

for the week of May 6–10th. As a result I was unavailable for several rollcall votes. Had I been here, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 129–133. On rollcall vote 136, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall votes 137–139, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 140, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 141, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 142, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 143, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 144, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 145, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 146, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 147, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 148, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 149, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 150, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 151, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 152, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 153, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 154, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 155, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 156, I would have voted “yea.” On rollcall vote 157, I would have voted “no.” On rollcall vote 158, I would have voted “yea.”

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Small Business Week.

It is a time to celebrate the contributions that America's small businesses make to our economy.

Small business is the engine that drives this nation, producing 75 percent of new jobs, accounting for almost 98 percent of all employers and 53 percent of the private work force.

It is our small businesses that will continue to lead us to economic recovery.

In particular, small tech businesses are on the front lines of the digital revolution. They have led the way in advances from broadband deployment to software development.

My state of Texas ranks second nationally in high tech workers, employing more than 411,000 with an annual payroll of about \$25 billion. Many of those employees are working for small businesses.

And my new congressional district contains thousands of small, innovative high tech centered businesses.

One such company is SecureInfo in San Antonio. SecureInfo was founded in 1994 and has 64 employees.

SecureInfo allows companies and government agencies to learn about and fix their existing cyber vulnerabilities before they can be exploited by hackers. Exploiting known vulnerabilities is the weapon of choice for cyber terrorists.

SecureInfo battles these electronic attackers with vulnerability intelligence methods that were developed while its founders were working for the United States Air Force Emergency Response Team.

SecureInfo is just one of the thousands of small technology businesses around the country connecting rural America, developing next generation hardware and software, protecting our electronic assets and keeping America on the forefront of technological advances.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of National Nurses Week.

Every year, National Nurses Week is celebrated from May 6 to May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession. During this week, we recognize the accomplishments and tireless efforts nurses make in order to improve our healthcare system.

Nurses are devoted to their profession and to people in need. They serve our country on the front lines of care in our doctor's offices, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and schools.

As we in Congress work to strengthen Medicare and ensure that all people have access to first class healthcare, we are reminded of the long hours of hard work that nurses endure, the sacrifices they make everyday to contribute to the health and well being of our communities.

With a large population of Americans aging, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of home health care services, the nursing profession will become increasingly important. In fact, it is estimated that our country will need more than one million new nurses over the next decade. In order to encourage individuals to enter the nursing profession and support care for our loved ones, we must promote education programs, provide information to recruit individuals and highlight the role of nurses in the community.

As such, I ask you to join me in honoring nurses for their commitment to the principles we value. While they serve as the foundation of our Nation's healthcare system, nurses' dedication to their work and compassion for all patients exemplify the best of America's spirit.

TRIBUTE TO WALDO GIACOMINI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Waldo Giacomini, a prominent West Marin citizen and rancher, who has just died at the age of 88. His life has left a strong imprint on the community.

Mr. Giacomini bought 1,100 acres of mudflats in 1944 which he developed into a thriving dairy. In January 2000, he sold the bulk of this property to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for a nature preserve to be named the Waldo Giacomini Wetlands. In 1959 Mr. Giacomini co-founded the West Marin based organization, the Resource Conservation District, to promote good land stewardship in local agricultural areas by focusing on the prevention of erosion and water pollution.

He was also known for his participation in local organizations such as the West Marin Lion's Club, Sacred Heart Church, and Sonoma County Trailblazers and was supportive of cultural and service groups such as

the Dance Palace Community Center and Permill Creek Children's Corner, his neighbors in Point Reyes Station. He was frequently seen walking around the town, greeting his many friends.

A dedicated family man, Mr. Giacomini is survived by his four children as well as siblings, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, several of whom continue in the ranching business.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Giacomini leaves us a legacy of caring for the community he called home. In remembering his frequent rendition of the tune, “You are my Sunshine,” I echo the words of that song in bidding him farewell: “(He) made us happy when skies were gray.” Waldo Giacomini will be missed!

HONORING MR. JOSE AND MRS. ANTONIETA VARGAS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 10, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize two wonderful Americans, Mr. Jose and Mrs. Antonieta Vargas, on the joyous and momentous occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. On May 3, 1952, Jose and Antonieta Vargas joined in holy matrimony and commenced their marvelous journey together, a journey which we celebrate and reflect upon today.

Jose Vargas was born on December 19, 1918, in El Paso, Texas, during the Mexican Revolution. His mother, Atilana Castillo de Vargas, had traveled to El Paso to escape the violence of the Revolution while his father, Guadalupe Vargas, stayed in Chihuahua, Mexico. Atilana returned to her home in Chihuahua with her children after the violence had ended. Jose completed six years of primary education before going to work in the mines of Chihuahua and on the railroad; he also became an accomplished carpenter. He is the second of six children; his elder sister, Natividad, and younger brother, Jesus, have passed away. His siblings Maximo, Lazaro, and Guadalupe live in Chihuahua and Los Angeles, California.

Antonieta Valverde was born in the mining town of Santa Eulalia in the Mexican state of Chihuahua on December 27, 1927, and was raised in Ciudad Chihuahua. She is the eldest of six children, including Leobardo, Alicia, Concepcion, Damaso and Berta. She completed college before going to work at the Coca Cola bottling facility in Chihuahua.

Jose and Antonieta met in their neighborhood, Santa Niño de Antocha, while riding the bus to their jobs. After a year-long courtship, they married and moved to El Paso, Texas. There, the first five of their children were born: Jose and Fernando in 1952, Jorge in 1954, Maria Antonieta in 1958, and Arturo in 1962. Fernando died shortly after birth.

In 1962, while working on a construction site, Jose was injured, falling from the second story of a building being razed. The family survived through the kindness and charity of neighbors and family. In 1964, Jose left for Los Angeles to find employment, and upon doing so, moved the family to the South Central and then the Pico-Union areas of the city.

His brother Jesus and sister Guadalupe had already relocated there. In 1968, their youngest son, Rogelio, was born at East Los Angeles Doctor's Hospital.

Jose found employment as an unskilled laborer, and worked for many years at the Aerol Company in the community of Glassel Park. He worked as a driver and assembly line manufacturer. During this time, Antonieta dedicated herself to raising her children and maintaining the household of seven in a one-bedroom apartment. Though they endured years of financial hardship and personal sacrifice, their children today marvel at the realization that although they were poor, they never once wanted for food or shelter. They rejoiced in the abundance of love that these two devoted people brought to their home.

In 1974, after eldest sons Jose and Jorge had left for college, Jose and Antonieta became part of a group of parents called Padres Unidos who were dissatisfied with the quality of education and facilities offered at Magnolia Elementary School, which their children had attended or were attending. They protested, boycotted, and risked arrest demanding adequate facilities and a quality education for their children.

Soon afterward, Antonieta began her second career as a Title III Education Aide with the Los Angeles Unified School District. She worked for the school district from 1976 to 1996. Jose Vargas retired in 1988.

Today, Jose and Antonieta take joy in the success of their children and grandchildren.

Their eldest son, Jose, graduated from California State University at Northridge and the Physician Assistant Program at the Martin Luther King, Jr./Charles R. Drew Medical Center. He is married to Juanita Perez and they have two children, Joel, age 17, and Justene, age 14. Jose is a Physician Assistant with a private medical doctor and his wife, Juanita, is a public school teacher in Los Angeles.

Son Jorge is a graduate of Pepperdine University and Southwest University College of Law. He has worked as an attorney with the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, the Monterey County District Attorney, and presently with the California State Compensation Board. He lives in Salinas, California with his wife, Diane Peña, and two sons, Nicholas, age 15, and Benjamin, age 11.

Daughter Maria Antonieta graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles, UCLA, where she was a leader in an overnight camping program for disadvantaged

urban youth. She has been a senior manager in the private sector her entire career. An avid sports enthusiast, she lives in Long Beach, California.

Son Arturo graduated from Stanford University with bachelor's and master's degrees. He currently is the Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, NALEO, and resides in Los Angeles.

Youngest son Rogelio is a graduate of California State University at Northridge and a member of the Los Angeles City Fire Department. He is married to Kristin Fredrickson and has three children: Olivia, age 17 months, and three-month old fraternal twins, Daniela and Julia.

Today, Jose and Antonieta enjoy their retirement years in the Los Angeles community of Highland Park.

Mr. Speaker, as they embark upon the next fifty years of marriage, it gives me great pleasure to join family and friends who honor Jose and Antonieta Vargas with a commemorative mass and celebration on May 11, 2002. Jose and Antonieta exemplify what love, determination and honest, hard work bestow upon a marriage, a family, and the fortunate generations to follow. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying deserved tribute to two humble but immensely accomplished Americans.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, later in this debate we will be considering an amendment by the Gentleman from Texas, Mr. PAUL relating to the International Criminal Court. I am perplexed by this amendment, since, if it were binding, it would undermine our ability to defend U.S. servicemen and women, protects

war criminals, and express a profound distrust of the President of the United States. Although revising the amendment to make it non-binding was an improvement, the underlying policy suggested by the Amendment remains misguided.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Gentleman is opposed to the International Criminal Court, and this amendment is supposed to express that policy. Buy Mr. Chairman, that is already the policy of the United States. On Monday, the Administration announced that it would not ratify the Rome Statute which creates the Court, had given up on the court as a workable institution, and was not going to provide assistance to it.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, the language of this amendment simply goes too far and is fundamentally inconsistent with the national interest. In particular, the amendment provides that no funds may be used to "cooperate" with the court. Mr. Chairman, even opponents of the court should oppose this language. Let me give some examples of what the policy expressed in this amendment may prohibit:

It may prohibit the Defense Department from responding to the Court's investigators when they ask us for exonerating information on actions by U.S. Servicemen or women. Perversely, this would mean this amendment would make it more difficult for us to defend our own troops.

It may prevent us from allowing a member of the armed forces to testify on behalf of one of our NATO allies, who accept this treaty.

And it may prevent us from providing any information with respect to a prosecution of enemies of the United States. If a war crime is committed by Saddam Hussein in country which is a member of the court, and it does not prosecute him for political reasons, then under this amendment we could not help the Court prosecute Saddam.

Moreover, the subject of this amendment was already dealt with by the House in H.R. 1646, the State Department Authorization Act, which appears to be moving towards Conference. That is the proper venue for this topic.

Mr. Chairman, the President has announced his opposition to the Court. This amendment, represents an expression of profound distrust in our commander-in-chief. I think that in the middle of a war, that is the last thing we should be doing.