

of Marketing. Mr. Christian presently serves as a substitute teacher for the Wake County Public Schools in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mr. Christian is a member, deacon and Sunday school teacher at the Trinity Baptist Church. He has received numerous awards, including the Ford Foundation Fellowship Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Durham Sertoma Club. He is also a recipient of the Silver Citation from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Joe Christian, Jr., a man who has touched innumerable lives in his community in countless ways. As we celebrate Homecoming at our alma mater, South Carolina State University, I wish him continued success and Godspeed!

MEDICAL DEVICE USER FEE AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed H.R. 3580, the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization 2002.

Kosciusko County in Northern Indiana is one of the nation's largest centers of the medical device industry. I have visited many of the medical device manufacturers in my home state, and continue to be amazed with the marvels that these companies produce every day. Injuries and illnesses that only a decade ago would have been debilitating are now curable, thanks in no small part to the ingenuity and innovation of companies that produce medical devices.

H.R. 3580 is a win for both medical device producers and for consumers. It streamlines the process by which medical devices will be approved by the Food and Drug Administration by establishing a new user fee program similar to the one that exists for pharmaceuticals and biologics. By doing so, it helps medical device producers get their products to the marketplace more quickly, making them available to those who need them. The legislation also establishes a new Office of Combination Products at the FDA so that producers of combination drugs and medical devices do not have to be approved by two separate agencies.

Even more impressive is that medical device consumers are not being forced to pay for the creation of a new, faster approval system for medical devices. Under this legislation, the companies themselves will fund the expedited process.

It is important to note that this expedited procedure will not sacrifice thoroughness for speed. This legislation carefully spells out strict standards to ensure the absolute highest level of safety.

On behalf of medical device manufacturers in Warsaw, Indiana as well as those across the nation who benefit from their products, I am pleased to support this bill, and urge its passage.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MELVIN MURRAY FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF FOSTORIA

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Melvin Murray, of Fostoria, Ohio, is being honored for his dedicated service and loyalty to the citizens of Fostoria.

Mr. Speaker, Melvin's efforts are being recognized by the Kaubisch Memorial Public Library, of which he has served on the Board of Directors for over fifty years. Serving the community was not only Melvin's duty but also his honor. These chances to give back to the community have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. Melvin truly is a valued asset to the City of Fostoria.

Melvin has served Fostoria well throughout his years, both professionally and philanthropically. He began as a radio station manager in Fostoria immediately following his graduation from The Ohio State University, and has since utilized his talents and skills to become the station's president, and largest shareholder of the same radio corporation which would soon own several radio stations throughout greater Northwest Ohio.

Melvin, now enjoying his retirement years, has dedicated his charitable services to the Fostoria Glass Heritage Gallery & Museum, serving as its curator. He has also spent his time authoring several books on the subject of antique glassware, and is regarded as the foremost authority in the country on identification of Fostoria, Ohio glassware.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Melvin Murray. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Melvin, who care about the well being and stability of their communities. We wish him the very best on this special occasion.

HONORING DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR KATHERINE CROWLEY OF UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Deputy Assistant Director Katherine Crowley of the United States Secret Service. After serving in a liaison capacity between Congress and the Secret Service for the last seven years, Katherine, who is known as K.C. to her friends, will be leaving Washington, D.C. to become the Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service's Little Rock Field Office.

It has been a privilege to work with K.C. these last several years. She is well known throughout the congressional community, including by her colleagues in the U.S. Capitol Police, and is widely respected and valued for

her professionalism, integrity, work ethic and of course, her kind heart. She has not only ably represented the Secret Service these last seven years, but has become a friend of the United States Congress.

Next year, K.C. will be celebrating her 20th year as a member of our Nation's most elite law enforcement agency. K.C. graduated from Westfield State College in her home state of Massachusetts in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. She took a position as an officer with the Arkansas State Police, and worked in the Little Rock area for nearly four years. She then applied for a special agent position with the Secret Service through their Little Rock office, and became an agent in 1983. She worked as a field agent in Little Rock for three years before transferring to the Vice Presidential Protection Division for another three years. K.C. returned to her home state in 1989 for a four-year stint in the Boston Field Office. In 1993, K.C. was assigned to the prestigious Presidential Protection Division, with responsibility for protecting President Clinton and the First Lady.

K.C. continued her rise in the Secret Service in 1996, when she was promoted to the position of Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge of the Capitol Hill and Interagency Liaison Division. It was during this time when many of us in Congress were first introduced to this exceptional individual. K.C. was again promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Congressional Affairs in 1999, and later became the Special Agent in Charge of the same division. In 2001, K.C. was named Deputy Assistant Director of the Office of Government and Public Affairs, one of the highest ranking women in the entire Secret Service.

This year, in addition to being named as the Special Agent in Charge of the Little Rock Field Office, K.C. was also selected as a candidate for the Senior Executive Service.

During her tenure as a liaison representative to Congress, K.C. helped steer legislation that will have a lasting impact on the future mission and role of the Secret Service. This included legislation to provide the Secret Service with jurisdiction to investigate cyber crimes, to coordinate security at National Special Security Events, to provide a nationwide expansion of the Secret Service electronic crime task force initiative, and to launch their world-renowned National Threat Assessment Center.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I want to express our gratitude and appreciation to K.C. Crowley for her many years of public service as a member of the Secret Service. She will be dearly missed, but we all join in wishing her well in her new role as the head of the Little Rock Field Office.

CHARLES E. COBB, JR. AWARD

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I had the distinct pleasure of participating and helping to select this year's recipients of the annual Charles E. Cobb, Jr. Award for Initiative and Success in Trade Development. The award recognizes both an Ambassador and non-Ambassador

who are the most innovative and successful in developing trade and promoting exports for the United States. The recipients of the award each receive a certificate signed by the Secretary of State and \$5,000. Along with Alan Larson, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, I would like to bring your attention to the exemplary work of these career Department of State employees:

AMERICAN DIPLOMATS: BUSINESS IS THEIR
"BUSINESS"

Shortly after arriving in Cotonou, U.S. Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater, began exploring with the President of Benin ways in which an American company could resolve the challenges faced by a major U.S. telecommunication investment in this small West African country. In Poland, Ambassador Chris Hill used strong personal relationships with senior Polish government decisionmakers, including the Prime Minister, to assist a U.S. company win a multi-million dollar contract to privatize a Polish defense industry. Ian Campbell, an economic officer in Jordan is helping in the formation of a business-government steering committee that will implement the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement. And Laura Byergo has turned the American Mongolia Business Group in Ulaan Baatar into an effective vehicle for improving the business climate there and increasing American exports.

What these diplomats—and hundreds like them—have in common is their understanding that advancing opportunities overseas for American business is central to maintaining our nation's economic prosperity and national security. Exports accounted for more than one quarter of our economic growth during the past decade; they currently support an estimated 12 million highpaying jobs.

American diplomats have made business their "business." Support for U.S. business is now a central feature of the work of our 150-plus posts worldwide. Business executives, who only a decade ago shied away from contacting American missions about their business problems, know that if help is needed—with a contract, a tender, access to local government officials—U.S. diplomatic missions abroad are prepared to assist. Ambassadors today often spend 30 to 60 percent of their time on commercial issues; their doors and those of their staff are open to companies that provide jobs for American workers and they are working hard to assist them in promoting the export of our country's goods and services.

To add momentum to this sea-change in the work of American diplomats, Charles Cobb Jr., former Ambassador to Iceland, established an annual award in 1991 to recognize two individuals at posts abroad—an Ambassador and a non-Ambassador—for their success in developing trade and promoting exports. Along with several other government officials and U.S. business executives, we were privileged to participate in reviewing an impressive list of nominees and deciding on the recipients of this year's award.

Ambassador Bridgewater in Benin and Ms. Byergo in Mongolia were this year's recipients in recognition of their energy, imagination, initiative and leadership on the business front. Ambassador Bridgewater was cited for championing American investments in Benin and for working tirelessly to promote the benefits of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a U.S. law passed in 2000 that promotes trade and development in sub-Saharan Africa. On that score, she identified sectors of Benin's economy best positioned to benefit from AGOA provisions. With AGOA, we have an opportunity to go

beyond traditional development assistance and give all of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, no matter how small or how poor, an opportunity to avail themselves of trade incentives if they pursue economic reform and move toward democracy and good governance.

Ms. Byergo improved the business environment for American products in Mongolia by persuading the government of Mongolia to act upon the recommendations for change made by U.S. business executives. Her "Open Government Initiative" brought U.S. business and Mongolian government officials together to address specific problems such as taxation policy.

Others nominated for the award this year were praised for working with business to cut through bureaucratic red tape, improve the regulatory environment, reduce high tariffs, encourage privatization, and combat corruption. These efforts to push the envelope on economic policy often translated into greater transparency and business opportunities.

Past winners of the Cobb Award continue to distinguish themselves in government service and with the business community, including Richard Boucher, the Secretary of State's spokesman; Beth Jones, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs; and John Wolf, Assistant Secretary for Non-proliferation.

The commercial advocacy of American diplomats ensures that what we have won for American business and American workers at the negotiating table—in bilateral and free trade agreements, regional trade compacts and the World Trade Organization—is translated into commercial opportunities and ultimately business contracts.

In U.S. missions large and small, wherever American business sees opportunity and needs assistance in winning a fair market share, our diplomats are there to help. Their work is key not just to our own future, but to the welfare of others in the world community as well.

CONGRATULATING THE LA
SPARKS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my hometown WNBA team, the Los Angeles Sparks. Today we passed H. Res. 532 which honors the Los Angeles Sparks players and staff for winning the WNBA championship and completing a remarkable season.

On August 30th, they won the WNBA title for the second year in a row. The Sparks were competing against New York Liberty for this year's title. It was a competitive series and the decisive game went down to the last couple of seconds. With the game tied at 66, rookie Nikki Teasley got the ball and scored the winning basket—a three pointer, putting the team up for good and clinching the championship. Both teams played superbly. It was exciting, a great show of gamesmanship and the fans were treated to an exceptional game. Lisa Leslie was named the series Most Valuable Player. This is an honor she received last year, as well. She finished the game with seventeen points.

With this championship, the LA Sparks join the Houston Comets as the only multiple title-

holders in the league's six-year history. In addition, by winning every playoff game they played, they tied the Comets record of sweeping all six playoff games. The team's winning streak is nine if you count the last three games of the regular season.

It was not an easy season, but the women worked hard, played hard and were rewarded for their efforts. That is something from which we can all learn. So as I close, I would like to congratulate the Sparks and thank them for being leaders. I hope they continue to set good examples for our city.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ACT OF 2002

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Congressman MARK UDALL, in introducing the Environmental Justice Act of 2002.

This bill will codify a 1994 environmental justice Executive Order by President Bill Clinton.

Executive Order 12898, the "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations," attempts to address environmental injustice within existing federal laws and regulations by prohibiting discriminatory practices in programs that receive federal funds.

This issue has been one of my priorities as a public servant because I have seen the damage—first hand—that environmental injustice can bring to poor and minority communities.

I grew up in the shadow of one of the largest landfills in the country.

As the landfill grew, so did other regional pollution.

Gravel pits that are miles wide and hundreds of feet deep were dug to build roads and buildings in California.

Heavy industry moved in—especially during World War II when my area manufactured jet fuel.

And the rivers that were once free-flowing water bodies were reduced to sewer channels.

Areas where my family would picnic or enjoy nature when I was little are now part of the dirtiest watershed in the country.

In the Los Angeles area, it is estimated that over 71 percent of African Americans and 50 percent of Latinos reside in areas with the most polluted air, while only 34 percent of whites live in highly polluted areas.

Even our open space tends to be divided among financial or other demographic lines.

In Los Angeles neighborhoods where 1990 household income averaged less than \$20,000 a year, there was less than a half-acre of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

The ratio was more than 40 times higher—21.2 acres for every 1,000 people—in neighborhoods where household incomes were \$40,000 or higher.

Park access was similarly lopsided when broken down by race.

Majority white neighborhoods had 95.7 acres of parkland for every 1,000 children, compared with 5 acres in Latino areas, 2.9 acres in African-American neighborhoods and 6.3 acres in Asian-American areas.