

appropriate federal trial court within three years of the date of the violation. Suits against any person, organization, or employer responsible for a violation may seek lost wages and benefits; reinstatement; attorneys' fees and costs; compensatory and punitive damages; and equitable, injunctive, and other appropriate relief.

Remedy for Inconsistent Coverage. One of the purposes of the bill, according to Tom Devine, executive director of the Government Accountability Project, a nonprofit groups based in Washington, D.C., is to put teeth into the congressional right-to-know law, the Lloyd LaFollette Act of 1912. While that bill made whistleblower retaliation illegal, he said, it did not provide for a legal remedy. Various whistleblower statutes provide administrative remedies for federal and nonfederal workers, but the coverage of those laws is inconsistent, Devine said in talking points prepared for a Feb. 27 press event to announce the introduction of the new legislation.

Legislation introduced by Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) June 7, 2001, in the Senate and by Rep. Constance A. Morella (R-Md.) July 23, 2001, in the House as S. 995 and H.R. 2588, respectively, would strengthen the Whistleblower Protection Act, which is designed to protect federal whistleblowers (39 GERR 865, 8/7/01). Among other things, the Akaka and Morella bills would clarify what types of information disclosures are protected from prohibited personnel practices such as retaliation.

IN TRIBUTE TO AL AGOVINO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Al Agovino is a man who knows how to give of himself. He started, officially, in the Pacific Theater with Motor Torpedo Squadron 36 and was awarded five Battle Stars.

Back home in the Bronx he has also been generous with his time and ability. At St. Benedict's Church he has been President of the Holy Name Society and Co-ordinator of the Church Ushers and of the Blood Bank. He has been Grand Knight of St. Luke's Council of the Knights of Columbus. He has served on the New York State Autism Advisory Council. He also serves on the Bronx Consumer Council.

He has also served on the Bronx Developmental Disabilities Service Office Parent Association, on the Human Resources Administration Advisory Council, and on the New York State Commission on Quality Care for the Mentally Disabled Advisory Council.

If that wasn't enough he has been a vital advocate for parents and for all people with developmental disabilities and their families. He has served on the Board of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children and in that capacity rarely missed a meeting in over twenty years. His presence has made AHRC a force in its field.

More immediately, I rise today to speak of Mr. Agovino with some sadness, for he is retiring from the Board of Visitors Association after 25 years of constant and devoted service. The Board oversees conditions and the quality of life offered to patients in the State Psychiatric and Developmental Centers. While on the Board, to which he was named by the Gov-

ernor and confirmed by the State Senate, he also served on many committees including Government Relations and Geriatric, and was also President of the New York State Association of Boards of Visitors. His leaving will leave a hole in our hearts and our abilities.

Al and his wife Vera have been married for 55 years. They had six children who in turn gave them six grandchildren. I offer him my sincerest congratulations for all he has done, and it is a lot. I join with the countless others he knows and has helped in wishing the very best in all that he does. He has made the world a better place.

MONINA SUNGA RECIPIENT OF 2001 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING (PAEMST)

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Program (PAEMST) is designed to recognize our nation's outstanding teachers. Administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF), recipients of the program's awards serve as role models for peers. They focus interest upon the teaching profession, encourage high quality teachers to remain in the field of education, and generate the enthusiasm required to foster the next generation of teachers.

One of the outstanding individuals to be honored this year is Ms. Monina Sunga, a science teacher from the Vicente S.A. Benavente Middle School in Dededo, Guam. Monina joined fellow-awardees from all over the United States in a visit to our Nation's capital where they were honored for their achievements. During her visit to Washington, DC, she had the opportunity to meet and confer with government and education officials along with other awardees. Having received this honor, she became part of a growing network of exceptional teachers.

Monina has been described as "a teacher who takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart." To her students, she is a counselor, supporter and friend. Having been a teacher on Guam for more than twenty-five years, Monina claims to have found the "fountain of youth" within her mind and within her classroom. Convinced that her youthful disposition is derived from her students, she has made it known that she intends to say as a classroom instructor for as long as she is able to do so. To her fellow teachers she imparts the knowledge that the true joy of teaching is achieved when teachers ultimately inspire students to learn.

As a science teacher, Monina found that going beyond the assigned readings is a very efficient method of teaching the subject. She firmly believes that healthy interaction in conjunction with hands-on training for the children are keys to successful learning. She encourages her students to use their natural environment as their laboratories. Her students are acquainted with learning tools derived from the simplest of things and they respond with great enthusiasm to her teaching method.

In addition to the prestige Monina brings to her school and the pride she instills in her students, the rewards of being a PAEMST awardee also includes a grant of \$7,500 which will be employed for the benefit of her school. This goes a long way towards furthering her goals and examples.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize and highlight the contributions of Ms. Monina Sunga and her fellow teachers. Having been a former classroom teacher herself, I am aware of the sacrifices and high standards expected from those in the teaching profession. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and admiration for the teachers whose constant contributions instill exemplary values and shape the lives of our children, our communities and our future.

COMMEMORATING THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act today, I wish to comment on the special relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter switched diplomatic recognition from the Republic of China to the People's Republic of China. To ensure Taiwan would continue to prosper and grow, Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979. For the last twenty-three years, the Taiwan Relations Act has worked exceedingly well, providing Taiwan with the necessary security, while reminding the Chinese mainland not to use force against this flourishing democracy. On this 23rd anniversary, it is important to remind everyone that the United States stands behind the spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act.

The United States continues to enjoy a longstanding and healthy relationship with Taiwan. The people of Taiwan have always stood shoulder to shoulder with us, and we should stand by them as well. I rise today in recognition of these continued positive relations between Taiwan and the United States.

JEREMY J. WARREN'S HONOR FOR SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jeremy J. Warren for his selfless service to citizens of the United States during the September 11 tragedy in New York.

Jeremy and 11 of his classmates at the United States Merchant Marine Academy were called to aid in rescue efforts merely hours after the World Trade Centers collapsed. Jeremy used his extensive rescue training to help search the debris during the critical post-collapse hours in hopes of finding survivors. Jeremy worked at ground zero through the night and was relieved from the operation in the early morning hours of September 12.

In 1994, Jeremy graduated from Midland Lee High School in my congressional district. He sought a nomination to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and was granted the appointment. In June 2002, Jeremy will graduate from this institution. The excellent training Jeremy received at King's Point paid off not only for himself but also his country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to publicly thank Jeremy for his actions on September 11, 2001, and to extend my congratulations to him on the occasion of his upcoming graduation. I wish him nothing but the best for the future.

IN TRIBUTE TO MARY A. GAINES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Carter G. Woodson Award of Mercy College has been given annually since 1986 to notable contributors to African American life and history. This year the awardee is Mary A. Gaines, the executive director of the Nepperhan Community Center. I am proud to consider her a good friend.

Early in her life Mary knew she wanted to work with young people. She came to Yonkers from North Carolina and studied at Mercy College and Westchester Community College. Since 1968 she has served in various capacities in the Nepperhan Community Center, an organization serving a wide range of community needs.

Indeed Mary has touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of young people in her time at the Community Center. During that same period of time the Nepperhan Community Center grew from a small, cramped facility to one occupying a renovated and spacious building. The youth programs have become much more solidly funded and the number of programs serving the community has grown to include the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Service Program, the Independent Living Skills/Careers for Youth, the Youth Communications Network, Act for Youth, the Yonkers Success Training Academy, and the Drug Free Program, among many others.

She has also served in other distinguished organizations such as the United Way of Yonkers, the Black Women's Political Caucus, the New York State Division for Youth Advisory Board, the Yonkers Community Development Agency Board, and many others.

Needless to say she has received many awards for her good works. She attends the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, serving on its Missionary Society and Education Committee.

She epitomizes the adage that if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. She has worked for several generations of Yonkers youth, helping and guiding them with her knowledge and experience, and her love. If Yonkers is a better place, and it is, we can thank Mary Gaines, and those who share her dedication and devotion to making the lives of its people better. Congratulations Mary, I'm proud to know you and Yonkers is fortunate to have you.

RICHARD DAVID KAHN MELANOMA FOUNDATION

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for the Richard David Kahn Melanoma Foundation and to recognize May 6, 2002 as Melanoma Monday, Skin Cancer Awareness Day. This year alone, over one million Americans will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer. Out of the one million diagnosed—10,000 of those will die—that equals one person every hour.

This number is unconscionable given the fact that skin cancer is 100 percent preventable and curable when detected early. Our most powerful tool against this disease is education. I commend the actions of the Palm Beach County-based Richard David Kahn Melanoma Foundation for its relentless efforts in educating the people of South Florida about the dangers of melanoma and the steps needed to prevent it. The Foundation reaches more than 10,000 local residents directly each year through the many school and community-based presentations and special events.

I would encourage my constituents, and the American people at large, as we come close to the summer of 2002, that they avoid peak sunlight hours (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), when the Sun's rays are most intense. I would also recommend that anyone going outside use the appropriate sun block and minimize their exposure.

Every year we spend billions of dollars on curing thousands of diseases. Melanoma can be cured by simple education and awareness. I am proud of the work that the Foundation has done and am proud to recognize May 6, 2002, Melanoma Monday, Skin Cancer Awareness Day.

COMMENDATION FOR 11-YEAR OLD LIFESAVER, VINCENT MICHAEL CRUZ SABLAN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as islanders, the people of my home district of Guam are particularly sensitive to water-related accidents, whether in the ocean, in a swimming pool or in a bathtub. All too often, we are saddened by the news of drowning tragedies, especially those which claim the lives of children. A physical education class at the Andersen Air Force Base swimming pool last December would have ended in another such tragedy, if not for the quick action of 11-year old Vincent Michael Cruz Sablan, a sixth-grade student at DODEA's Andersen Middle School.

On December 19, 2001, as his classmates frolicked in and around the water, Vincent and his friends noticed that another boy was lying motionless on the bottom in the deep end of the pool. At first they thought the boy was fooling around, testing his ability to hold his breath underwater, but they soon realized that the boy was in trouble. A self-taught swimmer with no formal lifesaving training, Vincent was

the only one in the group able to dive deep enough to reach the boy at the bottom of the pool. On his first attempt, Vincent could only get close enough to see that the boy was not just holding his breath. He then re-surfaced, drew a big breath and dove again. He reached the submerged boy's body and grabbed a hold of him. The drowned boy was taller and heavier, but Vincent managed to bring him to the surface.

By then, the commotion had drawn adult attention and base emergency responders were summoned immediately. The boy was not breathing and had to be resuscitated. He was transported to the Naval Regional Medical Center, where he spent two days in the Intensive Care Unit. According to medics, the boy was only seconds away from death, but Vincent's effort made the difference. After five days in the hospital, the boy was released and is now well and fully recovered.

Vincent went home from school that day and made no mention of the incident to his parents, Guam National Guardsman, CWO Vincent A. and Agnes Cruz Sablan, of Dededo. He resumed his sixth-graders life, watching television, playing with his friends, being reminded to do his chores and struggling with his homework. It wasn't until base security called and reported to CWO Sablan that his son was a genuine hero.

Mr. Speaker, as parents, we strive to teach our children right from wrong, to instill in them the virtues and values we hold dear. We try to prepare them for life as responsible adults and we hope that they make right decisions and do good things. Just as we are dismayed when they stumble, we must praise when they shine. Last December, Vincent witnessed something wrong. He realized that someone's life was at stake and that he had to do something to help. He did not panic or turn away from a threatening situation. Instead, he did what he knew was right, and what he did was extraordinary. He saved a life. Afterward, he did not brag about his deed. He sought no accolades or rewards. Even so, this young man deserves our gratitude and our praise, for proving that, when taught, children will be responsible even from an early age. I take great pride and pleasure in commending Vincent Michael Cruz Sablan. He truly is a lifesaver and merits recognition as such.

The youngest of four children, the "baby" of his family, Vincent has already proven himself to be a valuable member of the Guam community. I join his parents and his siblings, Michael, Angela and Steven, in saying, "Well Done, Vincent!"

TRIBUTE TO LYNNE SILBERT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am greatly honored today to pay tribute to one of my most unique and closest friends, Lynne Silbert, who has been chosen to receive the prestigious Human Spirit Award from the Wellness Community of West Los Angeles.

It is hard to find words to adequately describe Lynne. Lovely and charming, inside and out, she has touched a myriad of lives. She is warm and generous, but truly defined by her