

I was a girl scout in the Black Hawk Council as a girl in Madison. I continue to support the Girl Scouts as a member of "Troop Capitol Hill."

While the main focus of Girl Scouts is to help girls grow, there is something for everyone to learn from the Girl Scout Law, which states:

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place . . .

I wholeheartedly congratulate the Black Hawk Council of Madison for 75 years of empowering girls, and the Girl Scouts of the USA for 90 years of community service, education, and leadership.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4083, THE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2002

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce H.R. 4083, the Corporate Responsibility Act of 2002. This bill gives legislative substance and real teeth to meritorious portions of President Bush's 10-point plan unveiled several weeks ago regarding corporate disclosure and accountability. This bill supplements the important and comprehensive reforms in H.R. 3818, the Comprehensive Investor Protection Act, that I introduced with Minority Leader GEPHARDT and many other Democratic colleagues in the wake of the Enron collapse.

This bill would make it clear that the CEO and CFO are the gatekeepers of honest and understandable disclosure. To the extent that corporate officers violate their duty to shareholders, this legislation empowers the SEC to take action. My bill includes:

1. Disgorgement of Bonuses: Requires the SEC to adopt rules to require the disgorgement of bonuses and other incentive-based compensation obtained by an officer or director of an issuer who filed financial statements which were at the time they were filed misleading.

2. CEO and CFO Certification: The CEO and CFO certify in each annual or quarterly report filed that: such officer reviewed the support; the report does not contain any untrue statement of material fact; the financial statements fairly present the financial condition of the company; and the company has evaluated its internal controls and have disclosed to the auditors and the audit company (a) all significant deficiencies in such controls and (b) any fraud that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the company's internal controls, among other things. In addition, corporate officers must indicate whether or not there were significant changes in internal controls subsequent to the day of the evaluation of internal controls and whether any corrective actions have been taken.

Violation of the certification provisions may be enforced by the remedies granted to the SEC under Securities Act of 1934, including criminal penalties for any willful violations of such certifications.

3. Officer and Director Removal: Reduces the SEC's burden in court for establishing unfitness to serve as an officer and director. In addition, the bill provides that the Commission in its own administrative proceeding may remove an officer and director (subject to judicial review). Current law requires that the SEC must go to court to seek officer and director removal.

I intend to seek the bi-partisan support of my colleagues by offering each section of this legislation as separate amendments at the upcoming markup of H.R. 3673. I hope to have the support of the White House and my Republican colleagues to make real the enhancement of corporate accountability.

IN HONOR OF TERRI GRAHAM

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terri Graham for her outstanding contributions as a Visual Arts Teacher at Bayonne High School. She was honored at the "Lifetime Presents Disney's American Teacher Awards", on November 10, 2001, at CBS Television City in Los Angeles.

The entire Bayonne Public School community is proud of Terri's talent, commitment, and creativity that have had a profound and lasting impact on the students and community of Bayonne. Terri has provided a comfortable and safe learning environment in which her students thrive.

Her students have achieved statewide recognition in the past with the 2000 State of New Jersey Arts and Humanities Award (AH-HA), and the 2001 New Jersey State Department of Education Best Practice Award, "An Interdisciplinary Puppet Show". By collaborating with the school's German teacher, Mrs. Varda Wendroff, and her German students, Terri and her ceramics students created puppet performances of German folk tales.

Each year, her students are selected to participate in the Morris Museum "Fresh Perspectives" show for outstanding high school students in the state. Terri and her students have participated in a variety of community projects, such as the New Jersey Transit Hudson Bergen Light Rail Tile Mural, and they worked with the Bayonne Historical Society, "History of Bayonne Architecture", duplicating Bayonne's historic buildings in clay.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Terri Graham's selfless work in educating our nation's youth. She has provided and continues to provide an invaluable learning experience to the students of Bayonne.

"WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on May 4-6, 2002, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution

program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that the class from La Moure High School from the city of La Moure will represent the state of North Dakota in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government in the aftermath of the tragedy on September 11. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

The class from La Moure High School is currently conducting research and preparing for their upcoming participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize these young scholars by name:

Emily Anderson, Michael Anderson, Derek Arndt, Lacey Boehm, Justine Dathe, John Doehler, Sandra Eastley, Cassie Exner, Christina Hanson, Tonya Jacobson, Naomi Janke, Donald Ketterling, Levi Ketterling, Travis Ketterling, Michelle Koval, Kyle Kranda, Cody Larson, Lucas Larson, Loren Podoll, Aaron Potts, Spencer Potts, Ambra Premo, Bethany Roscoe, Clara Sandness, Savannah Sandness, Heather Schmidt, Casey Shockman, Michael Ulmer and Kyle Westgard.

I would also like to recognize and thank their teacher, Mr. Brian Ham, for his critical role in these students' success and their interest in American government. I wish Lamoure High School the best of luck in the national competition.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) of 1979 and to reiterate the United States' strong friendship with Taiwan. This important legislation was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on April 10, 1979 and gives Congress a statutory role in defining United States foreign policy toward Taiwan. We have the duty and the responsibility to see that peace, security and stability prevail in the Western Pacific region. Despite tensions with the Peoples Republic of China, Taiwan has prospered economically and politically. A member of the World Trade Organization, Taiwan is one of the richest countries in Asia. Politically, Taiwan is an evolving democracy, and at this moment every major public office on the island is democratically elected.

On the 23rd anniversary of the TRA, we must affirm that the United States will continue to support Taiwan according to the wording and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, which

requires the United States to "make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability." It is essential that the United States continues to move forward and engage China, and it will be equally important that the Bush Administration continues to make a commitment to our ally in Taiwan.

RECOGNITION OF THE HADASSAH GROUP

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the organization Hadassah—the largest women's and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. Through its 300,000 members within the United States, this volunteer organization has demonstrated dedication to community service and assistance.

The organization was founded in 1912 and, since that time, has put forth exceptional effort to provide services to the community. In the United States, Hadassah has taken action to heighten the quality of American and Israeli life through its education and youth programs. It has also promoted health awareness, and provided personal enrichment and growth for its members. Beyond the national role that Hadassah plays, I would like to recognize the service of the local chapter in Spokane, Washington.

The Hadassah volunteers in my district have collected donations for the Red Cross to help with the charitable acts they provide; they assist the Ronald McDonald House in providing temporary homes for families with a hospitalized child; they have provided support for the AIDS walks in Spokane and Seattle which create awareness and reflect commitment to providing services to those living with HIV and AIDS; and Hadassah also provides outreach to local synagogues with support programs.

Throughout the organization's 90-year history, Hadassah has played a strong role in community improvement and support projects. In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great contributions of this important organization.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE LOUIS CALDERA

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true patriot and exemplary American, the Honorable Louis Caldera. Few individuals define the realization of the "American Dream" more perfectly than Louis Caldera. As the former Secretary of the Army under the Clinton Administration and current Vice-Chancellor for University Advancement for the Cali-

fornia State University, Louis Caldera has achieved more in 45 years than most people do in a lifetime. What makes these achievements so remarkable is the story behind them.

Louis Caldera was born in El Paso, Texas to Mexican immigrant parents. At the age of four, his family moved to a housing project in East Los Angeles. As the son of working class parents, Caldera encountered the struggles of poverty at a young age, yet was instilled with a strong sense of patriotism, love of family, and profound appreciation of the importance of education. Louis had his first job at the age of ten, when he worked as a parking lot sweeper at a local shopping center. For two years, Louis and his parents woke up at 3 a.m. three nights a week to clean the parking lot in order to pay the rent for a small hair salon they operated in the shopping center. During high school, Caldera worked 40 hours a week at a fast food restaurant while taking a full load of college preparatory courses. Louis was only enrolled in college prep classes after persisting and even having his parents sign an approval. Advisors at his high school suggested that Louis pursue more 'practical' vocational training courses. His hard work and determination paid off. Louis was accepted to West Point upon graduation from high school.

After graduating from West Point in 1978, Caldera served as an Army officer and quickly rose to the rank of Captain. He then attended Harvard University, where he received both a Law Degree and a Master's in Business Administration. After a brief stint in the private sector as a corporate finance lawyer, Caldera returned to the public service as a State Representative in the California State Legislature, where he represented downtown Los Angeles. In 1997 he was appointed by President Clinton to serve as Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the AmeriCorps program. One year later Caldera was appointed by Clinton to serve as Secretary of the Army.

At the young age of 45, Caldera has accomplished more than many individuals do in a lifetime. Throughout every phase of his career, he has achieved the unimaginable while never losing sight of his roots. Louis Caldera truly understands both the unique challenges and incredible opportunities confronting Hispanics in the United States on a daily basis. Caldera is a true community servant and his dedication to the Hispanic community and especially Hispanic youth are highly commendable.

As Secretary of the Army, Caldera was a "Soldier's Soldier", visiting troops all over the globe and working day and night to provide enlisted soldiers with the education and skills they need to succeed within the Army and beyond. Thanks to Caldera's leadership, the Army overcame a recruiting deficit, giving a renewed sense of honor and duty to military service. Caldera created the Army University Access Online distance education program that enables soldiers to earn college and graduate degrees while serving. In addition, he directed the expansion of the Junior ROTC program to hundreds of high school campuses nationwide and spearheaded Army sponsorship of "Operation Graduation," a three-year public service advertising campaign designed to increase high school graduation rates among at-risk youth.

Caldera's unceasing commitment to education is reflected in his current position as Vice Chancellor of University Advancement at the California State University. Caldera is an excellent role model and phenomenal leader. His ability to understand the struggles and needs of students from diverse backgrounds sets him apart from others, and Louis's own struggle to overcome adversity is truly inspirational. Louis possesses a unique knowledge of government affairs, the private sector, and the challenges that Hispanics in the U.S. face on a daily basis. Caldera's accomplishments speak highly of his character, intelligence, and dedication to the Hispanic community and our Nation. These qualities and countless others make Louis Caldera a truly remarkable man and an invaluable asset to our community. It is a privilege and an honor to recognize Louis Caldera in the company of my fellow members of Congress. Thank you Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT ALEX SAAVEDRA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Alex Saavedra for over 25 years of dedicated service to the public. He retired from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office on March 1, 2001, and was recognized for his many contributions to New Jersey on April 3, 2002, at The Empire Club in Little Ferry, New Jersey.

Starting out as a patrolman for the Union City Police Department in 1974, Mr. Saavedra quickly climbed through the ranks; in 1977, he served as President of the Policeman's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 67. In 1983, he worked as an investigator in the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office in the Grand Jury Section; in 1984, he was transferred to the Sex Crime/Child Abuse Section; in 1988, he became Senior Investigator; and in 1989, he was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Section. From 1990 through 1992, Mr. Saavedra served as Vice President of the PBA Local 221, and, in 1991, returned to the Grand Jury Squad; in 1997, he was appointed Sergeant, and, in 1998, was transferred to the Narcotics Task Force. In 2000, he began his last assignment in the Fugitive Squad of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office.

Over the course of his law enforcement career, Alex Saavedra received the following notable distinctions: Silver Life Member Award, Exceptional Duty Medal, Certificate of Commendation, and Certificates of Appreciation from the Kiwanis Club International, The Lions Club International, The Bergen County Police Academy, and The Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Alexander Saavedra for a career devoted to the safety and well being of the citizens of New Jersey. His selfless service will never be forgotten.