

“CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FURNACE CREEK INN”

## HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Furnace Creek Inn, which has provided an oasis of hospitality in the midst of one of the most inhospitable places in the world: Death Valley National Park. The inn, which among other amenities has the first golf course in the California desert, is marking its 75th year in February.

The harsh beauty of Death Valley has been recognized since 1933 when it was designated a National Monument. Within its boundaries are America's lowest point—280 feet below sea level at Badwater—and mountains that rise more than 11,000 feet. While prospectors found gold and silver nearby, the real treasure of the area was borax, which is still mined in the Mojave Desert today for uses ranging from detergents to oven-to-table glass to termite protection for lumber.

Many Americans are familiar with the 20-mule teams that hauled the precious mineral 165 miles to the nearest rail line for the Harmony Borax Works, built by W.T. Coleman in 1882. The works were moved in 1889 to Daggett, but borax mining was resumed in Death Valley in the 1920s by the Pacific Coast Borax Company.

Noting the success of Palm Springs Desert Inn as a resort, Pacific Coast Borax decided to enter the tourism business, and the Furnace Creek Inn opened on February 1, 1927. Los Angeles architect Albert C. Martin designed the mission-style structure set into the low ridge overlooking Furnace Creek Wash. Adobe bricks were hand made by Paiute and Shoshone laborers. A Spanish stonemason named Steve Esteves created the Moorish-influenced stonework, while meandering gardens and Deglet Noor palm trees were planted. The inn had 66 rooms by the time it was completed in 1935, along with a spring-fed swimming pool that has views of the surrounding mountains and valley.

Tourism to Death Valley at the time surged in 1933 with the designation as a national monument. This meant that new, paved roads to and throughout the monument would be constructed, thus heralding automobile and tourist access to the site. In 1994 the area was designated a National Park, making it the largest park in the continental United States.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of guests have experienced the stark grandeur of Death Valley in elegance at the Furnace Creek Inn. The current owner, Amfac Parks and Resorts, Inc., has completely refurbished the Inn and its amenities, preserving this unique hotel for future generations. Please join me in commending them and congratulating them on this historic occasion.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD MEDAL  
RECIPIENT: KRISTEN VEECK

## HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Kristen Veeck. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girl Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Kristen, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

## ELIMINATE VICTIMS FUND COL- LATERAL COMPENSATION RE- QUIREMENT

## HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to revise the victim's compensation fund to eliminate the offset clause which unnecessarily penalizes those men and women who prepared for their future through pension funds, life insurance policies, and other related investments. I believe that such a clause is not in accordance with the spirit of the original legislation which seeks to compensate every victim's family in an impartial manner.

On Thursday January 17th, I joined many of my constituents at the family rally in New York City to call on special master Feinberg to amend the final interim rule under which the fund is currently operating. At the rally, I was pleased to announce that Mr. Feinberg has indicated that he will be accepting comments on the fund for the next several weeks until the final rule is promulgated. However, I now believe that we cannot leave such an important decision to chance.

Accordingly, this legislation will ensure that the victims' families are fairly and individually compensated from this Federal victim's compensation fund without prejudice to any exist-

ing collateral payments. It is imperative for the Congress to rectify this matter at this time.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 4 on January 24, 2002. Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 4, I would have voted "Yea," in favor of passage of S. 1762, the Higher Education Act Amendments.

## CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

## HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, dental care is the most frequently cited unmet health need of children. In fact, unmet children's dental care need, is three times greater than the unmet need for children's medical care, four times greater than the unmet need for prescription drugs, and five times greater than the unmet need for children's vision care. Dental decay is the most prevalent chronic disease of childhood.

To help in eradicating this hidden epidemic, Congresswomen LOWEY, ROYBAL-ALLARD, MORELLA and Congressmen UPTON, NORWOOD, STARK, DOYLE, MORAN, ANDREWS and I are introducing the "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002". With its enactment, this legislation will improve the access and delivery of dental care to low-income children across the country.

In September 2000, the U.S. Surgeon General reported in "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General" that 14 percent of children in America were without health insurance coverage and that more than twice that number, 23 million children, were without any level of dental care. Pediatric health care providers and children's hospitals across America see the results of this lack of care every day, as they care for children with serious dental problems that could have easily been avoided had they had access to preventative and routine dental care.

The need to improve the oral health of America's children is well documented. According to the National Health and Nutrition Interview Survey, poor children age 2–9 have twice the levels of untreated decayed teeth as nonpoor children. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, "there are at least 2.6 children without dental insurance for each child without medical insurance." Progressive tooth decay causes children to suffer pain and infection, dysfunctions in eating and speech, distraction and irritable behavior and creates attendant learning dysfunctions and limitations. According to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research reports, 80 percent of tooth decay is isolated in only 25 percent of the children, with the most untreated disease occurring in low-income children. In addition, the social impact of oral disease in children is

substantial. More than 51 million school hours are lost each year to dental-related illness in children.

The "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002", will provide states the flexibility to utilize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide dental coverage to low-income children (below 200% of poverty) including children who may have limited medical coverage that does not include dental services. The legislation will improve the dental health of uninsured and underinsured low-income children by allowing states the flexibility to utilize CHIP to provide funding for dental coverage to low-income children; providing \$40 million to community health centers and public health departments to expand dental health services through the hiring of additional dental-health professionals.

While several factors influence access for low-income groups to dental care, the primary one being limited dentist participation in Medicaid. The primary factor here is in, large part, due to poor reimbursement rates in Medicaid. The legislation seeks to improve dental care access under Medicaid and the Indian Health Service (IHS) by providing \$50 million as financial incentives and planning grants to states to improve their Medicaid program in terms of adequate payment rates, access to care and improved service delivery; again, providing \$40 million to community and IHS health centers and public health departments to expand dental health services through the hiring of additional dental health professionals.

Despite Medicaid and CHIP, dental care is the least utilized core pediatric health service for low-income children. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Oral Health Initiative (OHI) effort to coordinate dental health service within CMS lacks statutory authority necessary to enforce oral health initiatives. The legislation seeks to remedy this by providing statutory authority for the OHI and authorizes \$25 million to improve the oral health of low-income populations.

In addition, the bill contains the following technical provisions:

The bill streamlines the process for the designation of dental health professional shortage areas;

Ensures that entities eligible for funding include both "school-linked" as well as school-based organizations, clarifies that an eligible entity can be public or non-profit health organization or tribal organization;

Creating authority for HHS to establish demonstration projects to increase access to dental services for children in underserved areas.

This legislation has the endorsement and is fully supported by over 40 national health organizations including, National Association of Children's Hospitals, American Academy of Pediatrics, March of Dimes, American Dental Association and Family Voices.

There can be no substitute for providing for our children's health. The "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002" will go a long way to filling a large gap that exists in our current health programs for children. Clearly, more effort and support is needed. Therefore, I believe that Congress must act now. I ask that all Members of the House and Senate join in to support and vote for passage of the "Children's Dental Health Improvement Act of 2002".

GIRL SCOUT GOLD MEDAL  
RECIPIENT: DEBORAH VISCO

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students: Deborah Visco. In February, the young women of her troop will honor her by bestowing upon her the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girls Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipient of this award, as her activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Deborah, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young woman on her day of recognition.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL  
MCCLUSKEY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I pay tribute today to Pueblo Police Department Sgt. Bill McCluskey, who recently lost his life to cancer. In his 38 years of dedication to the police force, Bill embodied the ideals of integrity, honesty and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from the brave men and women who serve as our law enforcement officers. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Bill and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his city, his state and his country.

Bill McCluskey was not an ordinary police officer. In 1999, he was recognized as the Pueblo Police Department's officer of the year, and during his tenure in the department, he received over 100 letters of commendation. In 1989, he was promoted to sergeant, and through his tireless work ethic and impeccable reputation for honesty and integrity, Bill emerged as the department's patriarch and role model.

It was Bill's dedication and love for his job, his family and his community that distinguished him from, and endeared him to all who knew Bill. He is survived by his wife

Sharon, and his two sons Michael and Jonathan. Not only will he be missed by his immediate family, but also by the many brave men and women who served with him in the Pueblo Police Department. He is, without question, one of this country's true heroes. He was a man that served his community with a passion, and helped to make it a much better and safer place. The Pueblo community and I are eternally grateful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Bill McCluskey, but take comfort in the knowledge that our grief is overshadowed only by the legacy of courage, selflessness and love that Bill left with all of us. His 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURITIES FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2002*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing of the "Securities Fraud Prevention Act of 2002," legislation designed to crack down on securities fraud. I am joined by Minority Leader GEPHARDT along with Representatives WATT, JACKSON-LEE, WATERS, MARKEY and SANDERS.

The last several months have revealed widespread securities fraud at the very highest level of Enron and its advisers. Every day brings a new revelation of the dissemination of misinformation, shredding, obstruction of justice, and insider trading. As more and more companies file bankruptcy, I am concerned that we may well learn of additional instances of fraud across corporate America.

One step we can take to respond to this outbreak is to empower harmed American investors to obtain justice in these cases. Unfortunately, one of the very first items enacted by the Majority in 1995 as part of the "Contract with American" was legislation making it more difficult for ordinary Americans to bring Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) actions involving securities fraud. This legal loophole for securities fraud was enacted over President Clinton's veto as part of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (PSLRA) of 1995.

The PSLRA ended the use of the private civil RICO statute as a means of seeking treble damages and attorneys fees in securities fraud cases, unless preceded by a criminal conviction. In essence, the Congress wrote a special exemption preventing securities fraud cases from being brought under RICO.

In the wake of the Enron debacle, I believe the time is now ripe to protect American investors once again. The Enron cases has established beyond a shadow of a doubt that white collar fraud can be incredibly damaging, in many cases wiping away life savings and costing innocent Americans billions of dollars of their hard earned money. There can be no conceivable justification for shielding corporate wrongdoers from RICO actions in this context. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.