

For teachers, the cost is significant. The Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision affect at least one-third of America's education workforce, concentrated in 15 states, including my home state of Texas. But, because people move from state to state, there are affected individuals everywhere. I know from personal experience the penalty hard working teachers pay. My own mother, who spent nearly 30 years serving as a teacher in the public schools, has been adversely affected. We need to attract more people to teaching and public service. Adding onerous and additional unfair requirements to obtaining their retirement benefits will not solve the crisis we are having in attracting and retaining teacher professionals.

Since my election to Congress, I have worked to eliminate these two provisions. On March 1, 2001, I introduced H.R. 848, the Social Security Benefit Restoration Act. This bill will bring equity to retirement benefits. It will eliminate the public sector penalty and will allow civil servants to draw full Social Security benefits. I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 2638, the Social Security Fairness Act. This bill eliminates the Windfall Elimination Provision as well as the Government Pension Offset. Finally, I, along with an overwhelming majority of Members, have cosponsored H.R. 664, which also eliminates the Government Pension Offset.

My bill and the other legislation to eliminate these unjust provisions have been languishing in the House Ways and Means Committee. These bills are but another example of the long list of things the Republican leadership of the Congress has failed to address. To pass a bill that would make retirement less accessible for those who teach our children is unconscionable. We need to be doing more to strengthen the teaching profession and not adopt laws that make teaching less attractive to current and prospective teachers.

When the 108th Congress convenes next year, I will reintroduce my bill and work with my colleagues to eliminate these unfair provisions. Thousands of Texans who have devoted their lives to teaching and public service are entitled to the benefits they have spent a career earning. Basic fairness demands that Congress repeal these provisions and allow teachers and other public servants to collect all of their retirement benefits.

ON THE HISTORIC OCCASION OF
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
JOINT MEETING IN NEW YORK
TO COMMEMORATE THE TRAG-
EDY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me as the Member of the United States Congress to convene here in New York today, September 9, 2002, on this historic occasion. It has been one year since the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11. It has been over two hundred years since Congress convened here in New York at Federal Hall to elect the first President of the United States and to ratify the Bill of Rights.

We applaud the people of this great city and state for their resolve in light of the devasta-

tion thrust upon them. It is a credit to their perseverance and their total commitment to freedom that the 107th Congress stands proud today. We reflect with remorse on the past year, but also look forward with hope and optimism as we proceed in the healing of our Nation. On this historic day, the congress has convened to mourn the loss of families and friends during the September 11 attacks, and to salute the heroism of our police officers, fire fighters, and emergency responders who performed with unbridled bravery and gave so selflessly on that tragic day.

As I reflect on the tragic events of a year ago, I am reminded of the heavy hearts of so many great Americans who have grappled with this cowardly act and for those who had loved ones who perished in New York, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon. For those who lost friends and coworkers and who must now try to go on with their lives, our prayers are offered to these families and their friends and to all America and other Countries who lost loved ones.

Today, we are expressing our gratitude to the fire fighters, police officers, healthcare workers and those individuals who, on that fateful day, performed heroic deeds and helped their fellow citizens and neighbors without regard for their own welfare.

During the recent year, my colleagues and I in Congress have actively engaged in debate about how to develop an agenda that addresses the new world in which we now live.

Though our country and the world have been shaken, we continue to build bridges toward progress and strengthen the bond of patriotism and the spirit of hope. I cannot express how important it is to map out a course for our future that will sustain, inspire and protect our children. We must provide our children with a sense of optimism and hope.

Our domestic efforts and grief over the tragic events of September 11 have heightened our appreciation for the pain of others around the world who have been subjected to the brutality and inhumanity of terrorism. That is why we have supported liberation and democratization efforts in Afghanistan and seek to assist in the rehabilitation of those persecuted and who are attempting to rebuild their lives and their country. We must complete our mission there.

As we return to Washington, our nation and its Congress will never forget the victims of September 11. On this occasion of reflection, recommitment and rededication to freedom and democracy, we are affirming our commitment to remember and honor the men and women who paid the ultimate price—their lives. They will always be a part of our history and our hearts. Our nation shall continue to rise to meet the challenge of terrorism and the threats posed by terrorists who seek to derail freedom and a Nation of peace.

H. RES. 598

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I rise to honor my friend Senator Paul Wellstone, who died October 25 in a plane crash in Minnesota

along with his wife and daughter, three of his staff members and two pilots. The mark that Paul Wellstone left on the world was far, far greater than his small stature and down-to-earth nature would suggest. And so, the emptiness we feel at his passing is vast and deep. It stretches far beyond the personal pain of losing a friend, or the tragedy of his shattered family.

Senator Wellstone was a public servant in the most ideal sense of the term. Politics never became more important to him than the people he represented and the people he loved. Victory never became more important to him than voicing his true convictions. Power never became more important to him than his desire to serve the powerless.

On the campaign trail, Paul Wellstone drove an old green school bus across the state of Minnesota. From that bus Senator Wellstone tirelessly assured people that he would struggle for peace and fight for veterans, that he would work to stop the tide of domestic violence and mental illness, and that he would defend our fragile environment. Most of all, that old bus brought hope and excitement to people whom for too long, and for too many reasons, felt that their government had forgotten about them. Now that he is gone, that bus must not sit and rust away. We must have the courage, the commitment, and the strength to keep that bus rolling.

I will miss Paul Wellstone greatly. I know that we all will.

HONORING TERRY FARMER
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terry Farmer of Eureka, who is being honored for his twenty years of public service as the District Attorney of Humboldt County, California.

Mr. Farmer has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant in our community. He has served on numerous community boards and organizations to help make the community a better place in which to live. Prior to being appointed a deputy district attorney, he was elected to the Trinidad City Council and as a member of his local school board. He was elected District Attorney of Humboldt County in 1982.

As district attorney, Mr. Farmer strived to achieve an outstanding system of justice, defined by professionalism and integrity. He developed a culture of excellence that reinforced competence and ethical values within the office.

During his tenure, the district attorney's office assumed a leadership role in the Child Abuse Services Team, a consortium of law enforcement, child protective workers, mental health professionals and victims working to improve investigations, convict molesters, and protect children. The program remains a model throughout the state of California.

Mr. Farmer worked collaboratively to develop a program to crack down on the use of methamphetamine in our community, while working to increase public awareness and improve treatment services to deter people using the drug.

Mr. Farmer graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1972. He concluded 6 years of service as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army National Guard. He has ably served our nation, our state and our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Terry Farmer for his vision, leadership and commitment and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. ARTHUR H. WU AFTER 28 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent, Dr. Arthur H. Wu, for 28 years of meritorious federal service. In my Congressional tenure, I have been very proud to represent and serve the interests of our nation's most distinguished federal employees. These civil servants help to make our country safe, functional, and effective. We value their service and, today, I would like to specifically recognize Dr. Wu for his contributions to our nation upon his retirement from the Navy on December 20, 2002.

In his years of federal service Dr. Wu has made several notable contributions and attained a number of exceptional achievements. He was a top-ten finalist for the U.S. National Federal Engineer of the Year Award in 1997, as well as a two-time winner of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Engineer of the Year Award in 1985 and 1996. For these honors, he was recognized for: his significant contributions to the application of numerical modeling and computational analysis of foundations and dry-dock safety that resulted in millions of cost savings to the Navy; his exemplary leadership in directing and preparing engineering standards, criteria, and computer software used by practicing engineers in site selection and design in areas of high security; and for over conserving an estimated \$20 million of Navy resources and providing for enhanced military readiness. In addition to the above three major awards, Dr. Wu has also received over 20 special awards for his engineering design achievements and innovative technical developments.

Dr. Wu has ably served our nation well in a number of capacities including Senior Geotechnical Consultant, Acting Chief Engineer, Director of the Applied Engineering Division, and Technical Discipline Leader for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center. Dr. Wu is recognized worldwide as one of the premier problem solving engineers in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. His reputation for expert and thorough engineering analyses and support for ongoing design and construction projects are well known within the Department of Defense and private industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Wu for his years of service to our federal government. I offer him my warmest congratulations on his retirement and best wishes in his future endeavors.

THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE AND HUNGER IN AFRICA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I rise today to commemorate those innocent victims murdered by the Soviet regime during the Ukrainian Famine. Mr. Speaker, I also call the attention of the House to the famine presently being waged against the people of Zambia, Zimbabwe and South-central Africa.

This year, on November 23, the world observes the 69th anniversary of Ukraine's Great Famine—an unspeakable event. By presidential decree, every fourth Saturday in November is a national day of remembrance for famine and genocide victims throughout Ukraine. History has not witnessed a greater moral injustice. This was genocide unlike any other example in the history of human civilization.

At the time of the Great Ukrainian Famine, playwright George Bernard Shaw and his friend, Lady Astor, had a rare visit with Josef Stalin. "When are you going to stop killing people?" Lady Astor brazenly asked of Comrade Stalin. His terse reply: "When it is no longer necessary."

Stalin's favorite killing tool was mass starvation, a tactic he used ruthlessly against his own people. "The collectivization program in Ukraine resulted in a famine which cost not less than 3,000,000 lives in 1932. It was a Stalin-made famine," reported Time Magazine in its January 1, 1940, issue. We know now, the more realistic estimate is more than twice that originally reported by Time.

The Ukrainian Famine of 1921–1923 was a human tragedy perpetrated by the Soviet regime in an attempt to destroy Ukraine and its culture and leave behind an amorphous mass of people that could be restructured and redefined to serve the Soviet Union. It began as a process of assimilation, but soon turned to the collectivization and then subjugation of Ukrainian peasants, their lands, and their livelihoods. Most paid the ultimate price for their heritage, culture and orientation toward independence.

Bolshevik partisans confiscated grain from Ukrainian peasants and subsequently exported the stolen food to foreign nations and other regions of the Soviet empire. Those who protested were imprisoned, deported, or often killed on the spot. This grain, belonging to Ukraine, would have saved thousands of Ukrainian lives. Instead, it was callously shipped off for purposes of generating state profit, sometimes left to rot on the docks, or shipped to meet the needs of Russia's population. Once the famine ended, Ukraine's population was further decimated by a series of epidemics.

The Commission on the Ukraine Famine, appointed by Congress in 1986, researched and documented this terrible event. The commission confirmed these horrible events and verified the cruelty with which the atrocity was executed. The deliberate mass starvation did indeed constitute an act of genocide against Ukrainians. The commission's findings are recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for posterity, as is the graphic and sobering testimony of genocide survivors.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus have, in prior years, risen here on the House floor in observance of the Ukrainian Famine and in solidarity with the survivors of this terrible tragedy. We have taken great efforts to ensure this House never forgets. In fact, we honor the lives of the victims by rededicating ourselves to summoning the strength and courage of our own nation and the conscientious voices of its leaders in the Congress to stand in firm contradiction to any new tyrant who would contemplate such devastation through intentional famine.

Today's observance compels me to also speak out against one such example of starvation currently taking place in south-central Africa. Mr. Speaker, America must be unambiguous in its opposition to the deliberate famine presently being orchestrated there by an alliance of clearly defined conspirators.

As in Ukraine seventy 70 years ago. Southern Africa's famine has less to do with drought and everything to do with pure politics. Today, nearly 13 million people in Southern Africa face a similar starvation.

"We're staring catastrophe in the face—unless we get food aid fast to millions of people whose lives are in the balance because they are starving," said James Morris, the UN's special envoy to the region.

Officials blame environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace that have pressured African countries like Zambia to halt shipments of food aid from the United States and other nations willing and able to relieve the famine and save precious lives. The groups oppose so-called genetically modified (GM) foods. Extremist groups have put their ideology—opposing the importation of all such hybrid agricultural products—ahead of the lives of starving people.

"It's very disturbing to me that some groups have chosen a famine to make a political point," says Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). "The lives of 13 million people are at risk."

Natsios said the U.S. is ready to supply more than 75 percent of all the food coming into starving Southern Africa. "If they don't get food from us they're not going to get it," he said.

This year, for example, Zimbabwe has refused to accept U.S. corn, convinced by radical groups that GM gain might somehow "contaminate" native crops. Some of this life-saving corn was grown in my own state of Colorado. Adding more disinformation, Friends of the Earth claims "the U.S. is disposing of its rejected food on Africa," in a news release last month.

Just as in Stalin's days, truth has seldom been an ally of the Left. Natsios, who says the U.S. has been supplying GM foods to the region for the past seven years, also says it is the same food sold and consumed in the United States. "I've never seen, in my 30 years of public service, such disinformation and intellectual dishonesty," he said.

As for problems with modified crops—there are none. Concerned about the lives of millions of people desperately in need, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a report at the end of the summer assuring GM foods are perfectly safe. "Southern African countries should consider accepting GM food aid in the face of the humanitarian crisis facing the region," urged WHO Director General Gro Harlem Brundtland.