

year, the Morgan County Press began in 1911 and the Stover Milling Company started in 1917. All of these businesses are still in operation and many are being run by the same family that founded them. Today there are 63 businesses licensed in the city of Stover.

The city government and citizens are planning various activities to commemorate this milestone. The Centennial Fair will be held June 19–21, 2003, the city is publishing a commemorative centennial book to highlight the city's history, and on November 13, 2003, the United States Postal Service will celebrate with a special cancellation at the Stover Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the citizens of Stover, Missouri, for this outstanding accomplishment. I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to a great American city.

**PROMOTING SELF-RELIANCE FOR
THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE
ACT OF 2002**

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with the distinguished gentleman from New York, AMO HOUGHTON, the "Promoting Self-Reliance for the World's Poorest People Act of 2002." This important legislation directs our limited foreign aid dollars to a proven and effective form of international development—microenterprise.

Microenterprise, the lending of very small loans to the world's poorest people that serve to start and expand small business, typically in amounts as low as \$100, is founded upon the principle of promoting opportunity and free enterprise for individuals who are subjected to abject poverty and harsh economic conditions. Furthermore, microenterprise is a foreign aid issue that garners wide bipartisan support. Over thirty Members already support this legislation. This is truly an issue where Republicans and Democrats can agree.

In a recent address at the United Nations' Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, Mexico, President Bush called for a renewed commitment to promoting opportunity and free enterprise as tools necessary to alleviate global poverty. The President stated, "Nations' most vital natural resources are found in the minds and skills and enterprise of their citizens. The greatness of a society is achieved by unleashing the greatness of its people. The poor of the world need resources to meet their needs, and like all people, they deserve institutions that encourage their dreams."

Now more than ever, Congress must rigorously support U.S. foreign aid programs that foster hope and opportunity to counter the fear and desperation that is exploited by terrorists among the masses of unemployed and impoverished people around the world. Because the war on terrorism will not be won by satellites and soldiers alone, our arsenal must also include humanitarian assistance that promotes freedom and opportunity for the world's poorest people. Microenterprise programs undeniably fulfill this role in the developing world.

Mr. Speaker, take for example the story of Violet Mutoto of Uganda. Violet, a mother of

four young children, lives and works out of her small house in the tiny hamlet of Mooni. Her mud dwelling contains no plumbing, yet she pays roughly eighteen dollars a month in rent. Out of the front of her home, Violet operates a rudimentary store. Since receiving her first loan of \$43 from the international development organization, Freedom from Hunger, Violet has been able to pay her rent and expand her stock of supplies in her store. Now she sells cooking oils, cheese, salt, sugar, malaria pills, and other items. The diversified stock of supplies has increased her business and has afforded her the opportunity to send her older children to school. After repaying her first loan, Violet was able to take out second and third loans to begin accumulating a savings account.

The Roemer/Houghton bipartisan legislation modestly increases funding for Microenterprise programs from \$155 million to \$200 million annually in the Foreign Operations budget. This four-year funding level would also ensure that our investment to the world's small business owners is well spent. Specifically, our bill calls for targeting at least half of all microenterprise resources to the world's poorest people. Our legislation defines the world's poorest people as those people in the poorest fifty percent of a country in relation to that country's official national poverty line and/or as those people who are living on the equivalent of less than one United States' dollar per day.

The Roemer/Houghton bipartisan legislation also calls for greater accountability measures that will ensure effective poverty-targeting assistance. With the implementation of poverty assessment measurements, Congress and microenterprise donors can be sure that poverty targeted funding is meeting its intended goal of reaching the world's poorest people.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I strongly encourage my colleagues to review and cosponsor the "Promoting Self-Reliance for the World's Poorest People Act of 2002." Congress must develop and support foreign aid programs that equip the world's poorest people with the tools to empower themselves. Microenterprise programs such as Freedom from Hunger provide these vital empowerment tools in the form of tiny microcredit loans. As the story of Violet Mutoto demonstrates, by devoting greater resources to effective humanitarian programs like micro enterprise, U.S. foreign aid can provide hope and empowerment to the world's poorest people and demonstrate that the United States is committed to spreading the rewards that can grow in a free-enterprise system.

**30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NA-
TIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EM-
PLOYER SUPPORT OF THE
GUARD AND RESERVE**

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)—its 4,200 volunteers and Department of Defense (DOD) staff—in celebrating 30 years of service to this Nation.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was

established in 1972, the year the United States ended the Selective Service System and established an all-volunteer military force. DOD realized that support from employers and communities would be instrumental in maintaining Reserve component membership. ESGR was created to obtain employer and community support for the National Guard and Reserve and to promote the role of Reserve forces in the national defense.

ESGR has lived up to the task and accomplished much more. Since 1972, with the help of the Advertising Council, Inc., ESGR has benefited from nearly \$1 billion in pro bono advertising reaching the six million employers with one or more employees in the United States.

Employers have, in turn, signed ESGR Statements of Support, publicly committing to support the National Guard and Reserve. The former Chairman of the Board and CEO of General Motors, Mr. James H. Roche signed the first Statement of Support in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on December 13, 1972. The next day, President Richard Nixon signed a Statement of Support covering all Federal civilian employees. Since the inception of this program, Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and President George W. Bush have all signed Statements of Support, along with hundreds of thousands of employers, including Dell Computer Corporation, Xerox, the Society for Human Resource Management and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. To date, over 300,000 employers have signed statements of support. Additionally, the strategic alliance formed in 1998 between ESGR and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce resulted in more than 1,200 chambers of commerce nationwide signing a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR offers Ombudsman services designed to provide information to employers and Reservists regarding their rights and responsibilities under the law, and to resolve conflicts through informal mediation. These services operate in cooperation with the Department of Labor. ESGR volunteers in 54 U.S. states and territories contribute thousands of hours of effort representing millions of dollars of volunteer service in support of ESGR programs, its services, and the men and women of our nation's Reserve forces.

Mr. Speaker, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is smart government in action. The small ESGR staff in Arlington, VA, under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, provides guidance and support to a network of 4,200 volunteer business, civic, and community leaders.

ESGR educates employers on their rights and obligations under the law and recognize employers who actively support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. ESGR also educates members of the National Guard and Reserve in regards to their rights and responsibilities to the value of their employers support. Committees can be found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

With the end of the cold war, the Reserve components have been called with increasing frequency. During the Gulf War in 1990–1991, more than 250,000 Reserve component members were called to active duty to support military operations in the Persian Gulf. Since the start of Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring

Freedom, more than 80,000 National Guard and Reserve troops have been activated and are playing a critical role.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of employers, local and state government officials, Active and Reserve component leaders, and military members from across the nation and around the world request ESGR's employer support expertise on a daily basis. When Guardsmen and Reservists return home following mobilization, ESGR committee members are there to provide information and support services to those in need.

The U.S. Congress passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, (USERRA) of 1994, and updated it in 1996. This law completely revised the Veterans Reemployment Rights Act of 1940. USERRA articulates the rights and responsibilities of Guard and Reserve members with regard to job protection and explains employer rights under federal law. ESGR helps employers and Reservists understand this law and helps them informally resolve any employment conflicts that may arise.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to congratulate ESGR and its 54 ESGR committees on their 30 years of service and commend this network of over 4,200 volunteer patriots for their time and talent. They are serving their country and maintaining the much needed support of our employers and communities for the Guard and Reserve. Through the efforts of agencies like ESGR, we can call on our Reserve forces to answer our nation's call without the fear of job loss.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS
GONE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul Ecke, Jr.

For more than 50 years, Paul Ecke, Jr., has sent poinsettias and other exotic and beautiful flowers throughout the world. His company, Paul Ecke Ranch, has been the world leader in the development and distribution of poinsettias of every color and description.

Paul has given generously of his time and talent to his country, the State of California, and the people of San Diego County. On a more personal note, Paul has been a friend and mentor to me before and after I became a member of Congress. Often, when he disagrees with me and offers constructive criticism, I appreciate him most.

This Monday, the people of San Diego County will honor Paul Ecke, Jr., for his lifetime achievements and his contributions to the community. I know that Congress will join the people of San Diego in celebrating this great man and his ongoing achievements.

IN HONOR OF JANE CAMPBELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane L. Campbell, Mayor of the City

of Cleveland, who is being honored at the Cuyahoga County Democratic Annual Dinner on April 14th, 2002.

Mayor Campbell began her service to community on the grassroots, neighborhood level, first as the founding Executive Director of WomenSpace, and later as the Executive Director of the Friends of Shaker Square.

During her six term, twelve-year tenure as State Representative, Mayor Campbell was elected Majority Whip and Minority Assistant Leader by her colleagues, and was elected President of the National Conference of State Legislators. This Conference represented all legislators from across the nation. Mayor Campbell focused her efforts on protecting the rights and well-being of children, families and seniors. She also provided critical support and guidance for the passage of the Adult Care Licensing Bill, legislation that ensures that our most vulnerable citizenry—our elderly, blind, and disabled citizens, are protected, and will receive quality services.

Additionally, Mayor Campbell was instrumental in the passage of legislation focused on the protection of children, including the requirement of genetic testing to establish paternity, and the expansion of health care coverage for children. Also, Mayor Campbell worked to publicize serious flaws within the child support process, which led to stricter enforcement of child support laws.

As one of three Cuyahoga County Commissioners, Mayor Campbell represented 1.5 million constituents in the Greater Cleveland area. Also during this time, she served as the Chair of Welfare Reform with the National Association of Counties, and represented the County as a member of the Executive Committee of the Large Urban County Caucus. Additionally, Mayor Campbell was elected to the Vice Chair of the National Democratic County Officials, and she was also elected as the Vice President of Communications for the National Conference of Democratic Mayors. Moreover, Mayor Campbell, as Commissioner, underscored her continued commitment to issues facing women, children and families, by chairing the Violence Against Women Act Committee, and the Children Who Witness Violence Committee.

Mayor Campbell's extensive public service accomplishments, leadership, and social advocacy on all levels, from grassroots neighborhood organizations that exist to serve women, children, families and seniors in need, to the esteemed position of Mayor of the City of Cleveland, lend promise to the vision of a hopeful tomorrow for all citizens of the City of Cleveland, and for the Greater Cleveland community as well.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in paying tribute to Mayor Jane L. Campbell, for her diligent effort, outstanding leadership, and significant achievements within the public service arena, and also for her record of dedication to individuals and to community.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNUAL
PRIDE YOUTH WORLD ANTI-
DRUG CONFERENCE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the over 4,500 youth and adult par-

ticipants of the 2002 PRIDE (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education) World Drug Prevention Conference currently being held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The PRIDE conference is the world's largest youth conference focusing on drug and violence prevention and one of the few that provides a forum where youth and adults meet to find solutions.

PRIDE was started in 1977 with the primary goal of educating, promoting and supporting drug free youth who care for the safety and health of self, peers, family and community. Today, as PRIDE celebrates its 25th anniversary as an organization dedicated to youth, it enjoys one of its most successful conferences to date. This year's participants represent 40 countries, many ethnic groups, as well as urban, suburban and rural communities. I am pleased to serve as PRIDE statewide co-chair along with Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio, and Luceille Fleming, Director of the Ohio Department of Drug and Alcohol Prevention. The Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, an organization I and other community leaders founded in 1996, has acted as a local partner.

The 2002 conference has drawn an impressive host of nationally recognized speakers including John Walters, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio; Ruth Sanchez-Way, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; Charles Currie, Director of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; Major General Arthur Dean, Chairman/CEO Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

The conference offers numerous workshops that help youth learn how to be leaders in their schools and communities, and teaches techniques that can be used to encourage peers to maintain a healthy and substance-free lifestyle. Importantly, the conference also demonstrates that, although there is still a great deal of work to do in the struggle to keep our youth off drugs and away from alcohol and tobacco, the majority of our teens are making responsible decisions regarding substance abuse and deserve to be commended for their efforts.

Teen alcohol and drug abuse has a devastating effect on families and communities nationwide. Youth PRIDE participants, as well as the parents, coaches and other mentors who help guide them, deserve accolades for their willingness to act as leaders with regard to this often difficult decision to stand up and be recognized as a model for healthy, substance free living.

The 25th annual PRIDE conference has also provided a unique partnership between the Cincinnati Police Department, the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, and Cincinnati CAN that has raised over \$40,000 to provide scholarships for 200 Cincinnati youth to attend the conference. This has been a remarkable opportunity for the youth who, without this generous assistance, would have been unable to attend the conference. We congratulate these organizations for their community partnerships that help to reduce demand for drugs and alcohol.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati are pleased to welcome such an important conference to our area and thank all of the youths and adults who have worked to make the 2002 PRIDE conference a success.