

our enemies. In fact, one in 32 mariners serving aboard merchant ships in the Second World War died in the line of duty, suffering a greater percentage of war-related deaths than all other U.S. services.

Since that time, the U.S. Merchant Marine has continued to serve our nation, promoting freedom and meeting the high ideals of its past members. It is fitting to honor the past and present members of the U.S. Merchant Marine. This is why I introduced legislation in the previous Congress that would provide additional federal funding for the memorial wall in San Pedro. Twice the House has approved legislation authorizing funds for this worthy memorial, today I am pleased that the House and Senate are moving to approve this authorization in the port security conference report.

Throughout the development of the conference report, I have sought to provide the greater protection for ports and the communities that surround them against terrorist attacks. I am pleased that the conferees have included port security grants and research and development grants that will encourage the development and use of state-of-the-art technology. Like the conferees, I believe it is important to encourage the private sector to continually advance the state of the art as a means of enhancing detection capabilities and thus enhancing deterrence over time.

When he is reviewing project proposals and awarding grants, I encourage the Secretary of Transportation to give preference to those projects that incorporate technologies that are capable of automatically detecting shielded nuclear weapons, liquid and other explosives, and chemical and biological agents weapons in fully loaded cargo containers without the need for humans to open the containers to manually inspect them. Based on testimony received by the Congress, it would appear that pulsed fast neutron technology is capable today of meeting this need. As a result, I hope that this technology and other technologies will be identified, developed, and installed in our ports as part of the ongoing process of enhancing port security through this legislation.

Long Beach State's Center for the Commercial Deployment of Transportation Technologies (CCDoTT) has been developing maritime technology for many years, and has recently turned their attention to port security technology as well. In the FY03 Defense Appropriations bill CCDoTT was granted \$4.3 million for continuation of their important work to develop more efficient cargo handling in ports, high-speed ship designs, and port security research. This funding will allow the center to continue assessing cargo inspection technologies that can help meet the needs of agencies such as the U.S. Customs Service and the Coast Guard.

Section 70107 of the accompanying report authorizes an additional \$15 million for fiscal years 2003 through 2008 for research and development grants for port security. I am pleased that report language for the Port and Maritime Security Act of 2002 particularly notes the importance of the research being done at Long Beach State's Center for the Commercial Deployment of Transportation Technologies. This language encourages the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Defense to obligate any current and prior year appropriations under the continuing cooperative agreement. The Center is sponsored by the U.S. Maritime Administration and U.S.

Department of Defense and I am certain it will continue to provide invaluable research for America's maritime interests. Again, I am pleased with, and strongly support, this timely port security legislation.

#### PROJECT 19

### HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave American civilians who volunteered to assist our allies in the fight against an enemy that was threatening democracy for the entire world. These patriotic Americans chose to enter World War II to participate in a mission referred to as Project 19.

In the fall of 1941, prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to discuss the United States assisting Britain in its battle with Hitler's Reich.

President Roosevelt responded by authorizing a secret Air Depot to be established and operated by American civilian volunteers in Eritrea, East Africa under the direction of Douglas Aircraft Company. Due to the fact that the U.S. had not yet entered the war and for obvious diplomatic reasons, Project 19 was classified as "secret."

The goal of the volunteers, also referred to as "Tech Reps" and "Feather Merchants," was to assemble P-40's and repair hundreds of worn out and damaged allied aircraft, first for the Royal Air Force (RAF), and after America entered the conflict, B-24's and B-17's for the United States Army Air Corps. When this group of freedom loving Americans first began their volunteer mission, they helped the RAF repair planes that had been damaged during horrific battles. When the secret mission was terminated, many volunteers joined the military to fight alongside our allies and some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives.

Many lives have been affected by the sacrifice these valiant men made and I believe the time has come to recognize these heroes who volunteered their services and their lives to their country and its allies.

Mr. Speaker, as long as our Nation is served by men and women who place the defense of freedom above their personal safety and well being our Nation will endure. The men of Project 19 served with pride and distinction, and deserve the recognition of our Nation and this Congress.

#### THANKING MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

### HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, the end of a congressional career brings about many emotions. Over the last twenty years I have happily spent representing the fine people of the 17th Congressional District of Pennsylvania I have had the pleasure of working with thousands of constituents, local, state and federal officials, and many former and current distin-

guished members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. To all of them I say, thanks for working with me towards a better America.

And, of course, every Member of Congress works with many, many competent staff, from the staff in their own personal offices to the Committee and Subcommittee staff and the leadership and floor staff. It has often been said that without staff where would this institution be? And I concur with that statement, for without the many fine staff with whom I have had good fortune to work, I and other Members of Congress of the United States would be far worse off. While I cannot mention all the fine staff who have worked with me over the years, let me at least mention the current personal and subcommittee staffers who have endeavored to achieve our common goals and to whom I give my hearty thanks and wish them well in their future careers.

In my Harrisburg district office, Arlene Eckels, my long-time personal secretary who has worked for me since the early days in the Pennsylvania State Senate and to whom I wish a happy and much deserved retirement; Tom Templeton, my hardworking district director, who so ably kept my entire district staff working smoothly; Suzanne Stoll, an old friend and superb caseworker; Paul Giannaris, whose ability to handle INS problems has made him invaluable; and Tim Vollrath, a recently returned former employee whose military and veterans help has been superb. In our Lebanon Office, Reg Nyman has been the voice of Lebanon for these many years, and his excellent knowledge and service will be missed. And in our Elizabethtown office, Susan Melendez has kept our Lancaster County constituents well served by her kind and efficient manner. Over the last twenty years my district office staff has handled hundreds of thousands of phone calls and constituent casework requests. A superb record by a superb staff.

My Washington office staff have proven themselves time and time again, regularly going beyond the call of duty. (The tally of my hundreds of legislative measures, nearly 30 Public Laws, thousands of office meetings and countless committee and other initiatives over the years speaks truth to that assertion.) First, on my personal staff, Patrick Sheehan, my Counsel and Legislative Director, has been a dynamic and intelligent thinker and leader, who offered sage advice on immigration, military and veterans affairs; Greg Herman, my Senior Legislative Counsel kept pace with my many Judiciary and legislative demands especially bankruptcy reform and appropriations (as I would expect from a Palmyra, PA native); Becky Smith, my office manager and health legislative assistant, kept my schedule and personal affairs humming along smoothly and ably managed my most favorite of projects, the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus of which I was founder and Co-Chairman; David Greineder, who did a multitude of duties as my talented systems manager, legislative correspondent and Legislative Assistant covering education and labor issues; Bill Tighe, another LC and Legislative Assistant whose insights into the Agriculture and Natural Resources needs of Pennsylvania and the district were more than invaluable, they were accurate; Mike Shields, my recent press secretary extraordinaire, who did an excellent job under difficult situations; and, of course, Alan

Cagnoli, my long time Chief of Staff from Hershey, PA, a superb leader of the office and jack-of-all-trades who kept the office running and productive no matter what the crisis.

My Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, of which I was Chairman, was ably staffed by George Fishman, Lora Ries, Art Arthur, Cynthia Blackston and Emily Sanders, as well as Brian Zimmer of the Full Committee staff. They handled the extremely important legislation necessitated by the new domestic and international threats we now face. Their assistance to me during the challenges of this year is impossible to measure. The House of Representatives has much to look forward to with their continued work.

And last but not least, is the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, of which I was a member this last Congress but on which I served as Chairman from 1994–2000. On this subcommittee we dealt with the hundreds of regulatory reform issues developed by the Republican Majority through the Contract With America and following initiatives. My major Bankruptcy Reform measure began with me in this subcommittee; Administrative Law Judges; Legal Services Reform; the Federal Agency Compliance Act; The Regulatory Fair Warning Act; Executive Orders; Internet Tax reform; the Federal Arbitration Act; Interstate Compacts; the Independent Counsel Act; and many, many other topics. While bankruptcy reform took center stage, there was no end to the amount of topics and work my staff and I pursued. For this I thank them, the current and former staffers of the subcommittee, for all their exceptional work: Chief Counsel Ray Smietanka, who has worked with me as a chief committee counsel since I came to the 98th Congress in 1983; Susan-Jensen Conklin, whose superb work on bankruptcy reform got us where we are today; Rob Tracci, formerly of the Subcommittee, was an invaluable source of assistance; and all the other members of the CAL staff who have helped this Member of Congress over the many productive years. I thank them all for their work to the Nation and me.

To all I have mentioned, and those who I have regrettably not, please accept my sincere thanks for making my tenure in the United States House of Representatives a productive and pleasant one. Any current Member of Congress or Committee would be well served by the high-quality staff with whom it has been my pleasure to work over these many years.

THE HONORABLE TIM ROEMER

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to show my appreciation for the distinguished member from Indiana's Third District. For the past twelve years, Congressman TIM ROEMER has served the people of Northcentral Indiana with a steadfast commitment and dedication to their needs.

A Hoosier, born and bred, TIM ROEMER came to Washington, D.C. to represent the fundamental Indiana values of strong faith in God and an unwavering duty to country and to family. As a member of Congress and a father

of four, he has been a strong advocate for trying to make the House of Representatives more family-friendly.

As a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, he has worked tirelessly to improve our children's education from Head Start all the way to the college-level, supporting public school choice and making college education more affordable for all Americans.

I want to thank Congressman TIM ROEMER for his hard work on behalf of the Third District, the State of Indiana and the country. I wish him, his wife Sally and their four children—Patrick Hunter, Matthew Bennett, Sarah Kathryn and Grace Elizabeth, all the best in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 483 and 484. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 483, and "no" on rollcall vote 484.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE L.A. FREE CLINIC

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Los Angeles Free Clinic, L.A. Free Clinic, a tremendous and vital health care resource which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. The L.A. Free Clinic has become a true beacon of light in our ever uncertain health care system in Los Angeles. It is synonymous with quality and accessible health care for the homeless, the uninsured and under-insured, the working poor and run-away and high-risk youth.

The L.A. Free Clinic came into being during the summer of 1967 when a small group of volunteers opened a storefront clinic on Fairfax Avenue to serve the thousands of "flower children" who were living in the streets and parks that summer. They crowded the clinic with an array of health issues, and the crowds have been coming ever since. Today, the clinic is a sophisticated but accessible string of three separate sites serving 100,000 patients annually. As the longest continuously running free clinic in our Nation, the L.A. Free Clinic serves as a remarkable model.

Its mission is to serve as a community-based clinic which identifies the health care and social service needs of under-served populations. It develops comprehensive resources and quality programs to meet those needs and provides the services free of charge and free of judgement in a caring environment.

The clinic's most important mission is to provide health care to those who can not or will not receive care elsewhere. The L.A. Free Clinic believes that health and human services are a right and not a privilege.

The clinic offers a wide range of primary care and specialty care for the entire family. In

addition, the clinic houses broad and important social services to treat the whole patient. It has a domestic violence advocate available to recognize and work with patients who are victims of domestic violence. There is also a legal clinic on site to assist with a variety of issues such as immigration and child custody. There are case managers and mental health professionals at the ready to treat any number of concerns that patients may present when they come to the clinic.

Part of what makes the L.A. Free Clinic so successful is its more than 500 volunteers who eagerly answer phones, translate diagnoses, speak at health fairs and organize fundraisers. The clinic's board is equally dedicated and impressive, still represented by some original founders. The L.A. Free Clinic is also lucky to have a number of support organizations without which it could not function. They include Friends of the L.A. Free Clinic, New Friends of the L.A. Free Clinic and L.A. Free Clinic Auxiliary.

It has been my distinct privilege to represent and support the L.A. Free Clinic for much of its existence. The residents of Los Angeles and our health care system owe the L.A. Free Clinic a great debt of gratitude and we will continue to rely on its superb service and caring. We are looking forward to the next 35 years to come.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the L.A. Free Clinic a very heartfelt and happy 35th anniversary.

#### A TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE TODD SALIMAN

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Todd Saliman for his exemplary public service in the Colorado General Assembly from 1995 through 2003. I would like to thank him in this forum, not only for his service to my state, but also for the example he has shown to young people all across America, that public service is not contingent on one's seniority.

A native of Littleton, Colorado, Todd studied at the Université de Savoie in Chambéry, France and graduated in 1989 from the University of Colorado in Boulder. He worked on the U.S. Senate campaign for Josie Heath and the Boulder County Field organization in 1990, the Local Open Space Sales Tax in 1993, the Executive Committees of the State and County Democratic parties for many years, and the Rocky Flats Local Impacts Initiative from 1991 to 1994.

In 1994, Todd was elected to represent House District 11 in north Boulder and was one of the youngest members in the history of the Colorado General Assembly. His constituents overwhelmingly approved of his service and returned him to office by over 70% of the vote in every subsequent election. In the Legislature, he quickly earned the affection and respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his intelligence, good judgment, and keen analysis on a wide range of issues. Todd was a member of the Joint Budget and Appropriations Committees overseeing the state's \$13 billion budget. He provided thoughtful and