

University, an advanced five-year Conference Course of Study. He served the nation for four years of in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1963.

Reverend Williams has established a legacy by designing and implementing programs to enhance the education and spiritual needs of the youth in the Houston community. He believes that simple instruction and guidance from the church can make a huge difference in the lives of young people, leading him to serve on the Board of Directors of One Church-One Child; Advisory Committee of Sunnyside Multi-Purpose Center and Health Center; and the Prison Ministry-Innnerchange Freedom Initiative program, Jester II Unit, Sugarland Texas. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and conferences, including the Board of Directors of the Wesley Foundation of Texas Southern University and the University of Houston; Conference Board of Stewardship; and the Finance Committee of Black Methodist for Church Renewal.

In all that he has done, Reverend Williams has remained very active in the United Methodist Church (UMC) at the state level, having served in State Conferences for the past 27 years under six appointments. His prior appointments include, Adkins Memorial UMC; East Hempstead Circuit, Harper UMC; St. Thomas UMC; Shaw Tabernacle; St. Andrews UMC; and Blueridge UMC where he has served 12 years. In honor of his dedication to successfully cultivating and building spiritual foundations throughout the State of Texas, Reverend Williams was ordained Deacon in 1989 at the UMC Annual Conference and then Elder in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Williams has been a leader in our community and I congratulate him on providing 28 years of service within the United Methodist Church and for his successful spiritual guidance to many.

COMMENDING MR. CAMILO  
DUARTE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and commend a constituent of mine, Mr. Camilo Duarte, for the work he is doing to help Colombian Americans and Colombian immigrants in the United States. Mr. Duarte is in Washington, DC this week, meeting with Members and congressional staff, to discuss the worsening crisis in Colombia, and specifically, activities by the FARC terrorist group in Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, my community perhaps more than any other in the United States, is witness to the crisis in Colombia. There is a growing Colombian immigrant community in the United States, numbering more than 280,000 in just Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties of South Florida. Many of them have already become U.S. citizens. They are mothers and fathers, children, students, businessmen, middle class professionals, and workers all seeking a better life. They are hard-working immigrants which I welcome to my community just as I have welcomed others fleeing communist insurgencies in Latin America, or coming to America seeking a better life for their children.

These immigrants are fleeing the violence in Colombia in ever-increasing numbers and the migration will not stop until the terrorists are defeated in Colombia. These immigrants are firsthand witnesses to terrorism, narcotrafficking, kidnapping and random violence by the Colombian terrorists, which seek to overthrow, with assistance from the Cuban dictatorship, the elected government of Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, we should listen to what the Colombian American community, and their leaders, can tell us. I welcome Mr. Duarte to Washington, DC and look forward to working with him on issues of mutual concern.

TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM (PAT)  
ESTELLE LAPPLE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miriam (Pat) Estelle Lapple, a dear friend, constituent, community leader and public servant who will be celebrating her 70th birthday on June 9.

Pat was born in St. Bernard, Ohio on June 9, 1932. She grew up during the Great Depression in the town of Woodlawn, attended Woodlawn Elementary, and then went on to Reading High School. Without a doubt, Pat has lived an active and full life over the past 70 years.

Following high school, Pat married and started a family. She stayed home with her children for 12 years before going back to work for the next 40 plus years.

Pat has always been very dedicated to our community. Among her work and activities, Pat was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 30 years, serving as Worthy Matron (President) in 1970 and again in 1972. Pat also wrote the Reading Social News, a column which appeared in the Valley Courier for 19 years. For the past 9 years, she has served as Clerk of Council for the Reading City Council.

Pat also has been a member of the Reading Republican Club since 1989. She was President of the Club in 1992. In 1995, she was the Reading Republican of the Year.

Other activities include her past volunteer work at Hilltop School, where she taught disadvantaged kindergarteners in the Early I.D. program, and her service as a liturgist at St. John United Church of Christ.

Pat has a great sense of humor, and 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and, in her words, "two really spoiled dogs." She is a wonderful person, and her beloved Reading, Ohio is fortunate to have her. All of us in the Cincinnati area recognize Pat's outstanding service and contributions to our community.

AIR TRAFFIC RETIREMENT  
REFORM ACT OF 2002

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Air Traffic Retirement Reform

Act of 2002. This legislation will grant air traffic controllers, and more specifically air traffic controller supervisors, the same treatment that federal firefighters and law enforcement officers (LEOs) receive under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS).

Both the CSRS and the FERS provide early retirement benefits and require mandatory separation for safety-related occupations, including federal firefighters, LEOs and air traffic controllers. Under both CSRS and FERS, firefighters/LEOs and controllers are eligible for retirement after 25 years of service or after becoming 50 years old and completing 20 years of service. Additionally, the annuities for firefighters, LEOs and controllers are higher than ordinary federal employees under CSRS and FERS.

However, the current definition of an air traffic controller in both CSRS and FERS is limited to people who are actively engaged in directing air traffic or their immediate supervisors. As a result, air traffic controllers who are promoted to staff specialists or second level managers before they are eligible to retire lose all benefits currently guaranteed controllers under CSRS and FERS. Yet, firefighters and LEOs that are promoted to management positions do not need to make a similar sacrifice.

The Air Traffic Retirement Reform Act of 2002 amends the CSRS and FERS to provide a more expansive two-tier definition of air traffic controllers. The new definition will include both employees covered under the current definition of air traffic controllers and second level supervisors. Second level supervisors would be eligible for the same retirement benefits available to line-controllers.

The Air Traffic Retirement Reform Act of 2002 provides fairness and parity, between air traffic controllers and other federal safety professionals.

THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
PAY EQUITY AND REFORM  
ACT OF 2002

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, to introduce the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Equity and Reform Act of 2002.

Mr. Speaker, this week in our nation's capital and around America, a variety of events are being held to honor law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty and those who continue to serve. The very real dangers faced by the dedicated men and women who protect us every day was brought home as never before last September 11.

While we cannot turn back the clock and undo what was done, we can and must do everything within our power to ensure that it never happens again. And it is our law enforcement officers, and, in particular, our federal law enforcement agencies, that are charged with that paramount mission. The bill I am introducing today will help accomplish this goal by enhancing and modernizing the compensation system for our nation's federal law enforcement officers.

The bill will do three things, each of which is absolutely necessary to continue to attract and retain the very best and brightest to our federal law enforcement agencies. First, the bill will eliminate certain existing limits on the amount of overtime pay federal law enforcement agents can receive. Second, the bill will bring up-to-date outmoded increases in the pay received by agents who work in certain high-cost metropolitan areas. Third, the bill directs the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees pay and benefit issues for federal employees, to study and, if warranted, implement a separate pay structure for federal law enforcement officers who are now evaluated, promoted, and paid under the same system as all other federal employees.

The first two provisions are essentially technical adjustments aimed at fairly compensating federal agents for the overtime they put in (and they have put in A LOT of it since 9/11) as well as the higher cost of living in the nation's larger metropolitan areas, like New York, San Francisco, and here in Washington, D.C. where the price of real estate has risen so sharply in recent years that many federal agents cannot afford to purchase even a modest home.

The third provision will address the longstanding need for an examination and ultimate implementation of a separate pay and promotion system for federal law enforcement. The individuals who devote their lives to front-line enforcement of the laws of the United States and the protection of our national security should be functioning under a personnel system tailored to the demands of their work, which is fundamentally different than that done by civil servants in other agencies.

Mr. Speaker, now is the right time for Congress to take action in this area. Just last week, OPM Director Kay Coles James outlined the Bush Administration's initiatives for improving the antiquated system of pay and promotion for all federal employees. OPM reported that the antiquated General Schedule ("GS") that sets forth pay and promotion levels does not adequately compete with pay levels in the private sector, nor does it encourage individual accomplishment and innovation or grant individual agencies with the flexibility they need to address their particular human capital needs. I support this effort to reform and modernize our federal civil service pay system for all federal employees, in whatever agency they serve.

However, nowhere are these criticisms of the GS system more pronounced than among our federal law enforcement agencies. As Congress continues to hold hearings and review a wide array of reforms to the GS system, I believe we should take the interim steps called for in the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Equity and Reform Act to ensure that we do not lose an unacceptable number of quality law enforcement officers.

A law enforcement pay system is not a new idea. The last three administrations have supported the concept. In fact, in 1993, the OPM released a study and report to Congress which found that the GS system created largely for white collar civil servants simply does not fit the role, mission, or demands of modern federal law enforcement agencies. It found that the GS system does not adequately allow for promotion and advancement based on the individual training, scope of work, danger level, or personal ambition and innovation of federal agents.

Nor does it adequately compensate mid-and upper-level management within the agencies. The so-called "pay compression" at these agencies, the report found, sees many agents hit a pay ceiling mid-way through their careers. Thus, just at the time when these agents become the most experienced, seasoned, and valuable to the U.S., they are left with very little financial incentive to continue advancing in their careers.

Mr. Speaker, in no way am I suggesting that these agents do what they do solely, or even largely, for the money. If money were all that motivated them, they would have chosen a different career from the outset. Far from it, most the federal agents I know do what they do and put their lives on the line because they have a burning desire to serve their country and to protect Americans from crime. But they must also make ends meet and provide for their families, and for many agents, that is becoming harder and harder to do.

Mr. Speaker, at no time before have these inadequacies of the GS system for law enforcement officers been more pronounced than today. We are facing a "perfect storm" of personnel demands at these agencies: as the demands on these agents skyrocket, the private sector is aggressively seeking to recruit those agents.

Mr. Speaker, since 9/11, agents are working tremendous amounts of overtime. I have met and spoken with many federal law enforcement agents and agencies, and in particular with the FBI and its members' association, the FBI Agents Association. They have told me that it is not uncommon for an average FBI agent, for example, to today be working 60 to 80-hour work weeks, or even more. Now long hours at the FBI is nothing new. As a former FBI agent myself, I can tell you that marathon sessions of investigation, surveillance, research, and apprehension go with the territory. Agents know this, and they accept it. More importantly, their spouses and children must accept it as part of the job.

But today, a significant number of the nation's FBI agents have been assigned to anti-terrorism-related jobs. Not only are these agents working day and night to identify and apprehend terrorists, but the other agents at the FBI are pulling double-duty as they maintain crime-fighting efforts in the many other jurisdictional areas. At the same time, private sector companies are aggressively recruiting security experts as they, too, seek to address terrorist and other threats. Corporations across America are offering big salaries and big signing bonuses to anyone who has demonstrable experience in terrorism and security. Invariably, they recruit from the ranks of our national law enforcement agents to fill that need.

If America is to win, and I mean WIN the war against terrorism and crime, then we simply must be able to recruit and retain intelligent, talented, and highly motivated men and women. The FBI or any other agency you look at is no better and no worse than the people who work there. I believe that we have the very best people and the very best national law enforcement agencies to be found anywhere in the world. But if we want to maintain that exceptional level of quality in the face of new threats and new challenges to our national security, we must pay these people what they're worth and we must provide the flexibility to promote them on criteria more than simply how long they have worked in

their particular job. This legislation goes a long way toward accomplishing these goals, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF TAIWANESE AMERICANS DURING TAIWANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2002*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Taiwanese Americans during Taiwanese American Heritage Week, which will be held from May 11th to May 18th of this year. This Heritage Week serves as a vehicle to promote the image and welfare of Taiwanese Americans to society, as well as to enhance a mutual understanding and consolidation among different generations of Taiwanese Americans. During this special week, we are able to embrace America's diversity and celebrate the spirit of community that binds us together as one nation.

Two weekends ago, I had the pleasure of attending a Taiwanese American Heritage day at the St. Louis Zoo. During this event, I teamed more about the outstanding contributions that Taiwanese Americans have made to our nation and to the world. I was truly impressed to meet so many Taiwanese Americans that were passionate about preserving the value of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law for their mother country while building stronger ties with their new homeland.

With all that Taiwanese Americans have accomplished, there can be no complete satisfaction until Taiwan's status and global contributions are respected and appreciated by the international community. I hope that the various Heritage Week celebrations around the nation will help further the positive contributions of Taiwanese Americans as they continue to make great strides in bringing together the best of the East and West. Mr. Speaker, together we can make the Taiwanese American Heritage Week a valuable and enduring means for celebration.

#### RECOGNIZING STEPHEN T. FERGUSON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 16, 2002*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Stephen T. Ferguson of Elyria, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Steve will soon graduate from Keystone High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a high grade point average, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an accomplished athlete, earning a varsity letter in football. And, he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, serving as class president and vice president, as president of the National Honor Society and as captain of the football team.