

I would note that interest accrues to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund at a rate of, for example, \$103 million last fiscal year. Meanwhile, there is a \$1.8 billion unappropriated balance in the Fund. CARE 21 in no way adversely affects the abandoned mine reclamation program. The principal remains intact for that effort, and is fueled by annual reclamation fees assessed on every ton of mined coal which finances the program.

As such, one of the key features of CARE 21 is that the general taxpayer is not being called upon to pay for retired coal miner health care, but rather, the coal industry itself would provide for this coverage through the interest which accrues to the fees it pays into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I noted earlier there is a historical commitment to providing health care for retired coal miners. This is a unique situation in that what would normally be a matter solely for the private sector is not in this instance. The genesis for this situation dates back to 1946 in an agreement between then-UMW President John L. Lewis and the Federal Government to resolve a long-running labor dispute. At the time, President Truman had ordered the Interior Secretary to take possession of all bituminous coal mines in the country in an effort to break a United Mine Workers of America strike. Eventually, Lewis and Secretary Julius Krug reached an agreement that included an industry-wide, miner controlled health plan.

In fact, the 1992 Coal Act itself was formulated partly on the basis of recommendations from the Coal Commission, established by former Labor Secretary Libby Dole, which in 1990 recommended a statutory obligation to help finance the UMWA's Health Benefit Funds.

Mr. Speaker, the people covered by this health care program spent their careers producing the energy which powered this Nation to greatness. We must not forsake them. We must not cast them adrift in their later years, robbed of the health care they so desperately need.

THE RETIREMENT OF RIO RANCHO MAYOR JOHN JENNINGS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we all know of those local elected leaders from our states who, because of their tenure in office, accomplishments, dedication, and hard work, seem to define the term 'public servant.' These are the ones who do not seek headlines, but whose satisfaction comes from doing good things for their communities. I know of no other leader who fits this definition and style of public service more aptly than Rio Rancho Mayor John Jennings. Mayor Jennings will be leaving his post in March, after an exciting term in the history of this special city. He deserves immense credit for the success and growth of New Mexico's fastest-growing city.

Mayor Jennings came to office in 1998 from a career in banking, serving Sunwest Bank for 23 years. He also served as a president of the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce. He used

this experience to begin the demanding task of governing.

Mayor Jennings has served at a time of amazing expansion for the City of Vision. Building a city that can sustain such rapid growth has required patience, careful planning and effort, but those who live there feel they have finally created a community with its own identity, one that will continue to grow and thrive. Mayor Jennings has done a remarkable job in this regard.

A number of challenging issues face the City of Vision. Whether it be water, planning, revenue, or any issue that looms before our nation's mayors, John has capably acted on behalf of his city to address them. His leadership has been effective, and he leaves the city better than he found it.

As the U.S. Representative for the Third Congressional District, I hear from a number of the elected officials that I represent. However, Mayor Jennings has always made sure that I was aware of the matters that affected our dual constituents.

Mayor Jennings leaves office with a number of important accomplishments that will aid Rio Rancho for years to come. He fought to attract new industry to the city, which is critical to expanding the city's tax base. He worked on a number of transportation and infrastructure issues. He was also a major voice in the Vision 2020 Integrated Comprehensive Plan, which is a blueprint for dealing with growth-associated problems. In addition, Rio Rancho is the second safest city in New Mexico and has one of the best school systems.

However, I believe that the true legacy of Mayor Jennings is the emphasis he placed on the quality of life in Rio Rancho. He told a reporter once that he wanted children in Rio Rancho to have the same things he had growing up in Roswell: good libraries, free schooling, a safe environment. Therefore, many of his priorities were not surprising: adding park space and open space, correcting infrastructure deficiencies, such as adding sewer lines, repairing and upgrading roads, and adding to libraries; and maintaining the Department of Public Safety at its current level to keep its excellent safety record. Without a doubt, he has succeeded in many of these initiatives.

Mayor Jennings is from a family in New Mexico devoted to public service. From Rio Rancho to Roswell, the Jennings family has left a legacy of making government work for our citizens. His brother Tom is a former mayor of Roswell, and his brother Tim serves in the New Mexico State Senate. I am pleased that John has chosen to follow his family in this endeavor and he has done a remarkable job. More important than all of that is the indelible mark he continues to make on our minds as a man of true integrity, character, and kindness, a true gentleman who never speaks ill of a soul and one whose friendship is of the highest quality and value.

I hope that Mayor Jennings leaves his post with fond memories of his mayoral tenure and a sense of accomplishment for his efforts. Knowing John, upon his retirement, he is going to pursue endeavors that will be interesting and challenging; and no matter what he undertakes, I am sure that he will enjoy great success.

On behalf of Rio Rancho, the state of New Mexico, and this nation, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mayor John Jennings for his service.

HONORING THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER ASSOCIATION'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, today, the Northern California Water Association is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Since 1992, NCWA has provided a strong regional voice on California water policy for Northern California's water suppliers, farmers, and landowners.

NCWA is a prominent and well-respected organization in Northern California water issues. The organization represents 70 agricultural water suppliers and individual farmers who rely upon the waters of the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Yuba Rivers, smaller tributaries and groundwater to irrigate over 870,000 acres of Northern California farmland, extending from the Coast Range to the Sierra Nevada foothills, and from Redding to Sacramento.

For the past 10 years, NCWA has been a leader in protecting Northern California water rights, developing the Sacramento Valley Water Management Agreement, promoting the construction of new surface water storage in Northern California including Sites Reservoir, protecting Northern California groundwater resources, developing and implementing constructive solutions to Bay-Delta water supply and environmental problems, and developing and constructing fish passage improvements including fish screens and siphons.

It has been my great honor and pleasure to represent this region and to work closely with NCWA to protect the region's water supplies. Again, I would like to congratulate NCWA as the organization celebrates 10 years representing Northern California water interests.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, in the first week of February, I remained in Florida all week to attend to my wife, Emilie, who had to undergo surgery. I am pleased to report that she is doing well, and thank my colleagues for their expressions of kindness and support for her. While away from Washington on personal family medical leave, I was not present to record my vote on Roll Call Votes #6 through #14. I ask unanimous consent that the Congressional Record reflect, in the appropriate place, that had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" in each instance, for recorded votes number 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH A. WUTKOWSKI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph A. Wutkowski, the youngest

person in the history of the Borough of Carteret to place the Wreath of Honor at the Carteret Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Carteret Park.

Joseph was recognized by the Carteret Veterans Alliance and the Senate and General Assembly of New Jersey as being a truly patriotic citizen and the youngest presenter of the Wreath of Honor at the Carteret Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. He was a special guest speaker in July of 2001 at the Rotary Club of Carteret, and was presented with an official Certificate of Appreciation. In addition, Joseph received a proclamation from Carteret Mayor Jim Failace, and was honored with a Joint Resolution from New Jersey State Senator Joseph Vitale, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, and Assemblywoman Arline Friscia.

Joseph is presently enrolled at Holy Family School in Carteret, New Jersey. He enjoys playing Basketball and Little League Baseball.

He is the son of Joseph and Bernadette Wutkowski.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph A. Wutkowski for his patriotism, and for honoring America's veterans in Carteret, New Jersey, and veterans all across America.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission. Since 1965, the ARC has fostered cooperation among the Federal Government, Governors of Appalachian States and local community leaders for economic development initiatives.

I am especially pleased the bill today adds Hart and Edmonson counties in my district to the Commission. Based on economic data, both of these counties fall into the ARC's distressed classification, the Commission's lowest economic status rank. I believe I can speak for these counties when I say they appreciate this opportunity for assistance in improving their economic situations.

This bill also changes the Commission's fund distribution, requiring half of its program funds to be directed to ARC's distressed counties. Distressed counties are the ones most in need of the extra development assistance ARC provides, and it only makes sense that we target a substantial portion of the project funds available to the areas most in need.

Membership in the ARC does not guarantee funds for local areas, but membership does give local development leaders an opportunity to apply for grants and make the case for their proposals to boost economic and social development.

I want to thank Chairman LATOURETTE for his support in adding these counties deserving of assistance to the Commission and for his support of economic development in Kentucky.

While I would have preferred that we were voting on the chairman's original legislation which included neighboring Metcalfe County in the Commission, I am pleased with this out-

come. We passed that legislation in August. Unfortunately, the other body did not agree to our version of the legislation, and we had to make this compromise. I hope the committee will consider adding Metcalfe County to the Commission in the future, as this area is also economically deserving of aid.

I appreciate the work of Chairman LATOURETTE and Chairman YOUNG in this process, and I urge the House's support for this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF HADASSAH'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 90th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. As the largest Jewish membership organization in the United States, Hadassah exemplifies the true spirit of voluntarism.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, a Jewish scholar and activist, Hadassah is committed to unifying Jewish people throughout the world. Its mitzvot, or good deeds, are felt at home in America and abroad in the land of Israel.

In Israel, Hadassah funds and maintains two hospitals and 90 outpatient clinics that treat 600,000 patients each year regardless of ethnicity or religious background. Hadassah also supports four other major organizations in Israel and the United States. The Hadassah Israel Education Services group provides cutting-edge technical and vocational training for Israeli citizens, while the Youth Aliyah program provides education and support to immigrant youth. The Young Judea program builds connections between American teenagers and Israel through student exchange partnerships and the Jewish National Fund works to preserve Israel's natural resources by constructing parks and planting trees.

The impact of Hadassah can also be felt throughout the United States. The organization is represented in every congressional district and members work with political leaders on matters ranging from U.S.-Israel relations to women's health and equality issues. Hadassah volunteers are active in community service projects, educational initiatives, and programs benefitting women and their families.

In my district of California, there are over 250 Hadassah members and six active chapters. These chapters have raised over \$5 million for the Hadassah Hospital and educational programs in Israel.

On this, its 90th anniversary, I salute Hadassah's efforts to promote education, welfare, and women's rights, that have helped preserve strong cultural ties with Israel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 39 and No. 40, had I been present, I would

have voted yes. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the vote due to circumstances at home. Several Illinois steelworkers may lose their jobs due to the closing of a few large plants, and I felt the need to show my support for these workers and their families.

ARC OF MERCER COUNTY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, Norman Vincent Peale—a pastor and a motivational speaker—said “Change your thoughts and you change your world.”

Fifty years ago, more than 20 residents of Mercer County, many of them parents of developmentally disabled children, recognized a need in their community. The area lacked much needed education programs that addressed the special needs of their children. This included not only basic education but also the development of job and social skills. With that focus, they established what has evolved into the Arc of Mercer County.

Remember, this was a time when mental retardation was often misunderstood by society. Those who were developmentally disabled were quickly committed to asylums. It was believed that they could contribute nothing to the community. But, these Mercer County residents knew otherwise. They knew these precious individuals could enrich people's lives if they could find a way to integrate them into society. So with hope, optimism and faith, they actively sought donations of space, time and money to establish a program where children and adults with mental retardation could learn to support themselves, learn social skills and attend classes designed to meet their special needs.

These 20 families, through their actions and deeds, changed the way we view mental retardation forever, not only in their own community but worldwide. We now know that being developmentally disabled is not an end-all, they play a vital role in our economy while gaining independence for themselves.

MCAR has grown from a small patchwork organization who once borrowed classroom space from the Salvation Army and the American Legion to a powerhouse agency providing services to more than 500 individuals with mental retardation. Their services have expanded to include vocational training, residential services, employment services and recreation and socialization programming. MCAR owns 17 group homes, a campus of education facilities in Hermitage as well as a Mechenbier workshop in Greenville.

For 50 years, MCAR has given some very special people in the community the opportunity to stand on their own two feet. With their various programs, they are building new and better bridges, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live a full and productive life. I applaud the founding officers—Mrs. Peter Jarocki, Mrs. Frank Machuga, Mrs. Royal DeWeese, and Mrs. David Cooke—for working with the community to develop a program that would blossom and bloom into an agency that helps so many. Under the leadership and inspiration of current CEO Bob Beech and his board, the vision of these families has only flourished.