

necessary health care. This is something we can fix if we put our hearts and minds to it. Some people believe that the best way to address this problem is through tax credits. I have to say that I am skeptical. I am concerned that tax credits might not cover the costs of insurance and may inadvertently draw people out of employer-based insurance, driving up premiums for those left behind.

Others have called for Medical Savings Accounts, but these may end up pulling healthy people out of insurance plans and leaving the ill in, again raising the costs to those most in need of help. I think we might be better off pursuing an expansion of existing health care programs or helping small businesses get access to the low rates that large businesses get. But any of these solutions will cost a great deal of money. And so it is essential that we find the best, most cost-effective method. That is why it is absolutely necessary to keep up dialogue and debate, without shutting out ideas.

You and I may disagree on the best way to help the uninsured. But we will help them faster if we are willing to hear from each other and work towards a consensus. We cannot afford the arrogance of the idea that there is no way but our own.

BUSH BUDGET

We will see this clearly as we set the budget for next year. The President has laid out some laudable priorities in his health care budget. He calls for more funding for the NIH and efforts to prepare communities for bioterrorism. But at the same time the budget cuts funding for community health coordination, chronic disease programs, and efforts to train doctors and other health professionals. I think these cuts are counterproductive. So I will work with the President and my colleagues on this budget, hopefully without the partisan bickering that has filled past debates.

CLOSING

Our patient, the health of America, is faced with too many diseases and conditions to simply lie on its hospital bed as we engage in petty squabbles about who came up with what idea. We will only be able to solve our problems if we are willing to work together, respect and embrace our opponents, and clamber for a common ground to meet on.

I thank you for listening to me, and I look forward to working with you to accomplish these goals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE GENESEE VALLEY ROTARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Genesee Valley Rotary Club on their 25th anniversary. It is my wish to commend Jack Hamady, Ray Kelley and Jerry Wittemore for their efforts in founding the club in May, 1977.

The Genesee Valley Rotary Club has lead the community in service for the past 25 years. They participate and operate several community service projects, such as the Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing, the WFUM-TV28 telethon, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling Challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Genesee Valley Rotary Club. May its leadership and all of those in-

volved know of my high regard for this exemplary organization and its excellence in community service.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN H. BERRY, JR.

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend as he is honored by the Toms River-Ocean County Chamber of Commerce for his extraordinary contributions to the community.

In many fields of service, through business endeavors and volunteerism, Franklin Berry has served the residents of Ocean County faithfully for many years.

Having served in the New Jersey General Assembly as well as Ocean County government, he led the citizens not only of the county, but also of New Jersey with dedication and commitment.

His participation in the Toms River Student Loan Fund as well as the Southern Regional Scholarship Fund has enabled many young people to seek higher education when they might otherwise have been unable to do so.

Franklin Berry serves with many local organizations such as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Jersey Shore Council Boy Scouts of America and the Toms River Area Family YMCA. His time and efforts have brought about opportunities for understanding and improvement to the community and the families who reside there.

A community mainstay for many years, Franklin Berry's willingness to lend a hand to any worthy group or organization in need of his services is the basis for his selection for the prestigious award for which he is being honored by the Chamber.

I congratulate him and wish him many more years of service to others.

ON THE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE OF AMERICA'S MILITARY READINESS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I am very distraught today over the inclusion of a Base Realignment and Closure provision in last year's National Defense Authorization Act. I do not buy into so-called BRAC 'success' stories. I will be the first to stand up and congratulate sound accounting of our taxpayers' money, however, BRAC does not represent sound accounting. The truth of the matter is that reducing military construction for Fiscal Year 2003 will not solve the Army's financial problems. Furthermore, according to the Government Accounting Office, BRAC cost and savings estimates are imprecise. According to the Congressional Research Service, in the early years of the past four rounds of BRAC, base closure costs greatly exceeded savings. On more than a few occasions, facilities that were closed under BRAC were needed again, and

in some cases, reopened. In 2005, the bases spared by the next round of BRAC will still need the same improvements, but in the meantime, the decision to freeze construction at bases that might be BRACed will only hurt our people living there—hurt our soldiers and their families. We need to protect our soldiers' families. And just as we need to protect them from terrorists, we also need to protect them from the elements—from Mother Nature who reminds them just how leaky their roofs are. We need to protect them from being uprooted in the name of savings that will not materialize for a decade and may, in all actuality, never materialize.

A few weeks ago First Lieutenant Tallas Tomeny was killed in the line of duty. I extend my condolences to his family. While we mourn the loss of all of our soldiers, this loss is so much sadder because Lieutenant Tomeny was not killed in Afghanistan, or the Balkans, or Egypt, or Korea, or any of the other numerous places our soldiers are stationed around the world. He was killed in North Carolina during an exercise held off base, and he was shot by a Sheriff's deputy who mistook him for a criminal. While we sit here and continue to talk about closing Vieques and continue to talk about closing bases, a soldier has lost his life because his training was being held in a civilian community instead of on a military training area. We need to reconsider the decision to close facilities where our forces can train safely.

125TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ADVANCE OF BUCKS COUNTY NEWSPAPER

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th birthday of The ADVANCE of Bucks County newspaper. Founded in Hulmeville, Pennsylvania in 1877, the ADVANCE has provided hometown news to its readers in a weekly paper continuously for the past 125 years.

The ADVANCE has been a part of my family's required reading for as long as I can remember. My father's career as a township supervisor and the local district justice were covered, and when my younger brother was riding a pony and it ran away with him, his picture made the paper!

I still depend on the ADVANCE for hometown news, to learn about local community issues and upcoming events.

I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations to Editor Nancy Pickering and the rest of the staff at the ADVANCE, past and present.

TRADE WITH UKRAINE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I posted letters to the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Kuchma, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Anatoliy Kinakh regarding a pending incident in Ukraine involving an American-

based company. Cargill International is the owner of the cargo aboard a Liberian shipping vessel, the MV Monarch, which has been seized and the contents impounded by the Ukrainian government. Thirty-five thousand metric tons of sugar carried on the ship was to be delivered in Ukraine. However, the seizure of the product has raised serious questions among our colleagues regarding the risks associated with Ukrainian trade and the desirability of Ukraine as a stable, reliable trading partner.

As you know Mr. Speaker, I remain a firm advocate of enhanced trade relationships between Ukraine and the United States, and believe this House should aggressively pursue prudent policies which draw the two democracies together, and for a variety of strategic and humanitarian reasons. While the pending episode is rightfully regarded by some here as a serious impediment to the maturation of trade relations, I am hopeful it will be resolved soon. I am mindful indeed of the significance of the dispute which is why I have taken to the floor today to alert our colleagues to the actions I have taken so far in this matter.

In addition to speaking personally to Ukraine's ambassador about the need to resolve the issue of Cargill's sugar shipment, I have been in regular contact with our embassy in Kyiv, our ambassador there, multiple U.S. business representatives, and many of my contacts in the Ukrainian government and in Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. The nature of my conversations follow the text of the letters I conveyed to Ukraine's president, and prime minister which I hereby submit for the RECORD.

MARCH 14, 2002.

His Excellency LEONID KUCHMA,
President of Ukraine,
Ukraine.

DEAR MR. KUCHMA: Your immediate attention, intervention, and response to Ukraine's confiscation of property belonging to an American-based corporation, Cargill International SA, CISA, is hereby requested. I strenuously urge you to help me resolve this extremely volatile situation which is clearly capable of damaging the relationship between our nations. As you know, I have devoted six years of my service in the U.S. Congress toward improving the Ukrainian/US relations, and I am fearful much of our recent progress will be lost to the current episode involving the seizure of cargo, legally the property of CISA, by Ukraine's Black Sea Regional Customs authority.

The ship, MV Monarch, carrying 35,000 metric tons of raw cane sugar was seized in January 2002. The stated grounds for seizure, namely the alleged inability to substantiate the existence of an American company involved in the transaction, have been resolved. However, neither the ship, nor its cargo, have been released. In fact, the latest information indicates the ship has been moved to berth at a port in Illychivesk, where off-loading has commenced, and the security of the product is in jeopardy.

The international implications of this issue are quite serious. American product being unjustly detained, confiscated and off-loaded will certainly damage Ukraine's desirability as an international market and trade partner. The sugar cargo in question is clearly the property of CISA and is being off-loaded without the owner's consent. Your intervention and leadership in resolving this situation would do much to restore and maintain Ukraine's commitment to freemarkets and reliable international relations. Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this serious matter.

As always, I am at your disposal to engage any meaningful effort advancing our nations' friendship and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

BOB SCHAFFER,
Member of Congress,
Co-Chairman Congressional Ukrainian
Caucus.

TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues that Wednesday, March 20, 2002, marks the 46th anniversary of Tunisia's independence. I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations to the leaders and people of this important ally. The Republic of Tunisia has been and continues to be a model of economic growth, while keeping Islamic fundamentalism at bay.

However, the relationship between the United States and Tunisia is much older than Tunisia's 46th Anniversary of its independence may suggest. The United States first signed a treaty of peace and friendship with Tunisia in 1797. During World War II, Tunisia's nationalist leaders suspended their struggle against France in order to support the Allied cause, and, in 1956, the United States was the first world power to recognize Tunisia's independence.

Today Tunisia and the United States enjoy friendly bilateral relations. The Tunisian government has contributed military contingents to U.N. peacekeeping missions in Cambodia, Somalia, the Western Sahara, and Rwanda. Cooperation between the Tunisian and U.S. military has been growing, with an increasing number of joint exercises.

At the same time, after years of hard work, Tunisia has produced one of the highest standards of living in the region. U.S. bilateral economic assistance programs have ended principally because of Tunisia's resounding success in social and economic development. Tunisia's prudent fiscal and debt management policies also have given Tunisia access to international capital markets. Thus, Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and join the developed world.

Whether protecting Mediterranean shipping lanes against Barbary pirates, opposing the Nazi war machine in North Africa, supporting Western interests during the Cold War, or serving as an island of peace and security in a sea of troubles, the United States has always been able to count on Tunisia for its support regarding the important issues of the day.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating all Tunisians as they celebrate the 46th anniversary of their nation's independence.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this month. On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low organized the first group of eighteen Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Today, there are 2.7 million girls in Girl Scouts of the USA, and over 900,000 adult members.

The Girl Scout mission is to help all girls grow strong. To that end, Girl Scouting empowers girls to develop to their full individual potential; relate positively to others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others. Girl Scouts of the USA continues today to expand its programs to address contemporary issues affecting girls, while maintaining its core values. The organization's foundation is still based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, just as it was in 1912.

Girl Scouting helps our country's young women discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through an array of enriching experiences, Girl Scouts acquire self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively and act with integrity—qualities essential in good citizens and great leaders. At the same time, they learn a great deal about science and technology, money management and finance, health and fitness, the arts, global awareness, and much more. I personally have shared in the wonderful experience of Girl Scouting, when a number of the young women volunteered in my office last summer.

Juliette Gordon Low envisioned Girl Scouting as a profound force in the lives of all girls. In 2001, Girl Scouts of the USA launched a major initiative to continue to fulfill the foundational principle that every girl deserves the opportunity to learn the leadership and life skills that will help her achieve her goals. Through "Girl Scouting: For Every Girl, Everywhere," Girl Scout volunteers and staff are working to ensure that Girl Scouting is available to every girl in every community, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic or geographic boundaries. The initiative aims to encourage broader membership from minorities, especially among Latina and Asian American girls. It also seeks to increase participation of teenage girls and girls with disabilities. One of the primary missions of Girl Scouts of the USA is to make the positive experience of its programs available to girls everywhere. In addition to schools and backyards, Girl Scout troops now meet in homeless shelters, migrant farm communities, juvenile detention centers, Native American reservations, and even online via the Internet.

With "Girl Scouting: For Every Girl, Everywhere," Girl Scouts of the USA hopes to truly reflect the face of America and to ensure that every girl who wants to join Girl Scouts has the opportunity to do so. This goal is in keeping with its long and proud history of diversity