

upholding fundamental human rights. By entering into free trade agreement with countries that already abide by labor standards equivalent to our own, we can prevent the exploitation of the weak, the uneducated, the poor, and others. Children should not be working 60 hour weeks in unsafe factories for pennies a day. Not one person in this Congress wants that to happen, but unfair trade agreements mitigate these abuses to occur by ignoring the opportunity to set minimum standards.

This is not to say that either Chile or Singapore do not abide by the five core, internationally-recognized, labor rights. However, the so-called "enforce your own labor protections" provisions in the Chile and Singapore Agreements are dangerous templates for future negotiations. The maintenance of minimal labor standards must be insured through explicit requirements outlining our expectations for workers' protection. Not only have we not defined labor standards in these current agreements, we have also not given ourselves a means to address any violation of labor rights in the future. This is simply unacceptable.

The negotiation of the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement sought this explicit protection for workers. The Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreements are a definite step in the wrong direction in regards to labor rights. As a nation, we have continuously stood up for the rights and protection of all workers. We cannot sacrifice workers and their protection to save a buck on a pair of shoes simply because they are somewhere around the world. We must factor in the cost of abdicating our responsibility to protect both our workers and workers the world over. Without explicit protection for laborers it is not free trade because there is no price for human dignity.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that I come here to oppose these agreements. Congress gave away its ability to amend trade agreements last year and, therefore, the only option I have to express my opposition to the labor rights provisions is to vote against the trade agreements in whole. Therefore, I will oppose these agreements and urge my colleagues to vote them down.

HONORING SAM HALPERT AND
JOHN DEEGAN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Mr. Sam Halpert and Mr. John Deegan of Pembroke Pines, FL, distinguished civil servants, contemporary American heroes, and great Floridians.

Now more than ever, our nation needs strong leaders—leaders who can be relied upon to protect the public from a growing number of natural disasters, the spread of terrorism, and crime in our city streets. Mr. Halpert and Mr. Deegan exemplify the types of heroes that describe a quarter century of service to local communities and to our country. Through hard work and effort, they have protected the South Florida community and its citizens for over a combined total of 50 years. Mr. Halpert, who began his career fighting fires as a volunteer in the 1970s, has most recently served as the city's fire marshal. Mr.

Deegan began his service to South Floridians as a paramedic, and now he is to be commended upon his retirement as the division chief in charge of emergency medical services.

Although Halpert and Deegan pursued different paths, they remained bound by their shared commitment to community welfare. Since 1978, Pembroke Pines has experienced tremendous growth from about 14,000 to 160,000 residents. Surely, with this immense growth in population comes the enormous responsibility of protecting its citizens. Instead of viewing this growth as an obstacle, Halpert and Deegan saw providing care and services to all Pembroke Pines' residents as a challenge, and they ensured the utmost quality in fire protection and emergency medical services.

Upon their retirement, I am pleased to take this opportunity to celebrate their amazing service to Broward County. Clearly, dedicated citizens such as these individuals serve as an example to us all, highlighting the extent to which fellow citizens are actually everyday heroes. Though the Pembroke Pines Fire Department and EMS will surely miss their commitment and service, each man has left an indelible impression on their respective institutions that will last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a special occasion for me to honor Mr. Halpert and Mr. Deegan, who have embodied community leadership and strength as upstanding Floridians for over 25 years.

HONORING PETE JIMENEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a courageous and dedicated veteran of our state, Pete Jimenez of Pueblo, Colorado. As a member of the Army's infamous E Company in World War II, Pete gallantly served, protecting our freedoms on the field of battle. Pete is the newest recipient of the Croix de Guerre, a medal given by the President of France for uncommon heroism, valor, and bravery during battle. Pete has also been named a Knight of the Legion of Honor. This is the most prestigious of French military awards, and past recipients include President Ronald Reagan, President George Bush, and Secretary of State Colin Powell. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating Pete and recognizing his deeds here today.

Pete will receive these commendations for events that took place throughout World War II, but particularly on September 17, 1944. On this day, Pete voluntarily took command of a patrol whose mission was to enter the city and knock out an enemy 20mm embedded cannon that was holding up the Allied advance. They were also told to investigate a vast underground structure that was possibly holding an American prisoner of war. In the destruction of the 20mm cannon, Pete single handedly killed two German soldiers while exposed to enemy fire. As Pete approached the underground structure, his squad encountered a number of enemy soldiers. After a significant struggle, they accepted the surrender of a 200 man

fighting force positioned inside the structure. Due to the ferocity of Pete's squad, the enemy believed they were under attack from a much larger force and threw down their weapons.

This is just one of the many heroic events that Pete Jimenez participated in during World War II. As the war ended, Pete was decorated with several medals, representing the valor and courage he displayed. He would go on to receive the World War II Victory Medal, four Bronze Stars for participation in the Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe, and Rhineland campaigns and two Bronze Stars for heroism and valor. Pete would also receive the Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart, as Pete was wounded five times in battle.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in congratulating Pete and in recognizing this prestigious honor. This recognition to Pete for the work he did for our country is long overdue, and I am proud to bring his achievements to the attention of this body of Congress today. Congratulations and thanks again, Pete, for your many years of hard work on behalf of the United States.

DR. DONALD M. TOPPING

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the late Dr. Donald M. Topping of Huntington, West Virginia, who passed away at the age of 73 on June 29, 2003. He will be remembered for his contributions in preserving the Chamorro culture, especially his work with the Chamorro language of Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Dr. Topping leaves behind his wife, Priscilla Topping, and his children Miles and Lee Minh Topping, Jason Kesolei, Dee Johnson and Leslie Jensen. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Topping was Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at the University of Hawaii. He was also a founding member of the department. Dr. Topping was also responsible for co-founding the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii in 1993. He served as its president until 2003 and received the Ho'omaluhia, or Peacemaker award, for advocating drug policy reforms on Hawaii. Dr. Topping was also the director of the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute from 1969–1974 and director of the Social Science Research Institute from 1974–1996.

Dr. Donald Topping was considered a modern pioneer of the Chamorro language and was the main voice for modernizing the Chamorro language through his work on the reference grammar and the orthography. As an English professor at the former Territorial College of Guam, Dr. Topping taught himself the Chamorro language with the help of friends and neighbors in an effort to help his students learn English. He went on to author the books, *Spoken Chamorro*, in 1969; *Chamorro Reference Grammar*, in 1973; and the *Chamorro-English Dictionary*, with Pedro Ogo and Bernadita Dungca, in 1975, which put the Chamorro language into written form.

Dr. Topping's work demonstrated that the Chamorro language had very unique features that could be best understood as an Austronesian Language rather than the popular misconception of Spanish origins. His

work with the Bilingual Education Project was unprecedented in the efforts to protect the precious culture of the Chamorro people through their language. His genius and contributions to the Chamorro language as well as all the languages of Micronesia cannot be overstated.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I would like to extend our condolences to the family of the late Dr. Donald Topping. The people of Guam will always be grateful for his work with the Chamorro language. It is through the work of a man like Dr. Topping that a greater understanding and appreciation of the cultures of the world can be gained.

MILITARY RETIREE SURVIVOR
COMFORT ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. This legislation is a simple provision aimed to provide a small amount of relief to surviving beneficiaries of military retirees.

As my colleagues may be aware, federal regulations require the Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) to terminate payment of the retired pay upon notification of the retiree's death. Once the surviving spouse or beneficiary notifies the finance center, DFAS then electronically withdraws the entirety of the last payment from the deceased retiree's checking account. Then several weeks later, the retiree's beneficiary will receive a check in the mail containing a pro-rated portion of the military pay for the days for which the retiree was still living.

The current process rightfully and sensibly seeks to only pay military retirees for when they are alive, but it can and often does have an adverse impact on the retiree's beneficiary. Many of these surviving spouses or caregivers are living on fixed incomes. When the retirement pay is deposited, they use those funds to pay things like rent, medical expenses, or other living expenses. Automatically withdrawing those funds can inadvertently cause rent checks to bounce and place great additional financial strain on a beneficiary when they are already faced with great loss and the prospect of additional costs associated with the military retiree's death.

In many respects, a military spouse has provided equal service and sacrifices as the military members themselves. While they may not face the perils of combat, they often raise families alone, endure long separations, and provide a mutual safety net for other military families. This legislation seeks to recognize that sacrifice by forgiving the overpayment made to the surviving beneficiary if that beneficiary has a joint bank account with the military retiree. In order to offset some of the minimal cost, the recipient receiving the overpayment would forgo the first month of Survivor Benefit Plan payments. The individual amounts will be small, but they will provide great comfort to those who are already losing much.

In closing, I would like to thank the Fleet Reserve Association for their great assistance in working with me on this legislation. They are dedicated advocates for military personnel

and their families, and this is just one more example of their efforts. I look forward to working with the Fleet Reserve Association and many other colleagues in seeing enactment of this legislation.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET
ACCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in strong support of H.R. 2427, a bill that will help lower the cost of prescription drugs for our seniors. I applaud the efforts of Representatives EMERSON, GUTKNECHT and EMANUEL to get this bill to the floor for a vote.

For many years now, I have supported adding a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program. While I have strong concerns about the bill that passed the House last month on this subject, I am hopeful a good final product can be worked out with the Senate that will indeed give prescription drug relief for our seniors. This bill tonight is an important part of that effort. While helping seniors with the costs of their drugs is critical, we must also take steps to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

It is no secret that U.S. seniors pay far more for the same drugs than seniors in Canada, Europe and other parts of the world. For example, the same prescription for Prilosec costs \$112 in the U.S., but only \$59.00 in Canada and \$49.25 in Europe. H.R. 2427 would allow the reimportation of U.S.-produced drugs into the U.S. to take advantage of these lower prices.

However, the pharmaceutical industry is desperate to maintain its ability to force seniors to pay the highest possible prices for prescription drugs. Seniors in the U.S. should not have to supply the profit margin for the prescription drug industry. Too many people have to make the choice between eating dinner and buying their medicine. Too many people are cutting their pills in half to make their prescriptions last longer. We can do something about that by passing this bill tonight.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate prescription drug legislation contains a reimportation provision. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so it can be included in the final version of the Medicare prescription drug bill. By conservative estimates, we can save our seniors \$630 billion over the next decade by passing this legislation. Our seniors deserve equity with seniors elsewhere in the world. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2427.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2210) to authorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, Head Start is one of the semiannual innovations in education in the history of America. The bill before us, the School Readiness Act of 2003, is not as catastrophic as its critics tonight are suggesting. No program, however successful, is immune to improvement. On the other hand, the kind of demonstration block grant approach included in this legislation could over time transform Head Start programming in such a way as to weaken the federal nexus and allow states discretionary authority that could, in the name of seeking higher standards, actually diminish those standards.

Of particular concern to me is that the bill authorizes the removal of certain civil rights protections that have historically accompanied virtually all federal programs. I have voted in the past to allow religious organizations in their religious pursuits to be exempt from certain federal mandates, but organizations using federal funds for secular missions should not be allowed to operate outside the scope of the laws that apply to everyone else.

The irony of removing civil rights standards from Head Start programs is that Head Start is an opportunity initiative disproportionately aimed at disadvantaged kids. The message of removal of civil rights protections from Head Start programs is that kids would be asked to work hard but not expect to work here.

Under Title 1 of the School Readiness Act, there are certain quality improvements called for that were consensus in the committee and are acknowledged as steps forward by both sides in the debate this evening. The principal controversy relates to the block grant approach in Title 2 and on this subject, I support the amendment of Representative George Miller of California which embraces the Title 1 provisions of the bill but remolds Title 2 to more closely parallel the way Head Start services are currently provided.

My sense is that this evening's Floor debate has been rife with rhetorical excesses on both sides, but while I am convinced of the good will of the bill's architect, Mike Castle of Delaware, I share the reservations of experts in the field about the approach the majority proposes. While all federal programs deserve to be reviewed with an eye to improvement, the case for structural change of the kind envisioned in this legislation is unconvincing.

Head Start is an American success story. It deserves the respect of this body.

TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD
SMITH

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, this nation lost one of its greatest lawyers, leaders, and statesmen last week. Chesterfield Smith was not only my neighbor and friend; he was a role model and an icon of probity, integrity, and decency.

Chesterfield Smith set the bar for anyone who aspires to a legal or public service career. His model of leadership, vision, and strength of character had an enormous impact upon my family. He sought the truth, regardless of the political consequences. His dedication to our nation's justice system rightly earned him