

So, as things now stand, I am not persuaded that the case has been made for selection of the Yucca Mountain site, and I therefore am not ready to override the Governor's objections by voting for this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE JOHN BOOTH
SENIOR CENTER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents for her commitment to our senior citizens.

Since 1965, the John Booth Senior Center has served the folks of East Baltimore. When first opened, the center was only one of 350 senior centers in the United States. Today, thanks to the efforts of its tireless director, June Goldfield, the center not only offers a community gathering place but a support service for East Baltimore's older citizens, enabling many of them to stay in the community as active, vital participants.

June began her full time employment with Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks almost 15 years ago and has dedicated herself to preserving and enhancing services for seniors. The center boasts unending activities and instruction as well as a close relationship with Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, which offers medical assistance to members. The ethnic food festival, prepared by center members, is among the most enjoyable activities.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating June Goldfield on her public service and wishing her well in her retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL ENTERPRISE
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Small Business Enterprise Paperwork Reduction Act, a bill to relieve the burden of regulation compliance documentation.

Federal regulations are set to ensure worker safety and to protect public health and the environment. This nation's small businesses—representing 99 percent of all employers and constituting half our economic product—place a high value on compliance with regulations. Unfortunately, these requirements disproportionately burden small businesses, which spend millions of hours annually meeting federal paperwork and record-keeping requirements to prove that they have complied with regulations.

The time and effort spent by businesses and taxpayers to meet paperwork demands are estimated to equal almost 10 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. Clearly, this is a waste of time and resources better spent creating jobs and furnishing goods and services.

Federal paperwork consistently ranks among the top 10 problems for small busi-

nesses. Time spent filling out forms, takes small business owners away from conducting our nation's business. It takes doctors away from patient care. It takes restaurant owners away from serving patrons. It takes your auto mechanic away from fixing your transmission.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (PRA), since amended, seeks to minimize the cost and burden imposed by federal paperwork requirements and to maximize the usefulness of the information collected. The PRA of 1995 required reduction of paperwork burdens government-wide. Unfortunately, the burden did not decrease since 1995—in fact, it has increased by nearly 180 million burden hours during Fiscal Year 2000. This is the second largest one-year increase since the act was passed. It is also an outrage.

The PRA established the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Office of Management and Budget to review and clear agency information collection requirements. Unfortunately, OIRA has been diverted from its original mission by an Executive Order that makes it a central clearinghouse for agency rulemaking actions. Review of regulations now takes up most of OIRA's time and resources.

This legislation seeks to bring OIRA back towards its original mission—to ensure that Federal agencies do not over-burden businesses and the public with requests for information and documentation.

The Office of Management and Budget listed a total of 710 PRA violations for Fiscal Year 2000.

This legislation will strengthen the PRA by requiring OMB to do more to enforce the law on paperwork burden violations.

In addition, by making violations of the Paperwork Reduction Act a more public matter, it will increase public awareness and force agencies to focus on the burdens they impose on small business.

Lastly, this legislation requires federal agencies and OMB to track the paperwork burdens on small businesses by industry type. Congress and the public should be aware of what burdens are being placed on our small businesses by Federal agencies.

Small businesses create 75 percent of the new jobs in America. To protect this economic dynamo, we must be careful about the burdens we place on these firms. If the burden of government paperwork becomes too great, it will stall the very engine of economic growth that has made America strong. This legislation is designed to tighten the load, so that small businesses can get back to work providing jobs, goods and services in their communities.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as a co-chair of the Correctional Officers Caucus, to honor the men and women working in our correctional facilities. On a daily basis, correctional personnel perform a wide range of jobs, from the routine to the extraordinary. Their work often goes unnoticed, but the efforts of correctional officers and employees

were never more apparent than on September 11, 2001.

Following the horrific terrorist attacks, the New York Correction Department immediately sent personnel to assist in rescue operations. Department staff controlled traffic congestion enabling emergency vehicles to reach Ground Zero and assisted firefighters by delivering fuel to needy fire trucks. They built a small "tent city" equipped with heat, electricity, telephone and fax lines to provide additional support services for the temporary morgue at Bellevue Hospital. The Department also conducted security clearances and issued thousands of photo ID cards to secure access to Ground Zero and other restricted areas.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, correctional officers and employees were deployed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist in various rescue and recovery efforts.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 390 to recognize the week of May 6th as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, in gratitude for the courage and professionalism of the New York City Correction Department in the face of tragedy, as well as the daily work of all correctional officers and employees who perform their jobs with dedication and resolve.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor our Nation's correctional officers and employees. I urge my colleagues to recognize these men and women by cosponsoring this important resolution.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH
ISRAEL IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST
TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I offer these comments for the RECORD to supplement my vote on House Resolution 392—the resolution in support of Israel in the war against terrorism—which this body approved on May 2.

I voted in favor of the resolution because I believe what it said was both substantially accurate and needed to be formally declared by this Congress and this Nation: that there is no acceptable justification for terrorism in general and suicide bombing in particular. No one—no nation, no organization—can ever be perceived as gaining any advantage militarily, diplomatically, or politically from this reprehensible tactic.

I offer these comments because I'm afraid the resolution told only part of the story. What the resolution said wasn't nearly as controversial as what it didn't say. Because while it did incorporate some language addressing the humanitarian concerns of the Palestinian people, even the most ardent supporter of the current government in Israel would have to agree that the resolution was not as balanced as it could, or should, have been.

That's why I voted against ordering the previous question on the rule for this resolution. To put it simply, I hoped we could open up the debate on the resolution to include additional language. In my opinion, we could have made the resolution more balanced, portrayed a

fuller and more exact picture of the situation, and made it more productive in achieving a lasting peace in the region. In a House of 435 Members, there were only 82 who voted with me on this, and only three of those were Republicans. I wish we had more, because I think we would have ended up with a better piece of legislation.

In particular, I think the resolution would have been dramatically improved had it specifically mentioned our commitment to a Palestinian State, and the vision for the future most reasonable people share on this issue: two independent states, one Israeli and one Palestinian, living side-by-side in peace.

LAKE ALLATOONA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Lake Allatoona Awareness Week as proclaimed by Governor Roy Barnes of Georgia.

Lake Allatoona is located north of Atlanta in the foothills of north Georgia, and covers parts of Cherokee, Cobb, and Bartow Counties. It provides drinking water for over 500,000 people and recreation activities for millions.

Two years ago the Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority, LAPA, was created to lead the effort to protect and preserve this vital resource. The lake provides habitat for a number of endangered species, including the Etowah Darter, Gray Bat, Southern Acornshell, and the American Bald Eagle.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 7, LAPA and the Army Corp of Engineers signed a historic \$5 million joint study to plan for the preservation of the lake for generations to come. There is no greater way to preserve than to plan for the future, and for the citizens of North Georgia and this great natural resource the future is bright.

TRIBUTE TO PITTSBURGH REGIONAL ALLIANCE

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, recently a local economic development group—the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA)—was selected as one of the top groups in the Nation. Each year, the editorial staff of Site Selection selects the Top 10 Economic Development Groups for their role in bringing large-scale corporate expansion projects to their respective communities. These standards used to make their decisions included: Capital investment in the service area during 2001; new jobs created in the service area; capital investment per capita; and new jobs created per 100,000 population.

The PRA is an outstanding source of research and advocacy for regional development in western Pennsylvania, and I would like to submit to the RECORD Site Selection's explanation of why they were awarded this great honor:

Pittsburgh has been the manufacturing home of big steel, but much of that industry has closed and moved out of the country. The Three Rivers area has suffered through a downturn and repositioned itself as a city of the future. Building on the historic strengths of the area's energy traditions, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) helped Siemens Westinghouse Power choose a 22-acre site as the location for its \$122-million, state-of-the-art fuel cell manufacturing plant.

After the passage of Greenhouse Legislation by the state legislature, the PRA has begun to pursue an area Pittsburgh BioVenture Life Sciences Greenhouse approach to attract new industry. With cooperation with various academic institutions, the Bio Greenhouse hopes to position the area as a leader in biological research and development. "The Greenhouse will be the centerpiece of technology commercialization and economic development efforts," says D. Lansing Taylor, president and Chief Executive Officer of Cellomics. "It will also be the single organization to exploit synergies among university research strengths and facilities, and coordinate those efforts with economic development."

The PRA, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Dept. of Community and Economic Development, helped bring the world's largest producer of medical devices, Lake Region Medical, to the area. The facility will manufacture guide wires used for diagnostics and machine products used in the medical field, and will create at least 140 new jobs. The facility has qualified for a state financial package, including an Opportunity Grant and Jobs Creation Tax Credits.

I congratulate the PRA on this great award, and look forward to continue working with them as we bring back new growth and opportunity to western Pennsylvania.

HONORING ELAINE MARTIN

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elaine Martin of Nampa, ID, on receiving the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award. Elaine was a struggling farmer in 1985 when she decided to enter the highway contracting business. With a \$25,000 loan from her widowed mother she started a highway fencing company that, within a few years, became one of the largest guardrail companies in the western United States. Elaine's company, MarCon, now grosses over \$8 million a year, and has grown from 5 employees to more than 26 full-time employees. Starting with no knowledge of highway contracting, she's had the courage to explore every aspect of the business, from working alongside her crews to fighting red tape on behalf of contractors and small businesses everywhere. Elaine Martin has been a tremendous success, and Idahoans are extremely proud of her and the well deserved recognition she's received.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, I attended a ceremony in the White House at which the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Captain Jon Swanson, who was killed during the war in Vietnam. As a result, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 120, on the Sanders of Vermont amendment to H.R. 2871, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that amendment.

Also, on Tuesday, May 7, I was in Colorado for a ceremony marking the return to the United States of the remains of Daniel Aaron Romero, a Colorado Army National Guard sergeant serving with the 19th Special Forces Group. Sergeant Romero was killed April 15 when an accidental explosion rocked a demolition range in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

As a result, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 127, on the bill designating the Federal Building located at 5100 Paint Branch Parkway in College Park, MD, as the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

For the same reason, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 128, on the concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the national importance of Health Care Coverage Month. Had I been present for that vote, I would have voted "yea."

For the same reason, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 129, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 414, the rule dealing with H.J. Res. 84. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that rollcall.

And, for the same reason, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 130, on H. Res. 414, the rule dealing with H.J. Res. 84. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on adoption of that resolution.

Also, for the same reason, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 131, on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3525, the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that motion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 133, I was inadvertently not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO JAMES D. TSCHECHELTIN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to James D. Tschechtelin,