

pay raise and authorizing a force increase of 40,000 people.

I am particularly pleased that the conference agreement includes language prohibiting the military from requiring or strongly encouraging U.S. servicewomen in Saudi Arabia to wear the abaya—a long black garment required for women under Islamic law. I have been working with the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. HOSTETTLER, and the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Mrs. WILSON, to remove this unnecessary and degrading mandate. The Defense Authorization conference report ends this double standard and guarantees that our servicewomen are not treated as second-class citizens.

Additionally, the legislation breaks new ground by establishing a concurrent receipt program. For too long, our disabled military retirees have witnessed their military retirement pay reduced by the amount they receive in disability compensation. I have fought against this injustice since arriving in Congress and am pleased that this legislation will provide greater assistance to many of those who have made sacrifices for our nation.

The National Defense Authorization Act is a great achievement and an appropriate recognition of Chairman BOB STUMP's dedicated leadership. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve with Chairman STUMP on the House Armed Services Committee and commend him for his deft handling of the complex matters arising from the international war on terrorism. Together with Ranking Member IKE SKELTON, Chairman STUMP helped foster a collegial and thoughtful atmosphere in the committee, thus ensuring that Congress's approach to the war on terrorism was bipartisan and well considered. I wish him well in the future and thank him again for his leadership.

As the House prepares to recess for the year, I am disappointed that we were not able to claim greater progress on appropriations bills and other important legislation. Nevertheless, passage of the Defense Authorization Act, coupled with the final agreement reached on the Department of Homeland Security, demonstrates Congress's commitment to ensuring the safety of the American people, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished in these fields.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the waning days of the 107 Congress, action has finally been taken on the issue of concurrent receipt for America's military retirees. The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003 Conference Report that has come before this body does include language to provide concurrent receipt for some of our military retirees. Unfortunately, it falls far short of the proposal I supported in the House Budget Committee, and which passed this body by a vote of 221 to 209.

On March 20 of this year the House Budget Committee, of which I am a Member, took the initiative to include funding for concurrent receipt in its budget for FY 2003. This budget, H. Con. Res. 353, A Wartime Budget to Se-

cure America's Future, was endorsed by the Administration, and included over a half a billion dollars for partial repeal of the dollar-for-dollar offset of military retired pay and VA disability compensation. Specifically, H. Con. Res. 353 earmarked over \$500 million as a first step in FY 2003, with increasing amounts over the next five years, providing a cumulative total of \$5.8 billion to fund concurrent receipt for America's most severely disabled military retirees.

Just over one month ago, on October 10, 2002, the House reiterated its dedication to righting this long-standing injustice. We passed, by a vote of 391-0, instructions to the conferees to retain the concurrent receipt language during their negotiations with the Senate. Unfortunately, that was not enough to bring the conference to closure and give our military retirees what they deserve.

I would like to thank Rep. MIKE BILIRAKIS for his vigorous work on this issue. And I would like to thank the 402 members of this House, who in addition to myself, cosponsored his bill, H.R. 303 to provide full concurrent receipt for our veterans. Over 400 Members were committed to ending this unfair penalization of our military retirees who were disabled during their military service.

I am disappointed that despite strong support for this initiative, and budget neutral funding for the program, the conferees were unable to keep the promise made to our military retirees. I will continue to work for just treatment for all disabled military retirees and I will continue to support legislation that will provide full funding of concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees.

I have the highest respect for our departing friend Chairman BOB STUMP, and it is because of my great admiration for him, that I will vote to send this legislation to the President.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SCHILTGEN, DIRECTOR OF INS LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Thomas J. Schiltgen, who has performed a near-miracle in the past three years as District Director for the Los Angeles District of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Coming into the busiest—and most troubled—office in our immigration system, Mr. Schiltgen turned the Los Angeles District into one of the most efficient in the nation.

Thomas Schiltgen joined the INS out of college in 1975 as a Criminal Investigator in Chicago. He moved up through the ranks, and served in a wide range of positions that included Deputy Director in the agency's Bangkok office. Before taking over the Los Angeles office, he served for four years as Director of the INS San Francisco District.

When he was assigned to take over the Los Angeles District, the office was known throughout the country for crowds lining up every day in a desperate attempt to work through the immigration process. The office averaged 24 months to process routine citizenship and legal immigration cases. More than 400,000 cases awaited resolution.

Winning the respect of his own staff and the immigration support community, Mr. Schiltgen has managed to virtually eliminate the backlog and has reduced the waiting time to as little as six months for most naturalization and adjustment of status cases. The efficiency of the office was shown dramatically this year when nearly 5,000 applications were handled in a single day at the end of a family reunification program.

Mr. Speaker, although the Los Angeles District serves all of Southern California, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. Schiltgen on behalf of the Inland Empire. Under his leadership, the INS has opened a wonderful new office in San Bernardino, and provided a much wider range of services closer to home for thousands of immigrants who live and work in my district. The new INS office is an asset to the downtown of my home town, and provides a warm and professional face for the federal government in the city.

Mr. Schiltgen has also opened an expanded service center in Orange County, and has helped redesign the main INS facility in Los Angeles to provide heightened privacy, convenience and service for those who have come to our nation seeking the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, after 27 years with the INS, Thomas Schiltgen has decided to retire and pursue opportunities in the private sector. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in thanking him for providing such high-quality public service, and wish him and his wife Brenda well in their future endeavors.

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA FOR ITS FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very serious issue—the failure of North Korea to comply with a number of non-proliferation treaties, agreements, and resolutions, and the absence of any well-defined U.S. policy with that country.

The history of nuclear weapons proliferation in North Korea is a lengthy one, going back over a decade and a half when North Korea signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty. When it signed that treaty in 1985, North Korea agreed not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, and also agreed that the International Atomic Energy Agency could conduct inspections to verify fulfillment of those obligations.

When that Agency discovered anomalies in North Korea's nuclear facilities in 1993, inspectors were no longer allowed into the country.

Seeking to end the stalemate, the U.S. and North Korea signed the Agreed Framework in October, 1994. Under the terms of the Agreed Framework, the U.S. created an international consortium, which would provide North Korea with alternative sources of energy in the form of heavy fuel oil and a modern nuclear power plant. In return, North Korea pledged to freeze its existing nuclear program and allow inspectors back into the country.

Shortly after the Framework was signed, the consortium, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, was created. Despite

the fact that the U.S. and its allies have spent over \$1.3 billion to finance reactor construction and provide heavy fuel oil to North Korea annually, they have consistently failed to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Then last month, North Korea admitted that it has been operating a covert nuclear weapons program.

The existence of a North Korean nuclear weapons program poses a real and imminent threat to the populations of South Korea, Japan, and North Korea, and to the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in that region.

The time has come for the U.S. to establish an effective policy regarding U.N. member states and their obligations towards world peace and disarmament.

Today, I am introducing a resolution, condemning the government of North Korea for its failure to comply with the non-proliferation treaty and the Agreed Framework.

First, my resolution calls on North Korea to honor its commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Agreed Framework. Those commitments include freezing its nuclear programs and allowing the IAEA to carry out inspections.

It also commends the members of the KEDO international consortium for honoring and upholding their commitments to advance the implementation of the Agreed Framework.

Second, my resolution calls on the IAEA to report to the U.N. General Assembly, one year from the date of the Resolution, on the status of North Korea's compliance with inspections.

If the IAEA report indicates that North Korea has still not allowed inspections, members of KEDO are called on to suspend all funding for construction, suspend construction of the light water reactor, and suspend shipment of heavy fuel oil.

And finally, the Resolution calls on the leaders of Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, and other concerned nations to support that potential suspension.

I believe that this Resolution is an important first step in achieving the non-proliferation treaty goal of nuclear disarmament.

I do not recommend, as many have suggested, simply declaring the Agreed Framework null and void. I believe that "suspending" our participation until North Korea complies with its obligations sends an important message. That message is—we honor our commitments, we expect you to honor yours, and we believe that diplomatic and peaceful solutions, with the full support of other concerned nations, are the optimum means for attaining the objectives outlined in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Realize, this is only the first step on what will be a long and arduous path. This Resolution allows diplomatic discussions and negotiations to continue, it also allows our Secretary of State to garner support from members of the U.N. Security Council and other concerned nations to join in commitments to the non-proliferation treaty.

I have specifically not included any language in the Resolution on actions that might be taken after one year if inspectors are still not allowed into North Korea. It is more appropriate to leave that decision to the member nations on the U.N. Security Council.

There are nearly 38,000 U.S. Armed Forces currently stationed on the Korean peninsula, and another 40,000 stationed in Japan. We have a lot at stake as a nation in ensuring a

peaceful solution to this issue. At the same time, we must take steps to overcome this impasse. It is not reasonable for the United States to continue unilateral compliance with a bilateral Agreement.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I believe this resolution will guide our nation towards implementing a policy that is achievable, and attainable, and supportable.

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the world's population is currently growing at a rate of 77 million people per year. By 2050, the United Nations estimates that the world's population will reach 9.3 billion. While the impact of this population growth will be felt throughout the world, it is the lesser-developed nations that will bear the greatest burden unless poverty alleviation and long-term economic and environmental sustainability become a priority for the international community. Without a higher standard of living in these impoverished areas, one-fifth of the world's population, including children, will continue to suffer malnutrition, disease, and illiteracy.

It is without question that young people all over the world are the potential of a country's future, and if their needs and demands of today are not addressed, they are in danger of jeopardizing that future. Risks of dying from complications of pregnancy or childbirth are 25 times higher for girls under the age of 15 and two times higher for women aged 15–19, yet 17 million women between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth every year.

It is impossible to tackle the issue of overpopulation without addressing the devastating burden this growth would have on the environment. It is evident that overpopulation can result in water shortages, soil degradation and air and water pollution. As a responsible society, we cannot afford to allow the erosion of our precious natural resources to continue any further.

It is therefore important for us to recognize the problems associated with rapid population growth amongst young people. Governor Schweiker has proclaimed the week of October 20–26 of this year as World Population Awareness Week in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I would like to support the Governor in this effort by entering his proclamation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

PROCLAMATION—WORLD POPULATION
AWARENESS WEEK
October 20–26, 2002

Whereas, the 21st century offers enormous environmental and societal challenges for governments at all levels; and

Whereas, these challenges call for innovative leadership to ensure resource conservation, protection of open space, waste prevention, sanitation management to provide quality of life. These challenges are inextricably linked to patterns of considerable demographic change; and

Whereas, world population is projected to increase by almost 80 million per year with 98 percent of population growth projected to occur in the least developed countries of the world. This growth can lead to disease, hunger and starvation; and

Whereas, demographic problems are not limited to the under developed nations. These problems are also a reality in the United States and other industrialized nations.

Therefore, I, Mark S. Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 20–26, 2002, as World Population Awareness Week In Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to reflect upon these challenges and seek rational, humanitarian and community-based solutions.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg on this twenty-fourth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and two and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER,
Governor.

PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE IN TURKEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the people of Turkey for their elections held on November 3. Witnessing the peaceful change of government is a change that is significant for both Turkey's citizens and for their neighborhood. Many of Turkey's neighbors need to see that such a transfer of power is possible, for the people of these countries have for too long suffered under the illusion that they must live with their repressive regimes that maintain power through undemocratic means.

It is also important to keep in mind that the Turks, seen by some as a model for the countries of Central Asia, are not new kids on the block—former President Demirel was an original signer of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission), I have followed closely the developments in Turkey. With a particularly keen interest in the protection of human rights which has such an impact on the lives of individual men, women and children, I continue to be concerned about the ongoing use of torture, violations of religious freedom and threats to civil society.

Through the ballot box, the Justice and Development Party, known as the AKP, received 34.3 percent of the vote, giving them a clear majority of 363 seats in the 550-seat Turkish Grand National Assembly. This entitles the AKP, led by former Istanbul Mayor Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to govern without sharing political power. He will not be without challenges to his authority though.

On November 8, the anniversary of the death of the Turkish reformer Kemal Ataturk, General Hilmi, Ozkok issued a statement vowing "to protect the republic against all types of threats, especially fundamentalism and separatist activities," reiterating strongly the military's view of itself as the historical guarantor of Turkey's secular system. Mr. Speaker, while