded how strong and resilient our country truly is. Last September 11 we saw amazing displays of heroism and bravery. I will never forget the sight of firemen entering the World Trade Center risking their lives to save others.

We have also learned a great deal since Sept 11. We've learned that we are a vulnerable nation, and that we must lead an international coalition against bigoted, religious fanatics who believe they have the right to kill in order to impose their reactionary ideology on others. Many of us also have learned that in order to be true to American values, we must not undermine the fundamental principles and constitutional rights that our country was founded on.

As an American and a Vermonter, I was enormously proud of how our people responded to this crisis in terms of blood donations, financial contributions and coming together as a community to support the victims and each other. It is my hope that we will continue to show that same sense of community that we demonstrated in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

HONORING JUDGE JOSEPH LODGE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary citizen of California's central coast, Judge Joseph Lodge. As both a judge and a teacher at the University of California, Santa Barbara, there is no question as to how much Judge Lodge has given to the Santa Barbara community and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to honor him.

In 1955, after graduating from the University of Michigan School of Law, Joe Lodge began his legal career by working as a clerk for the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit. In 1956 Joe moved to Santa Barbara, which he has called home ever since. He became the first full-time attorney in the Santa

Barbara suburb, Goleta, and in 1958, at the young age of 26, he made the decision to run for a part-time judgeship in a local court. In 1965, after the South Coast courts merged, Judge Lodge became a full-time judge in the municipal court, although he still found time to continue teaching at UCSB. In 1998, Judge Lodge was moved to the Superior Court, where he sits now.

Judge Lodge holds the distinction of being the longest sitting trial judge in the State of California. Not only has he dedicated the last 44 years to presiding on the bench, but he has also spent the last 42 years teaching an extremely popular criminal justice course at UCSB. Since Judge Lodge has vowed never to retire, the residents of the central coast decided to throw him an "In-Lieu-of-Retirement Party" on the evening of Thursday, September 26.

The Santa Barbara community has benefited greatly from the many, many years of service Judge Lodge has dedicated. His wisdom and fairness has played a part in so many people's lives and it is truly fitting that we have the opportunity to honor him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: J. NICHOLAS MCGRATH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of J. Nicholas McGrath of Basalt, Colorado. Mr. McGrath was a very prominent and well-respected attorney not only in the State of Colorado but also throughout the entire nation. As his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Nicholas McGrath before this body of Congress and this nation.

Nicholas McGrath graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1965 magna cum laude. After law school he clerked for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. He is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in the world, and Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers in the United States. Mr. McGrath specialized primarily in land use law and litigation with the firm of Oates, McGrath, and Jordan, in Aspen, Colorado.

Despite a demanding career, Mr. McGrath still found the time to become actively involved in his community. Mr. McGrath participated extensively in many Basalt recreational programs and was president of the Basalt soccer club. He was extremely dedicated to expanding many of Basalt's youth programs throughout the community and is responsible for providing many kids with the opportunity to play organized sports. At his own children's sporting events, he was always Nick and Molly's biggest fan.

Mr. Speaker, it is in earnest respect that I recognize the memory of Mr. J. Nicholas McGrath before this body of Congress and this nation for the irreplaceable contributions he made to the community of Basalt and the State of Colorado. My sincere condolences go out to his wife Rosemary and to his children Nicholas and Molly McGrath. While his loss will be deeply felt, the memory of his kindness

and the recollection of his good deeds will transcend into future generations.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS IN NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 6 of this year, a special Joint Session of the United States Congress convened in New York City to reflect on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This most rare and somber session served as a necessary reminder of the human loss and heroism that the City and State of New York, our nation, and our world experienced on that fateful day. I am proud and blessed—as an American, and as a New Yorker—to have been able to take part.

We met at Federal Hall, the very same site where the first Congress met over two centuries ago. We met just blocks from where the World Trade Center towers once pierced the city's majestic skyline.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly, we remembered the almost 3,000 innocent civilians who died and their families. We prayed then—and we should pray now—for all of the victims of this most heinous terrorist act. Though a year has passed, the loss of every single person who perished that day is still felt by all those who loved them. The sons and daughters, the brothers and sisters, the mothers and fathers lost that day will never be replaced. We simply hope that the pain will subside, and that the memories will remain strong and vibrant.

Mr. Speaker, we also expressed our deepest gratitude to the firefighters, police officers and emergency personnel who served on that fateful day and in the weeks and months that followed. These brave men and women, and their peers across the country, put their lives on the line—day in and day out—to ensure the safety and well being of the citizens of our communities. Recognition of the heroism and service of our "First Responders" is overdue and well deserved. We must continue to acknowledge their bravery and sacrifice. And we in Congress must resolve to provide them with the support they need to continue to excel in their chosen duty—to save lives.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we reaffirmed our commitment, as a Congress and as a nation, to eradicate the ability of terrorists to ever again carry out such a horrific and offensive act—against us or against other innocent people around the world. We reaffirmed our promise to bring these cowards to justice. A terrorist is, by definition, a coward. It is a person who cannot get what he wants by the power of persuasion, and therefore resorts to the killing of innocent men, women and children.

Mr. Speaker, the American men and women in our Armed Forces are now dispersed throughout the world, seeking out these cowards and introducing them to the might of a nation that finds its heart bruised but its strength renewed. Freedom is not free. We have paid a tremendous price for it. We must not forget those before us who gave their lives, or those who put their lives on the line

today, to allow us the privilege of living in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the earth. Our patriots fight for the cause of freedom, and we shall support them every step of the way.

The events of September 11, 2001, were basic violations of the fundamental principle that life is to give—not to take. I am proud that this Congress gathered on September 6, in the shadow of Ground Zero, to remember and honor both the victims and the heroes—and to remind the world that the forces of evil shall never prevail.

REFORM OF ENERGY WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT (REWCA)

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to reform the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA).

The Department of Energy (DOE) has conceded that, over the 50 year history of making nuclear weapons, it consistently placed production imperatives ahead of worker health and safety. In the fall of 1999, DOE admitted that it had placed these Cold War Veterans in harm's way without their knowledge or consent and that compensation was due.

In the spring of 2000, the President's National Economic Council issued a report that identified 14 DOE facilities where there was an excess rate of cancer which was attributable to radiation. This report also noted that state worker compensation systems were not well-suited for compensating occupational diseases due to a variety of hurdles, such as statutes of limitations. Also in the spring of 2000, the House and Senate introduced bipartisan legislation to establish a federal compensation program for these sick nuclear workers and their survivors. Congress held hearings in the House and Senate on legislation that would provide compensation to employees of DOE who were exposed to radiation, beryllium, silica and numerous other toxic substances used in making nuclear weapons.

The compromise which emerged from the conference committee in October 2000 created two separate programs: one for workers exposed to radiation, beryllium and silica which is administered by the Department of Labor, and a second for workers exposed to toxic substances and other hazardous materials which is administered, in part, by the Department of Energy. This second program, codified under Subtitle D, is the primary focus of the reform legislation today.

Under Subtitle D, the Department of Energy is required to use a Physician's Panel to review claims related to exposure to toxic substance. This Panel determines whether an illness is work related and relies upon individual state worker compensation programs to make payments for wage loss and medical costs. However, this approach, by DOE's own admission, will not work for these occupational illness cases because at least 50 percent of the claimants will not have a "willing payor" who will honor the findings of the Department of Energy Physician's Panel. Congress intended

to create a uniform, adequate and equitable federal compensation program for these workers who toiled in the nation's nuclear weapons factories in service to our nation. It is simply unacceptable for the government to tell these workers that help is on the way, and then move forward with a program where potentially there is no one to pay as many as half the claims. This law needs to be fixed.

The introduction of REWCA, the Reform of Energy Workers Compensation Act, aims to fulfill Congress' original objectives and ensure all of the nation's nuclear workers who were made sick from their jobs in nuclear weapons factories through no fault of their own receive a measure of just compensation for their disabilities and illnesses.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD R. HEATH SR.

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mr. Edward R. Heath Sr. of Mechanic Falls, Maine for his dedication and commitment to the United States military and this nation. Mr. Heath, a disabled Vietnam Era Veteran, was recently elected National Commander of Disabled American Veterans. As we celebrate achievement, I would like to pay tribute to the achievements and contributions he has made to military veterans throughout the country.

Throughout his life, Mr. Heath has embodied the principles of courage, honor, and integrity that we, as Americans, have come to expect from the men and women in our nation's military. Mr. Heath enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1954, where he served in many foreign theatres including France, Germany, and Korea. Mr. Heath also served at a variety of army posts in the United States, including a tour with the 1st Armored Division during the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1967, Mr. Heath was seriously injured in a car accident with a civilian vehicle, and due to his injuries, was forced to retire from the military in 1968.

Although his injuries were a major challenge, Mr. Heath would not let his misfortune impede his future service to his country. Mr. Heath went to and graduated from the University of Southern Maine. He continued his education by earning a law degree at the New England School of Law in Boston, MA, in 1978. From there, Mr. Heath began working for the Board of Veteran's appeals, which specializes in Veteran claims on issues such as radiation exposure and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In 1989, Mr. Heath began working for the Disabled American Veteran's (DAV), representing veterans at the US Court of Appeals. In 2002, he was elected National Commander of the DAV at the Organization's National Convention in Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Mr. Edward R. Heath before this Congress and this nation for the extraordinary service he has given to the United States military and to disabled veterans throughout the country. As a soldier he served his country with courage and honor, as a lawyer he served with integrity and benevolence. Congratulations on your new achievement and good luck in your future endeavors.