

which is near Jerusalem and close to Palestinian hospitals, clinics and laboratories.

The two institutions are now proposing a joint project for "Regional Cooperation on Infectious Diseases" that will cover the study and control of diarrheal and respiratory diseases, brucellosis, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, HIV infections and zoonotic diseases such as leishmaniasis, and rabies. Preventing and treating these diseases are of enormous importance to the welfare of the region as a whole.

The Congress fully recognizes and supports these types of cooperative Israeli-Palestinian health initiatives.

The Foreign Operations bill for Fiscal Year 2003, which has passed through the Appropriations Committee, includes language on the Kuvin Center/Al Quds cooperation. I am pleased that the Committee included the following paragraph in the report accompanying this bill:

The Committee acknowledges that one of the primary objectives of the West Bank and Gaza program is to create viable infrastructure in Palestinian Authority-controlled areas to ensure the health and welfare of the Palestinian people. Al Quds University, in cooperation with the Kuvin Center for Infectious Diseases of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has proposed the establishment of a regional health and disease program, which would work to build an effective infrastructure to deal with serious health and disease problems among the Palestinian people. The Committee understands that cooperative programs of this nature are rare in the current environment, and urges AID to work, through the West Bank and Gaza program, to help Al Quds and the Kuvin Center begin this initiative.

This project is designed to enable the United States to provide \$15 million over five years to this cooperative effort to deal with infectious diseases.

This program does not require any additional appropriations. The proposed expenditure of these funds is an indication of Congressional intent on just how American money that has already been allocated can best be used in a productive capacity for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Thus, the Kuvin Center-Hebrew University/Al Quds University cooperative effort will serve as a model of how the United States, Israel and the Palestinians can work together on projects that will benefit the entire region.

While Marla Bennett and the four other Americans who were killed, together with four Israelis, cannot ever come back to life, it is important to preserve their memory by continuing with projects such as this one. It is the very least we can do for them, for their ideals and for their dreams. Even more important, it will serve as a step toward a better future for the entire region.

RABBI SILVER'S 2002 VETERANS DAY ADDRESS

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rabbi Eric A. Silver, it is my honor to share the text of his 2002 Veterans Day address with the Members of the House. Rabbi Silver

is a retired naval officer who earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal for wounds he received in combat. Rabbi Silver is a man most deserving of our praise and respect. His address reads as follows:

I am a veteran. This means that I wore the uniform of my country, and I served, together with millions of American men and women, defending America in various ways for the past two hundred and twenty-six years. I am proud to be a veteran, proud to stand before you this morning, at this solemn moment, which commemorates the moment the guns went silent in 1918, for what many earnestly hoped would be the last time. Alas, that dream was not to be.

But this day speaks about more than that—it speaks about every man and woman who served, and this morning I would like to speak to you about a man who is, in my judgment, the quintessential veteran—a man who embodies every ideal, every virtue of, and citizenship that every veteran aspires to emulate.

Nearly two hundred and three years ago, George Washington died, and in his eulogy, his friend Henry Lee dedicated his words: "To the memory of the Man, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." It wasn't merely that Washington had become the first president of the United States, or that he was the victorious commanding general of the Revolution. Of course, by the time he was chosen to be President, the mythology which had grown up around this man was so large that it was difficult to separate between the man and the legend, but it was, in truth, his qualities as a veteran that set the pace for every American Armed Services who would wear the uniform—in his own time—and for all time to come. He set the pace for the kind of military we would have, and for the way it would function within the American system. And it is Washington, the veteran that I should like to speak about, because every one of us strove to emulate him.

Washington was not a philosopher—at least not in the sense that he was well-read in the classical works. In fact to some this made him somewhat less than he might have been in their eyes had he been able to quote from the works of the great thinkers. He was, however, a practical philosopher. He had an uncanny knack for learning on the job, and by his actions, establishing a paradigm that others might follow.

He was brave, to be sure. He was beyond brave. As a young officer serving with General Braddock, it was noted that Washington's uniform had several bullet holes in it. But he understood that his men would never face fire if he were unwilling to do so. That spirit would guide his actions throughout the long and dark days of the Revolution, when Washington was faced with troops who were frightened, who melted away at the first sign of the enemy, and it was his courage, his cool, calm demeanor that inspired his troops, and rallied them.

It was no accident that he was picked to lead the army of this nascent Republic. He was, after all, a veteran, someone who had already established himself by years of military service. But there were others who were considered for the post. John Hancock felt that he should have gotten the job, for he would have led his troops directly against the British and taught them a good lesson. And his army would quickly have been obliterated, and the Revolution would have died in its infancy. Charles Lee was highly regarded, and thought by many to have the qualities needed, but he was sometimes too cautious, and might have been willing to accept setbacks as defeats. But neither man

had the one quality which Washington had which made him the best choice for an American commander, and this was Washington's understanding of the military's role in respect to the civilian authority, for this would determine the kind of America that would exist after the Revolution.

America has never had a military takeover. More to the point, America has never faced the threat of a military takeover. The various political factions which have guided this nation's destiny for two and a quarter centuries never once relied upon the strength of our military to place or keep them in power. If we had any indoctrination at all, it was this: that in America, every one of us who wore the uniform understood that we served under the authority of the civilian arm. We didn't always agree with them, we sometimes laughed at them, and we were sometimes angry with them, but it never once crossed our minds that we should use the power at our disposal to change things within this nation and make them right.

The inspiration for this ideal was General George Washington who, at various times, had to remind his senior officers that he—and they—were always under the control of the Continental Congress. When we tell stories today about how the military clashes with Congress, but how Congress always has the upper hand, we need to keep in mind that it was Washington who established that paradigm. He could have done something quite different. In fact, when it was all over, and it was realized that he was the general who had defeated the world's mightiest military force, there were more than mild suggestions that he should assume the royal purple himself. After all, historically this is what all conquering generals had done. The idea of a republic that would govern such a large stretch of territory was unheard of in history. The pattern was monarchy. Everyone understood this clearly, and who better to be the sovereign than the man who had so richly earned it. And we would go from one King George to another.

And so it seemed strange to many that, once the peace treaty was signed and America's independence assured, Washington made plain his intention to leave public life and become Citizen Washington. It was quite a shock to many. In fact, King George, when he learned of this said: "If he really intends to do this, then he is certainly the greatest man alive." And he was. Just a few years later, when Napoleon was defeated, he was asked why he had not—at the peak of his powers—having assured the safety of France, retired then to a well-earned and comfortable private life filled with honor, rather than assuming the crown for himself. He commented: "Everyone expected me to be Washington, and what they didn't understand is only Washington was Washington."

Well, he was wrong about that, because every one of us who has worn the uniform of America has a bit of Washington in us. That was drummed into us from the outset—career military or not, we are all citizen warriors. We wear the uniform, we do our job, and then when that job is done, we become once more the citizen. The dream of military conquest of our own nation has never occurred to any one of us. And so it is that those who have the weapons are the strongest protectors of the American way of life, rather than its most threatening force.

And today, America is at war once again. We need to understand that this time we face a threat to our existence more powerful than any we have encountered to date. This will truly be the Second War of American Independence, for upon the success of this endeavor will depend the survival not only of our nation, but of western civilization itself. It will be a long war, it will be a conflict

that will be bitterly fought—not only on battlefields that will become increasingly more difficult to define, but in the halls of deliberative bodies around the world by those whose love of freedom and whose grasp of the reality of the situation is not yet equal to the task. And this war will produce veterans—men and women who will serve their country and who will bring us the victory that this nation and civilization demands—and who, once victory is assured, will—in the time honored tradition set forth by our first leader, return to private life as citizens.

And today, America honors its veterans, not always understanding what it is that they have accomplished, and not always comprehending how they think. But we know, and that is enough for us. So today—Veterans! Stand proud! For you have served, and today your country honors you. And for those of you who are not veterans, know what it is that these men and women have done. And give them honor, for they have earned it—not merely for their bravery, but for their willingness—indeed their eagerness that once having had power, they wanted only to return to their lives in their offices, their farms, their shops—for they are the quintessential veterans. They are Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 5th District of Connecticut and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Rabbi Eric A. Silver for his honorable years of military service, and thank him for his remarks this Veteran's Day.

SELECTIVE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Dean E. Schick of Cheyenne Wells, Colorado; Mr. Leslie M. Rittgers of Eads, Colorado; and Mr. C.P. Bryant, Jr. of Las Animas, Colorado on their appointments to the Selective Service Local Board 025 in Pueblo, Colorado.

Local board members have the distinction of receiving an appointment by the Director of Selective Service in the name of President George W. Bush, and on the recommendation of Governor Bill Owens. Patriotic Americans, these board members serve their country by volunteering their time to assist the government in selecting men suitable for military service in the event of a draft. If a draft commences, these gentlemen would decide who would receive deferments, postponements, or exemption from military service based on the individual registrant's circumstances and beliefs.

The Selective Service System is America's defense manpower "insurance policy" in a still dangerous and uncertain world. The service performed by a Selective Service Board Member provides a vital link between the community and today's military. His hard work helps guarantee claims filed by young men for deferments and exemptions will receive fair and equitable consideration if a future crisis requires reinstatement of a draft.

Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers on their appointments. I ask the House to join me in thanking these three men for their commitment to their country.

HONORING ASHLAND POLICE CHIEF FREDERIC PLEASANTS, JR. FOR HIS ROLE IN THE SNIPER ATTACKS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ashland Police Chief Frederic Pleasants, Jr. for his role during the sniper attacks that shook Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

After the Ashland, Virginia shooting of October 19th, Chief Pleasants was on the scene in a matter of minutes and helped lead the quick and efficient response that ensued. It is known that Chief Pleasants can always be found hard at work behind the scenes, a characteristic that will certainly benefit the prosecution during the trial of the suspects. In fact, throughout the ordeal, Chief Pleasants and his dedicated staff logged 16-plus-hour days.

Chief Pleasants is an exceptional law enforcement officer who has served the Commonwealth of Virginia with distinction for over 32 years. His humility, professionalism, commitment to his team and community are truly deserving of special recognition. We are fortunate that he serves in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Chief Pleasants.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, on September 11th, 2001, Americans were faced with the horrible reality of that day's heinous attacks.

As we gather here today, in the building that served as our Nation's first Capitol and witnessed the inauguration of our first president, our blessed Nation stands firm and it stands strong.

Over the past year, Americans have shown those who wished to tear our country apart that their cowardly actions only brought our nation closer together. Here in the place where our democracy was born, we say to the world that these states of America remain united. We are united by our values, our communities, and our freedoms. Just as we will never forget what makes this nation great, we will never forget the hardships we have endured. We will always remember September 11th.

Even though America has had a year to mourn our losses, we still weep for the victims of that day. We continue to offer our prayers, our comfort, and our resolve to those who lost loved ones on that day.

Without question, the attacks of September 11th were a strike against all nations that value freedom and democracy. It was an act of war, but we were not to be intimidated. As a Congress, we remain steadfast with our nation in the fight against terrorism. American history has always been defined by the resiliency of our people and I stand here today to repeat our solemn pledge to defend freedom

and liberty and show that we will remain resilient no matter the threat. The freedoms and values our forefathers gathered in this hall to protect are simply too sacrosanct to ever be compromised.

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF
GEORGE O. WITHERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year that we say farewell to some old friends. That's never easy. But it is even harder when the friend in question spent considerable time and energy helping make us all look good.

George Withers, who is leaving the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of this year, came to Capitol Hill in 1978. He had served his country in the Navy during Vietnam. But he has spent twenty-four years proving that national service doesn't end when you take off the uniform. As legislative director on a personal staff, then press secretary and a professional staff member of the committee, George has made America better every day.

A lot of young go-getters come to work on the Hill, Mr. Speaker. But George proved that you don't have to be obnoxious to get things done. His real sense of decency and values have provided a reference and example for not only the Armed Services Committee staff, but all of us who worked with him.

George has been the conscience of the committee staff. He is a devoted advocate for those Americans who most need and deserve Congress's protection. Discussions of national security can get pretty esoteric, but George makes sure that we keep our focus on people, both those in uniform and those our military exists to protect. As a former enlisted man and NCO, he never lets the former officers on the staff forget who the real troops are.

Mr. Speaker, while our staff works in a non-partisan way, George is a determined, thoroughgoing, old-school Democrat. But look at the pictures on his office walls. Yes, he has photos of himself with our former colleagues Ron Dellums and Silvio Conte. But there's John Kasich, too, and President Bush. All of which speaks to the fairness and openmindedness with which George approached his job. He lets his political beliefs inform his work, but never get in the way of doing what was right for the country.

To my way of thinking, George has only one flaw. The B-2 bomber is the pride of Whiteman Air Force Base, in my district. George led the fight at the staff level against the B-2, and succeeded for quite some time. In gratitude for George's exemplary service, I promise not to have one named for him.

In recent years, George's primary duties have concerned the military construction budget. Every member of this body whose district has received military construction funds—and that's most of us—has George Withers to thank.

But he was also our committee's driving force on policies concerning Latin America. Whether the question was the naval bombing on Vieques or the United States' role in Colombia, George fought for a sensible, humble foreign policy.