

by all who knew and loved him. He was a person of unquestioned integrity and of unparalleled morality, and is truly an inspiration to us all. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember John and pay tribute to him for his warm heart, and his many contributions to Saguache County and the State of Colorado.

John was born and raised on his family's homestead just southeast of Saguache, Colorado, which was founded in the 1890s by his grandfather and great-uncle. He completed his higher education at Colorado State University, and then returned to the ranch, working with the land as both a rancher and a cowboy. John was a life-long rancher and ranching educator, creating pamphlets and other materials on the subject. During World War II, he took time off from ranching to serve his country in the Pacific theatre. John continued his service to his fellow citizens by becoming Saguache County Commissioner, selflessly serving three terms beginning in 1958. His service and dedication to his community and to his state are exactly the attributes that made John the incredible person that he was. I, along with the people of Saguache County, am grateful for all of the hard work and passion that he lent to his job and to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of John Woodard, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that he left with all of us. His dedication to the community of Saguache County was extraordinary, though his life was more so. John Woodard's life is the very embodiment of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress.

COMMENDATION OF THE MOBILITY PROJECT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the work of The Mobility Project, an organization which serves the underprivileged with disabilities in other nations.

The Mobility Project has distributed wheelchairs and other mobility aids, along with surplus medical supplies and physical therapy equipment, free of charge to the disabled poor in Vietnam, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and refugee camps in Kashmir. The volunteers with The Mobility Project give a tremendous amount of time and thorough care into ensuring that each wheelchair or mobility aid is properly adjusted to the individual for whom it is intended.

As you may know, in many places of the world the disabled are resented or are pushed out of active participation in society. Some are even left in as virtual prisoners in their rooms. The work of The Mobility Project gives hope to people and offers an avenue for the disabled to be productive members of their society. In addition to giving wheelchairs and other aids to those in need, The Mobility Project helps to provide remedial education, sports programs, and job training for the disabled poor.

I have seen the faces of refugees and other suffering people who have received the gift of

mobility as a result of the work of this organization. I watched the face of a young Pakistani girl who received a wheelchair—it will change her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to honor those in our world and in our nation who quietly, humbly, and ably serve people in need. The Mobility Project volunteers, particularly President and co-founder and Vice President and co-founder Ray Terrill, are role models for us all.

COMMENDING KANSAS YOUTH FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor three young students from my district who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Ashley Wright, Aishling O'Connor, and Emily Gipple have been named three of my state's top honorees in the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Miss Wright is being recognized for forming a vocal music performance class for developmentally challenged adults in her community. Miss O'Connor is being recognized for her effort to raise over \$30,000 to build an intergenerational playground for an inner-city neighborhood. Miss Gipple is being recognized for starting a school club that helps foreign exchange and limited-English speaking students make friends and integrate successfully into both the school and community.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution these young citizens have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Miss Wright, Miss O'Connor, and Miss Gipple are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought these young role models to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past seven years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 125,000 young people participating since its inception.

Miss Wright, Miss O'Connor, and Miss Gipple should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I applaud Miss Wright, Miss O'Connor, and Miss Gipple for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive im-

pact they have had on the lives of others. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play an important role in our communities, and that America's spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002" to provide the Social Security Administration with the additional tools they need to fight activities that drain resources from Social Security and undermine the financial security of beneficiaries.

Many Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries have individuals or organizations called "representative payees" appointed by the Social Security Administration to help manage their financial affairs when they are not capable. At present nearly 7 million beneficiaries entrust their financial arrangements to "rep payees." Representative payees safeguard income and make sure expenditures are made for the beneficiary's good. Most of them are conscientious and honest, however, some are not. The current precautions have not prevented abuse as well as hoped. This bill raises the standards for representative payee positions and imposes stricter regulation and monetary penalties on those who fail their duties and their clients.

This bill also picks up where our 1996 legislation ended in stopping benefit payments to those who have committed crimes. In that year, Congress passed provisions denying Supplemental Security Income benefits to those individuals fleeing to avoid prosecution or confinement. Fugitive felons, however, can still receive Title II benefits that come directly out of the Social Security trust funds. This is not right and this legislation denies the money to those fleeing justice.

My legislation also provides tools to further protect the integrity of Social Security programs, protect Social Security employees from harm while conducting their duties, expand the Inspector General's ability to stop perpetrators of fraud through new civil monetary penalties, and prevent persons from misrepresenting themselves as they provide Social Security-related services.

My legislation not only prevents fraud and protects the Social Security programs, it also helps those who are legitimately seeking to receive benefits. Provisions from the Attorney Fee Payment System Improvement Act of 2001 to improve the attorney fee withholding process are also included in this bill. These provisions cap the current fee assessment and extend withholding to Supplemental Security Income claims, so more individuals with disabilities are able to receive needed help navigating a complex application process for benefits.

And finally, this legislation continues the great work of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, helping individuals

with disabilities to have a better, more dignified and independent life.

Mr. Speaker, if your constituents complain about abuses in the Social Security programs, or are angry at fugitive felons receiving government benefits, then become a supporter of this legislation. Show those at home that you care about this program and the people who depend on it and join me in getting this legislation passed this year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHANCE
KITTEL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the story of a truly courageous young man from my district. Chance Kittel of Grand Junction, Colorado, has recently overcome great obstacles, and a potentially life long handicap, to beat the odds. Today, he lives a full and active life. It is my honor to tell the story of Chance today, for his life speaks volumes about courage in the face of difficult and trying circumstances.

During Christmas of 1997, Chance and his family, like many families that time of year, were preparing their home with lights and decorations for the upcoming holiday season. It was during this time an unfortunate accident occurred and injured young Chance. As he and his father Randy were placing the lights over a tree, a power line was accidentally caught in the light string. As a result, Chance was badly burned, suffering second and third degree burns to his left arm, his head, and stomach. In saving his son's life, his father also suffered terrible burns to his arms as he pulled Chance free of the lights.

After his initial treatment, Chance was taken to Children's Hospital and began a long ordeal of pain and suffering on the road back to recovery. Chance's forty-three day hospital stay involved numerous treatment techniques and surgeries to repair his badly damaged body. This initial stay was followed by returns to undergo five additional surgeries to complete his healing process. I am proud to report that today, Chance has recovered remarkably well and now leads a normal and active life. His recovery is amazing when you consider that at times, his hope of recovery was slim and potentially physically inhibiting. But Chance beat the odds, worked hard, put trust in his doctors and parents, Randy and Tori, and today is healed.

Mr. Speaker, Chance's story is similar to this nation's as we move through these difficult and healing times. Many Americans suffered on that tragic day in September, and today they are on their own road to recovery. I believe Chance's optimism and story of recuperation is a symbol of hope to them all; that despite the odds and the obstacles in their way, they can persevere and recover their lives, as well. Chance, you have a bright future ahead, and if you continue to fight with the determination and diligence you have demonstrated in your struggle, there is nothing that will stand in your way. It is an honor to represent you and good luck in your future endeavors.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Administration to continue its diplomatic efforts to end the violence in the Middle East. Today I introduced H. Res. 374, which affirms the House's commitment to the principles stated in UN Security Council Resolution 1397 and expresses support for the diplomatic efforts of the General Anthony Zinni, to restart the peace process in the Middle East. This resolution is a positive statement of our support for the Israeli and Palestinian people who are needlessly suffering. It is also a statement of support for President Bush's renewed diplomatic initiative to bring both parties back to the peace table.

Over the past 18 months, the Israeli and Palestinian people have been locked in a cycle of violence that has only grown worse with each passing day. The violence has become particularly bloody in recent weeks, with over 270 Palestinian and Israeli people killed in the month of March alone.

There are two unmistakable conclusions that we must draw from this violence. First, it is clear that there is no military solution to the conflict. Palestinian terrorists must know that murdering innocent civilians and forcing the Israeli people to live in fear will not be tolerated and can never lead to a fair, just, or lasting peace. Likewise the Israeli government must also know that the indiscriminate use of force against Palestinian civilians, the targeting of medical personnel and ambulances, and effectively forcing the entire Palestinian population to live under house arrest, will only further enrage the Palestinian people. It will also do little to provide security to the Israeli people.

Second, it is now painfully obvious that the United States cannot afford to remain on the sidelines of this conflict. It is clearly in our national interest to see a comprehensive, just, and lasting resolution to this issue—to see, as UN Security Council Resolution 1397 states, "two sovereign states able to reside in peace with one another." Over the past 18 months, both sides have demonstrated that, left to their own devices, peace will remain an impossible goal. It is time for the United States to reinvest its diplomatic resources in this conflict, and to push both sides back to the peace table.

Mr. Speaker, I remain stubbornly optimistic that peace is inevitable. As the Israeli statesman Abba Eban once said, "nations are capable of acting rationally—but only after they have exhausted all the other alternatives." Mr. Speaker, I believe that maybe, just maybe, the nations of the Middle East have finally exhausted all the alternatives and are ready to make peace.

I am encouraged by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's proposal to have "full normalization" of relations with Israel as part of the package for a negotiated political settlement. This proposal, coming from one what has historically been one of Israel's fiercest enemies, should be fully embraced and encouraged by our government. My good friend and colleague, JOHN DINGELL and I have sent a letter to President Bush asking him to continue to further develop this idea with the Saudi gov-

ernment. I look forward to the upcoming Arab Summit, where this idea will be made into a concrete proposal, and I hope and pray that one day we will see the men, women, and children of the Holy Lands, live in peace together.

THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2002

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise as an original cosponsor of the Military Tribunal Authorization Act of 2002, introduced today by Representative CONYERS. This legislation is the companion bill to one introduced earlier by Senator LEAHY.

On November 13, 2001, President Bush issued a military order enabling the President to order military tribunals for suspected terrorists, bypassing the American criminal justice system, its rules of evidence and its constitutional guarantees. The order directs the Secretary of Defense to issue regulations detailing how the tribunals will be conducted. As of today, these regulations have not been released.

Shortly after the announcement of the military order I sent a letter to the President, along with thirty-nine other Members, expressing our opposition to the use of military tribunals and its violation of Constitutional rights. Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, gives Congress both the power "To declare War" as well as the power "To define and punish . . . Offenses against the Law of Nations." Unfortunately, Congress has not been consulted in this unilateral establishment of the tribunals. We urge the Secretary of Defense to use this legislation as a guide in promulgating regulations on military tribunals. If the President is determined to go forward with the tribunals this legislation will ensure that constitutional and civil rights are protected.

First, the bill defines who may be tried by military tribunal. Only non-United States citizens who assisted in the September 11 attacks, found outside of the United States and who are not prisoners of war can face trial in a military tribunal.

Next, the bill lays out the procedural requirements to ensure a "full and fair" hearing against the accused. For example, the accused must have a right to independent counsel, the ability to cross-examine witnesses and the right to obtain exculpatory evidence from the prosecution. Defendants must be presumed innocent until proven guilty and that guilt must be determined beyond a reasonable doubt. Defendants will also be afforded the right to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

I would like to point out that these procedures in no way provide special protections to suspected terrorists. Rather these rules are drawn from sources of international law and the Military Rules of Evidence. For years the State Department has strongly opposed the use of secret courts in countries such as Russia, China, Egypt and Peru. Last summer China held secret trials of U.S.-based scholars on espionage charges. One of the scholars was a U.S. citizen and another two were U.S.