

lives of firefighters. At present, manufacturers of emergency equipment can sell their products with no government testing or certification requirements to ensure their product meets the needs of firefighters. A January 2003 Consumer Reports article, "Safeguards Lacking for Emergency Equipment," highlights the lack of standards problem. The article reports "Firefighter organizations, which also represent most of the Nation's emergency medical technicians, say they worry that no law requires fire departments to buy equipment certified for use against chemical or biological agents." In a September 10, 2002 story in *The Washington Post* Arlington County, Virginia Chief raised concerns about the lack of equipment standards, as well as the lack of guidelines for training the workers charged with responding to future terrorist attacks. Plaugher stated, "Without clear goals, we risk undermining ourselves while wasting precious resources."

The second objective of the bill addresses mutual aid systems. The Firefighting Research and Coordination Act directs the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director, to provide technical assistance and training to State and local fire service officials to establish nationwide and State mutual aid systems for responding to national emergencies. The Administrator, in consultation with the FEMA Director, will also develop model mutual aid plans for both intrastate and interstate assistance. An important example of why model mutual aid systems are important to establish comes in part, as a response to the September 11th attacks and to wildfires that have raged in the west.

On July 23, 2002, Titan Systems Corporation issued a report on behalf of the Arlington County, Virginia fire department. The report found that self-dispatching fire and emergency crews were favorable in some respects, but were also detrimental. For example, the report states that the Arlington County fire department "faced the monumental challenge of gaining control of the resources already onsite and those arriving minute-by-minute." The report goes on to say that, "firefighters and other personnel came and went from other Pentagon entrances with little or no control. Thus, had there been a second attack, as occurred at the World Trade Center, it would have been virtually impossible for the Incident Commander to determine quickly who might have been lost."

The third objective of the legislation permits the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy to coordinate with other Federal, State, and local officials in developing curricula for classes offered by the Academy. This section of the bill illustrates what new classes and training opportunities the Academy is authorized to offer its students. For example, the Academy will now be able to train fire personnel in: strategies for building collapse rescue, the use of technology in response to fires; including terrorist incidents and other national emergencies; response, tactics, and strategies for dealing with terrorist-caused national catastrophes; applying new technology and developing strategies and tactics for fighting forest fires, and other important response strategies.

Over one million students have received training at the National Fire Academy. Since its inception in 1975, the Academy has helped

firefighters gain vital education and training to the benefit of the American public. The Academy's courses are taught at a facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Its online courses and cooperation with local colleges and universities expand the reach of the Academy to thousands of firefighters across the Nation.

With the Nation recovering from acts of terrorism, mammoth wildfires, and the possibility that other national emergencies may arise in the future, America's firefighters deserve nothing less than quality educational opportunities and training to prepare for these, and other types of disasters. We saw with the World Trade Center that building collapse rescue is a critical component of a firefighters job. In a December 1, 2001 article that appeared in *Fire Chief* magazine, a member of the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue team stated that while the Federal government has spent millions of dollars to train local first responders with weapons of mass destruction, little if any focus has been placed on building collapse rescue. "For some time now, I have advocated that every State should have a structural-collapse response that includes an Urban Search and Rescue (US & R) task force system," stated the Michigan firefighter. The firefighter went on to say that, "The FEMA US&R system does little to help with the initial response to structural collapse incidents." This example offers another reason why the curricula at the National Fire Academy should be expanded to include courses on building-collapse rescue and other strategies.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation enjoys wide support among many of this Nation's fire groups and bipartisan support here in the House of Representatives. My colleague in the Senate, Senator MCCAIN will introduce companion legislation today in the United States Senate. I am hopeful that this important bill will be swiftly enacted in the 108th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN BOWLES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evelyn Bowles of Edwardsville who was appointed to the Illinois State Senate in May of 1994 and was elected by an overwhelming margin in November of 1994; she has served this body with distinction throughout her 8½ years as a member.

During her terms in the Senate, Senator Bowles served as the Democratic spokesperson of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, the Local Government and Elections Committee, the Licensed Activities Committee and the State Government Operations Committee.

Senator Bowles has also served on the Committees on Agriculture and Conservation, Executive, Transportation, the Legislative Information System, the Legislative Printing Unit, and the Legislative Research Unit.

Senator Bowles has amassed numerous legislative accomplishments which have enhanced the quality of life for the people of her Metro East district and all of the people of the State of Illinois, including new penalties for individuals convicted of illegally possessing the chemicals used to manufacture methamphet-

amine, the regulation of reprocessing certain single-use surgical devices, more funds for the Spinal Cord Injury Paralysis Research Fund, and the requirement of coverage for the replacement of child safety seats if those seats were in use at the time of an accident.

Senator Bowles will long be remembered for her commitment to the success of Illinois' agriculture community; in an effort to find a "third crop" to insert into our traditional corn and soybean rotation, she sponsored legislation directing the University of Illinois to study the re-introduction of industrial hemp in Illinois, a once important crop in Illinois because of its versatility.

Senator Bowles was elected to five consecutive terms as the Madison County Clerk and brought to the Senate knowledge and expertise that was often called upon when questions arose concerning local government and election laws in Illinois. It was in that office which I worked with her closely. Her countless appearances at the office counter gave constituents a real glimpse of personal service by their elected officials. In her dealings with me, a member of the opposition party, she was always professional, courteous, and determined to place the best interests of the citizens first.

Senator Bowles served her nation as a member of the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve Intelligence Division during the Second World War and is a member of the American Legion Post #199 and The Auxiliary. She was also a former teacher.

We offer our best wishes to Senator Evelyn Bowles upon her retirement from the Senate and we offer her hope for a rewarding future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE LAND EXCHANGES IN ARIZONA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH and myself, I rise today to introduce legislation to facilitate two land exchanges in the Tonto and Coconino National Forests in Arizona's First Congressional District. Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH sponsored similar legislation in the 107th Congress that unanimously passed the House.

The legislation authorizes the Montezuma Castle land exchange and the Diamond Point land exchange. In the Montezuma Castle land exchange, the Forest Service will acquire a 157-acre parcel of private land adjacent to Montezuma Castle National Monument and the 108-acre Double Cabin Park parcel, both in the Coconino National Forest.

An Arizona partnership, the Montezuma Castle Land Exchange Joint Venture, will acquire approximately 122 acres of National Forest System land adjacent to the town of Payson's municipal airport. The town of Payson has entered into an agreement to purchase a portion of this land to create private sector business development and job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, this exchange will protect riparian areas along Beaver Creek, the viewshed for the Montezuma Castle National Monument, and it will transfer Double Cabin Park to Federal ownership.

In addition to the Payson land, this legislation facilitates the Diamond Point land exchange. The Forest Service will acquire a 495-acre parcel, known as the Q Ranch, in an area where previous acquisitions have been completed and Federal land has been consolidated.

In exchange, the Diamond Point Summer Homes Association will acquire 108 acres of Federal land that have been occupied since the 1950's by the association's 45 residential cabins.

The land exchanges in this legislation are supported by the town of Payson, the Gila County Board of Supervisors, the Rim County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation and the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation benefits local communities, the Federal Government and the American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation for the First District of Arizona.

RIGHT TO LIFE ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that, if passed, will once and for all protect our unborn children from harm. Over 1.3 million abortions are performed in the United States each year and over 38 million have been performed since abortion was legalized in 1973. This is a national tragedy. It is the duty of all Americans to protect our children—born and unborn. This bill, the Right to Life Act, would provide blanket protection to all unborn children from the moment of conception.

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court, in the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, refused to determine when human life begins and therefore found nothing to indicate that the unborn are persons protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. In the decision, however, the Court did concede that, "If the suggestion of personhood is established, the appellants' case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life would be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment." Considering Congress has the constitutional authority to uphold the Fourteenth Amendment, coupled by the fact that the Court admitted that if personhood were to be established, the unborn would be protected, it can be concluded that we have the authority to determine when life begins.

The Right to Life Act does what the Supreme Court refused to do in *Roe v. Wade* and recognizes the personhood of the unborn for the purpose of enforcing four important provisions in the Constitution: (1) Sec. 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibiting states from depriving any person of life; (2) Sec. 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment providing Congress the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this amendment; (3) the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment, which concurrently prohibits the federal government from depriving any person of life; and (4) Article I, Section 8, giving Congress the power to make laws necessary and proper to enforce all powers in the Constitution.

This legislation will protect millions of future children by prohibiting any state or federal law

that denies the personhood of the unborn, thereby effectively overturning *Roe v. Wade*. I firmly believe that life begins at conception and that the preborn child deserves all the rights and protections afforded an American citizen. This measure will recognize the unborn child as a human being and protect the fetus from harm. The Right to Life Act will finally put our unborn children on the same legal footing as all other persons. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this important effort.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL FRANK STEER

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to extend my heartfelt aloha and congratulations to Colonel Frank Steer, United States Army, retired.

Colonel Steer, 102 years young, is a member of the United States Military Academy Class of 1925 and holds the distinction of being the oldest living graduate of West Point.

Frank Steer has a long record of outstanding service to the United States. He enlisted in the Army in World War 1, attained a commission after the war, and served as Provost Marshal of the Army's Hawaiian Department during World War II. Having responsibility for enforcing martial law in Hawaii, he is widely credited with a human touch and sense of fairness during that difficult time.

Having been commissioned an honorary major general in the Association of Washington Generals, Frank Steer is eminently qualified for honorary promotion to provost marshal of the United States Army and United States Air Force, and I am delighted to extend such recognition to him.

Frank Steer is one of Hawaii's living treasures. He is part of our island history and played a major role in making our state a unique and special place. I join Frank Steer's legion of friends and admirers in congratulating him on a life well lived and for his unparalleled service to our nation.

KEEPING SADDAM HUSSEIN IN A BOX

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of respect for the intellectual capacity of those making policy in the Bush administration—so much respect that I find it very hard to believe that they themselves really believe the rationales they have put forward for their two current major policy initiatives: a major tax cut, including an abolition of the tax on some dividends, and a war in Iraq.

Specifically, I do not believe that the top economists in the Bush administration really think that enactment of his latest tax relief package will have any significant near term stimulus effect on our sputtering economy.

Similarly, I do not think that the administration's foreign policy and defense experts really believe that Iraq is a significant threat to the United States. There are broader, philosophical, ideological and political reasons behind both proposals.

In an extremely well argued, comprehensive essay published in the *New York Times* for February 2, John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt very forcefully refute the argument that we must to war with Iraq because it is a threat to our security, and point out cogently what the negative effects of such a war will be on us.

Because Mr. Mearsheimer and Mr. Walt do a very good job of making clear a case against going to war in Iraq, and because that is the single most important question now facing this country and this Congress, I ask that this essay be printed here.

[From the *New York Times*, Feb. 2, 2003]

KEEPING SADDAM HUSSEIN IN A BOX

(By John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt)

The United States faces a clear choice on Iraq: containment or preventive war. President Bush insists that containment has failed and we must prepare for war. In fact, war is not necessary. Containment has worked in the past and can work in the future, even when dealing with Saddam Hussein.

The case for preventive war rests on the claim that Mr. Hussein is a reckless expansionist bent on dominating the Middle East. Indeed, he is often compared to Adolf Hitler, modern history's exemplar of serial aggression. The facts, however, tell a different story.

During the 30 years that Mr. Hussein has dominated Iraq, he has initiated two wars. Iraq invaded Iran in 1980, but only after Iran's revolutionary government tried to assassinate Iraqi officials, conducted repeated border raids and tried to topple Mr. Hussein by fomenting unrest within Iraq. His decision to attack was not reckless, because Iran was isolated and widely seen as militarily weak. The war proved costly, but it ended Iran's regional ambitions and kept Mr. Hussein in power.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 arose from a serious dispute over oil prices and war debts and occurred only after efforts to court Mr. Hussein led the first Bush administration unwittingly to signal that Washington would not oppose an attack. Containment did not fail the first time around—it was never tired.

Thus, Mr. Hussein has gone to war when he was threatened and when he thought he had a window of opportunity. These considerations do not justify Iraq's actions, but they show that Mr. Hussein is hardly a reckless aggressor who cannot be contained. In fact, Iraq has never gone to war in the face of a clear deterrent threat.

But what about the Iraqi regime's weapons of mass destruction? Those who reject containment point to Iraq's past use of chemical weapons against the Kurds and Iran. They also warn that he will eventually get nuclear weapons. According to President Bush, a nuclear arsenal would enable Mr. Hussein to "blackmail the world." And the real nightmare is that he will give chemical, biological or nuclear weapons to Al Qaeda.

These possibilities sound alarming, but the dangers they pose do not justify war.

Mr. Hussein's use of poison gas was despicable, but it tells us nothing about what he might do against the United States or its allies. He could use chemical weapons against the Kurds and Iranians because they could