

CONCLUSION

We enter this debate recognizing that immigration reform can be a complex issue; indeed, previous immigration reforms have failed to meet the high standards that we establish for ourselves in this debate. For precisely this reason, we intend to lead a comprehensive immigration reform debate that unflinchingly addresses the difficult questions that are critical to any serious policy discussion. We look forward to the challenges ahead and to reshaping our immigration policy to strengthen America's control over its borders and to reflect the American values of hard work and family.

U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of America's key foreign policy priorities in this new era—our relationship with India, a democracy with more than one billion people. U.S.-India relations continue to expand and to grow deeper in many areas, from economic and trade relations, to political and diplomatic ties; from the promotion of democracy internationally, to cooperation in such areas as environmental protection, health care, the exploration of outer space and the development of information technologies. Two areas in which our bilateral relationship has made particular progress are security cooperation and partnership in the international campaign against terrorism.

One tangible example of this newfound cooperation is taking place right now in Alaska. The second Indo-U.S. Joint Military Exercise began September 19 and will continue until October 11. The aim of the joint exercise is to learn from each other's experience and procedures towards achieving interoperability. Troops from the two countries are carrying out para-drops, scouting/airborne assault missions and progressed with various levels of joint firing exercises. The first joint airborne military exercise between the two countries was held at Agra, India in May of this year. I'm pleased to report that the distinguished Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Lalit Mansingh, traveled to Alaska on October 7, to witness the exercises. The Ambassador met Brigadier General John M. Brown III, Commander of the U.S. Army Alaska at Fort Richardson, who expressed his appreciation of the professionalism, discipline and adaptability of the Indian armed forces.

Defense cooperation between our two countries has emerged as one of the most important dimensions of the overall U.S.-Indian bilateral relations. A major joint naval exercise, named "Malabar IV" was successfully completed in the Indian Ocean last week. The Executive Steering Groups of all the three defense services are scheduled to meet again later this year to develop plans for additional joint exercises, training and other areas of cooperation.

Another recent example of our joint commitment for a more stable and secure world was the U.S.-India Security and Non-Proliferation Dialogue held in New Delhi September 23-24. India continues to make substantial progress

in meeting U.S. non-proliferation goals and is also committed to vigorously enforcing stringent export controls on dual-use technologies.

Mr. Speaker, since last September 11, the struggle against the international terrorist threat has been an overriding priority in all of our international relations. As President Bush told the world with admirable clarity, "Either you're with us or you're with the terrorists." India has clearly risen to the occasion and made it clear that it stands with us and against the terrorists—without any ambiguity.

In the year since September 11, 2001, India and the U.S. have forged an ever-closer partnership in the struggle against international terrorism—a partnership that had actually began in January 2000 with the establishment of the U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism. The Commission has met five times since, and high-level consultations between key officials are ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the Bush Administration's recognition of the importance of India as a growing ally of the United States. The pace of bilateral engagement since President Bush took office has been unprecedented. The National Security Strategy of the United States, transmitted by President Bush to Congress in early September as a declaration of the Administration's policy, calls India "a growing world power with which we have common strategic interests." The report further states: "The Administration sees India's potential to become one of the great democratic powers of the twenty-first century and has worked hard to transform our relationship accordingly."

Our President and Prime Minister Vajpayee of India have established a strong working relationship, which symbolizes the friendship and partnership between our countries. We welcomed Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to the United States last month for the U.N. General Assembly meeting. During his stay in New York, the Prime Minister met with President Bush, and also attended commemoration ceremonies for 9/11—a further indication of the deep sympathy and strong sense of solidarity that the Indian government and people feel regarding the attacks on America.

At their November 2001 meeting, President Bush and Prime Minister Vajpayee issued a joint statement outlining the broad scope of bilateral relations. The statement affirmed their commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming bilateral relations in pursuit of their many common goals in Asia and beyond. In addition to the increasing exchanges and technical cooperation in the defense and security areas, the President and Prime Minister also stressed the importance of policies to enhance the economic and commercial ties between our nations, and agreed to dialogue and cooperation in the areas of energy, the environment, health, space, export controls, science and technology, including biotechnology and information technology.

A major part of the human dimension to our bilateral relationship is the Indian-American community. Numbering more than 1.7 million, the community has played a leading role in bringing together our two great democracies. The community has also worked to educate us, the elected Representatives of the United States, about the importance of U.S.-India relations to build the security and prosperity that will benefit both of our peoples and create a more stable world.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
MILITARY SERVICE OF REGGIE
FARMER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service that Rutherford County Sheriff's Deputy and Air National Guardsman Reggie Farmer has given to his Middle Tennessee community and his grateful country.

Reggie has been serving active duty in the Air National Guard for the past year in the nation's ongoing war against terrorism. In fact, he just recently returned from Afghanistan where our brave military men and women have been fighting terrorists and restoring order in the war-torn country.

In his civilian life, Reggie serves Rutherford County citizens as a sheriff's deputy and Kittrell Elementary School students as a school resource officer. Reggie resumes his duties at Kittrell Elementary School on Tuesday, October 15, the day he officially retires from the military.

Reggie began his military career in April 1978 after enlisting in the United States Air Force. After leaving active duty in the Air Force, Reggie enlisted in the Air National Guard where he has been deployed all over the world. I congratulate Reggie on a long and honorable military career and join the rest of the citizens of Rutherford County in welcoming back home a true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO ELSIE BAILEY, NEW
NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Elsie Bailey, a constituent of mine from Whiting, New Jersey, who was recently elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, on August 28th, in Charlotte, North Carolina, Elsie Bailey was sworn in as President at the American Legion Auxiliary's 82nd National Convention. The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, with more than 10,500 units in every state and some foreign countries.

Founded in 1919, the Auxiliary consists of women whose husbands or other male relatives are members of the American Legion. The Auxiliary has over a million members today, including more than 15,000 in New Jersey, and operates hundreds of volunteer programs. Their dedicated and generous members provide thousands of hours of service to our Nation's veterans and to the communities in which they live. Through their efforts, millions of dollars have been raised to support veterans programs, as well as to support both national and local charities.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud of the fact that Elsie Bailey is the first woman from

New Jersey in more than 75 years to serve as President of the Auxiliary. And the American Legion Auxiliary could not have found a more caring, compassionate and capable woman to lead them.

Elsie Bailey was born in Hillsborough, New Jersey, later lived in both Somerville and Bridgewater, and is now a resident of Whiting, in the heart of my congressional district. She worked for 23 years at the Somerset Medical Center, retiring as personnel director.

Throughout her life, Elsie has been active in her communities, having served on the Somerset County Teacher Credit Union, the Parent Teachers Association and the Employees Activities Committee. She is currently a volunteer mentor, a member of the Whiting Rescue Squad Auxiliary, and a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. But perhaps her proudest accomplishments are her two children and four grandchildren.

In 1961, Elsie Bailey joined the Stevenson-D'Alessio Auxiliary Unit 12 in Somerville, quickly becoming secretary of that unit. She has continued to serve in leadership roles at the unit, department and national levels, including serving as state President for New Jersey and as National Vice President.

Now as National President, Elsie has already begun implementing an ambitious agenda for the Auxiliary. She plans to travel across the country to every state and perhaps even to some foreign countries, in an effort to boost the Auxiliary's already impressive membership rolls. A lover of country music, Elsie has established a membership theme called "Country Hearts in Celebration," which she intends to use to recruit new members.

She has also taken on a special project called "Veteran's Pot of Gold" designed to raise funds to assist homeless veterans, an issue that has been a large part of my agenda as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I look forward to working with Elsie in this most noble mission to help the estimated 275,000 veterans who are homeless today.

Mr. Speaker, as our Nation fights a war on terrorism to keep America free and secure, it is comforting to know that there are people like Elsie Bailey supporting our veterans and our communities. I am confident Elsie Bailey will serve as new National President of the American Legion Auxiliary with the same distinction she has demonstrated her entire life. Through her service to our veterans, our communities and our Nation, Elsie Bailey has earned our respect and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to her today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY AND GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES ON THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sisters of Charity and the employees, physicians, and volunteers of the Good Samaritan Hospital, which will celebrate its 150th birthday on November 2, 2002.

Good Samaritan Hospital was founded by the Sisters of Chanty in 1852. It was Cin-

cinnati's first private general hospital. The 21-bed hospital was located downtown and, back then, was known as St. John's Hotel for Invalids. For over 100 years, the Sisters of Chanty was intimately involved with the running of the hospital and, early on, Cincinnatians quickly came to trust and depend on the care of the Sisters. By 1856, the hospital's size tripled. Shortly thereafter, business leaders were so impressed with St. John's philanthropic leadership that two of them bought a 95-bed hospital downtown and renamed it the Hospital of the Good Samaritan in honor of the Sisters of Charity. In 1915, the hospital was so popular that it moved to larger quarters in Clifton—where it is today—and opened 400 beds. Today, Good Samaritan Hospital cares for more inpatients than any other hospital in Southwestern Ohio.

Good Samaritan Hospital is known for its high level of patient care and its nursing care. In recent years, it has been ranked among the top 50 hospitals in the United States for its cardiology/heart surgery, endocrinology, neurology/neurosurgery, and urology services, and among the top 100 for its orthopedic services and coronary artery bypass surgery.

The vision of the Sisters of Charity, the devotion and hard work of the Good Samaritan medical staff, employees, and volunteers and Catholic Health Initiatives, which the Sisters of Charity helped found in 1996, have made Good Samaritan Hospital a great success.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati recognize the Sisters of Chanty and the Good Samaritan Hospital medical staff, employees, and volunteers on its 150th birthday.

FLOOR STATEMENT ON TAIWAN'S 91ST NATIONAL DAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great pleasure of sending my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the 91st anniversary of Double Ten National Day.

Ninety-one years ago today, forces loyal to Sun Yat-sen led the Wuch'ang uprising and paved the way for the rise of a new political experiment in democracy for the people of China—the establishment of the Republic of China, Asia's first republic. This was a turning point not only in the history of the East but in the history of the world.

In 1911, Dr. Sun envisioned a China that was nationalist, democratic, and dedicated to the social well-being of its citizens. While his Republic's political control on the mainland of China was short-lived, its impact in the minds of the people of China is eternal.

After more than 50 years of sound economic and political development, the Republic of China on Taiwan has proven to the world that not only the citizens of Taiwan, but all of the people of China can govern themselves in a system that is—as Dr. Sun Yat-sen envisioned—Chinese, democratic, and prosperous. The significance of this experiment is especially meaningful to us now because Taiwan has attained such a full measure of economic and political freedom.

And in that fifty year history, Taiwan has proven to be one of America's most loyal

friends. It is my deepest hope that we continue to recognize Taiwan's great achievements, loyal friendship, and sustained progress by continuing to promote Taiwan's participation in the World Trade Organization and such global bodies as the World Health Organization. We must also continue to provide Taiwan the defensive arms it requires to maintain peace on the Taiwan Strait.

I am very happy to join with the citizens of Taiwan to celebrate Double Ten National Day 2002.

ACKNOWLEDGING WORLD SIGHT DAY

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the optometry community for over 24 years, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge World Sight Day.

Today, the National Eye Institute, the Lions Club International, Lighthouse International, and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness will host World Sight Day this year with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Here in the Nation's capitol there will be adult and children's programs educating this community about the importance of understanding and preventing blindness and what they can do to help.

While working as an optometrist in Northwest Arkansas with groups such as the Lions Club and others which provide eye care for those unable to afford it, I saw first hand how important education and availability of services are to preventing blindness. Dealing with blindness is a serious challenge to the individual, and their families. Today sheds light on what people can do within their communities to end preventable blindness and provide the facilities needed to deal with blindness. Every volunteer in these programs has the potential to change lives.

All too often, we take for granted how precious our senses are to our daily lives. I commend these organizations in declaring October 10th, 2002 as World Sight Day and in promoting the importance of vision throughout America's communities.

IN HONOR OF TED MALIARIS

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. JIM DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ted Maliaris, a devoted American who is following his heart and sharing his love for our nation through his passionate music. Through his "A Tribute to America Tour," Ted is lifting the spirits of Americans across the nation while teaching children the importance of American values.

Ted was born in South Florida, and thanks to the encouragement of his grandparents, who were both musicians, Ted soon discovered his true love for music. During his years working on the family farm, Ted honed his musical talents and soon decided to follow his