

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.

permanent residents. We demanded full due process for Americans charged with a crime in a foreign country and we should not set a different standard for non-citizens.

The legislation also provides regulations for the detainment of suspects and the conditions of detainment. For example, detainees must be provided with the basic necessities such as adequate food, water and medical attention. In addition, it also allows the free exercise of religion.

Lastly, the legislation requires all proceedings to be made public unless it is determined that closed proceedings are necessary for the safety of involved parties including witnesses or judges. This openness will prove to all Americans and to the world that we have respect for basic Constitutional rights. The horrible events of September 11 should not cause us to reject the American system of justice.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE GIRLS SCOUTS' 90-YEAR COMMIT- MENT TO AMERICAN GIRLS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, for the past 90 years, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) have been pursuing a mission to help all girls grow to be strong, positive contributors to society. Established on March 12, 1912, with a group of 18 girls, GSUSA has since grown to a membership of nearly 3 million girls nationwide, with an alumni base of over 50 million women.

The mission of GSUSA is to empower all girls to develop to their full potential. Activities encouraging strong values, leadership, responsibility, confidence, and friendship have been core elements of the Girl Scout program. The GSUSA seeks to enable young women to grow into strong citizens by teaching money and financial management, health and fitness, global awareness, and community service. Millions of Girl Scouts have, through resources provided through the GSUSA, been introduced to the arts, science, math, and technology.

In my home state of Kansas, 50,000 girls and adults participate in Girl Scouts. Local initiatives have included: an anti-violence program for girls and mothers; a "Beyond Bars" program encouraging Girl Scout activities with incarcerated mothers; girls' sport programs that teach health and fitness skills, as well as allowing young female athletes the opportunity to meet professional female athletes; and several other initiatives designed to teach self-confidence, values, integrity, and leadership.

I commend the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. for their support, dedication, and commitment to American girls, and I applaud them, on this, their 90th anniversary.

AIRLINE WORKERS AND VICTIMS OF TERRORISM MORTGAGE RE- LIEF ACT OF 2002

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2001, in response to the September 11th tragedy, Secretary Mel Martinez of HUD directed all FHA-approved lenders to provide a 90-day mortgage forbearance for families with FHA insured mortgages who were affected by the recent terrorist attacks. "Affected, borrowers are those individuals who were passengers or crew on the four hijacked airliners (American Airlines 11 and 77, United Airlines 93 and 175), individuals employed on September 11, 2001, in or near the World Trade Center, or in the Pentagon, and individuals whose financial viability was affected by the . . . events of [that] day." (HUD Mortgage Letter 01-21.)

As evidenced by the \$15 billion bail out that followed the events of September 11, the effects felt by the airline industry were amongst the most immediate and devastating experienced within the corporate world. It follows naturally, that the devastation experienced by the airlines was ultimately felt by the 150,000+ employees whose financial viability was affected by the ongoing wave of post-September 11th lay offs.

Also affected by the tragic events of September 11th, are the families of those killed, who have experienced considerable difficulty in meeting their financial obligations. And while Congress, in creating the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund, has worked hard to stem the financial devastation felt by thousands of families after September 11th, there are some who may be falling through the cracks.

Fortunately there is a measure, which if revived and applied to parties affected by the events of September 11th, can help.

The Airline Workers and Victims of Terrorism Mortgage Relief Act of 2002 accomplishes this goal by:

Adopting the expired language of HUD Letter 01-21;

Making clear that the moratorium on FHA foreclosure outlined in HUD Letter 01-21 must apply to (1) laid off employees of foreign and domestic air carriers and (2) laid off employees of manufacturers aircraft used by foreign or domestic carriers;

Expanding for all eligible borrowers, the 90-day forbearance to 180 days from enactment; Requiring the Secretary of HUD to inform mortgagees of the aforementioned changes;

Also, those eligible for compensation under the so-called "9-11 fund," (PL 107-42), would be covered until receipt of compensation money;

Those who opt to forgo the compensation money by bringing suit, (§405(c)(3)(B)(i)), would still be eligible for forbearance for 18 months after enactment, or until verdict rendered in the first lawsuit, whichever comes first, if suit is brought during the 180 day forbearance period; and

The bill also stipulates that coverage under the Act would not count as a "collateral source" as defined by the Compensation Fund language. (§405(b)(3) provides that the Special Master "shall reduce the amount of com-

pensation . . . by the amount of the collateral source compensation the claimant has received or is entitled to receive. . . .")

In light of HUD Letter 01-21, as well as Congressional concerns over the health of the airline industry, and the financial well-being of the families of victims of September 11th, the Airline Workers and Victims of Terrorism Mortgage Relief Act of 2002 would afford Congress the perfect opportunity to give both groups the added assistance that they deserve.

THE ABANDONED HARDROCK MINES RECLAMATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Act. This bill is designed to help promote the cleanup of abandoned and inactive hardrock mines that are a menace to the environment and public health throughout the country, but especially in the west.

THE BACKGROUND

For over one hundred years, miners and prospectors have searched for and developed valuable "hardrock" minerals—gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, and others. Hardrock mining has played a key role in the history of Colorado and other states, and the resulting mineral wealth has been an important aspect of our economy and the development of essential products.

However, as all westerners know, this history has too often been marked by a series of "boom" times followed by a "bust" when mines were no longer profitable—because ore bodies were exhausted or not economically recoverable with contemporary technology, or because of depressed mineral prices. When these busts came, too often the miners would abandon their workings and move on, seeking riches over the next mountain. The resulting legacy of unsafe open mine shafts and acid mine drainages can be seen throughout the country and especially on the western public lands where mineral development was encouraged to help settle our region.

THE PROBLEMS

The problems caused by abandoned and inactive mines are very real and very large—including acidic water draining from old tunnels, heavy metals leaching into streams killing fish and tainting water supplies, open vertical mine shafts, dangerous highwalls, large open pits, waste rock piles that are unsightly and dangerous, and hazardous dilapidated structures.

And, unfortunately, many of our current environmental laws, designed to mitigate the impact from operating hardrock mines, are of limited effectiveness when applied to abandoned and inactive mines. As a result, many of these old mines go on polluting streams and rivers and potentially risking the health of people who live nearby or downstream.

The full scope of these problems is hard to estimate because many of these old mines are in remote regions and because a complete inventory does not exist. Some states and federal agencies have done some inventory work, but in 1996 the General Accounting Office, after reviewing available data, found that many