

all militaries, and the use of high visibility paint to prevent collisions. Additionally, Mr. Witten made major revisions to the standard design specifications for naval aircraft to increase safety and reliability and to reduce maintenance man-hours.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Witten's lifetime of achievement and service deserves recognition. I know the members of the House will join me in thanking Mr. Witten for over 60 years of service to the military and to our local area. I rise now to congratulate him on this tremendous record of achievement.

TRIBUTE TO SGT 1ST CLASS
CHRISTOPHER R. WILLOUGHBY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher R. Willoughby of Phenix City, Alabama, died this past Sunday in Baghdad. Sgt. Willoughby was a member of the Army's 221st Military Intelligence Battalion based at Fort Gillem, Georgia, and was killed when the vehicle he was riding in rolled over. He is survived by his wife Jeanine and his two sons, Blake, 9, and Collin 16 months.

Chris Willoughby always wanted to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. An Auburn University graduate, Willoughby had just begun a promising new career in accounting when his National Guard unit was called to active duty. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his young family to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sgt. Willoughby died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this day.

MEMORIALIZING MR. DANIEL
VILLANUEVA HERNANDEZ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a dedicated public servant, Daniel Villanueva Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez's unexpected passing on June 6, 2003 ended a life committed to his community, social justice, and most importantly, his family. The Bay Area has indeed lost an extremely great lawyer, who advocated for the rights of the less fortunate. His work and legacy will continue through the many lives he touched.

Born in 1944 to Ignacio and Maria Hernandez in Texas, Daniel traveled with his family across the Southwest as migrant farm workers. Every summer, his family would trav-

el to Santa Clara County to pick prunes. From his experience as a migrant worker, he learned the values of hard work, determination, and the importance of education.

It was his father who made certain all nine children, including Daniel, graduated from high school. Daniel exceeded his father's dreams by attending San Jose State University, where his activism flourished, and he became a fiery leader. Daniel's goal during his life was to ensure others had access to the same opportunities he enjoyed.

At San Jose State University, Daniel started the organization called Student Initiative. As the leader of this organization of Latino students, Daniel became a leading voice for the rights of minorities. At this time in history, our country was engaged in the Vietnam War. Many of his friends were being drafted into the combat, and it was clear to Daniel that the underprivileged were not given equal treatment. Daniel did not stand on the sidelines. With passion and conviction, he organized students and led demonstrations against the war.

Knowing the importance of education, Daniel worked on enabling more Mexican American students to attend college. Through his creation of another organization, the Mexican American Student Confederation, he brought 200 students into the college system in one year alone.

Emboldened with the desire to make a difference, Daniel brought together students from different campuses across California to fight against discriminatory practices. He spoke out on the issues of poverty, civil rights, and affordable housing, and on many occasions, he civilly disobeyed laws that were unjust to Mexican Americans and the less fortunate.

Daniel reached out beyond the college campus, in order to work with United People Arriba. Through the organization, he helped bring a medical clinic and 193 affordable housing units to the predominantly Latino East Side of San Jose.

It was through the encouragement of his wife, Jessie Serna, that he decided to pursue a career in law. He had the ability and the heart to truly make a difference. He attended and earned his law degree from Golden Gate University.

During the 22 years he practiced law, Mr. Hernandez would represent the poorest people, and would take on the most difficult of cases. To him no case was hopeless. Knowing that a person was imprisoned falsely was a matter Mr. Hernandez could not accept. He made certain his clients were equally represented before the court of law.

In addition to decades of service fighting to protect the rights of the less fortunate, Daniel dedicated countless hours to the Mexican American community through his services as a community activist and mentor. He was, for example, an effective advocate for the Pro Bono Project. The Pro Bono Project allowed future lawyers to contribute their services to the poor in need of legal services. Mr. Hernandez was a mentor to many future attorneys through his service with the Pro Bono Project.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a friend. I have had many opportunities to meet with Mr. Hernandez, and what amazed me most about him was his dedication and determination to help others. The passion and love he had for public service will be missed by all of us. The Bay Area was fortunate to have Mr. Hernandez as an activist, family

man, and friend. I am personally fortunate to represent a district that Mr. Hernandez touched with his courageous works.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KFLR ON
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 25TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, American Founder Benjamin Rush once said, "The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty . . ."

Listener-supported KFLR has been educating and communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ to listeners throughout Arizona for 25 years. The commitment of Family Life Radio to communicating the message of Christianity through the spoken word and through music has been unwavering. Each day KFLR strikes a chord of hope in many listening hearts that will continue to resonate throughout eternity.

I could never count the moments listening to KFLR that have dispelled discouragement and lifted my own heart. Family Life Radio truly is a family in Arizona, and I have been profoundly blessed to be part it.

Congratulations, KFLR, on your silver anniversary. May you continue to shine for another 25 years in such a way that "all may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL MARINA
DAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 323, honoring the goals and ideals of National Marina Day.

In every State in the country, marinas provide millions of Americans the opportunity to enjoy our greatest national treasure, our waters.

Marinas today are working with their communities to increase knowledge of the importance of our rivers, lakes, and oceans in our communities, and to provide opportunities for people from all areas and walks of life to experience our waterways firsthand.

The Marina Operators Association of America has designated August 9, 2003 as National Marina Day, and is using this opportunity to encourage Americans to learn more about their waterways and how they can be enjoyed safely while protecting the environment.

Across the country, marinas employ more than 140,000 people at more than 12,000 locations.

Marinas are often at the center of efforts to convert underused waterfronts into exciting cultural, recreational, and commercial areas that highlight the potential of a community.

National Marina Day exists to highlight these contributions, encourage community

celebration of their waterways, and to facilitate ways to make our waterway environments healthy, safe, and accessible for future generations.

In my own State of Nevada, which is erroneously thought of as being just a desert State, the marinas at Lake Mead and along the Colorado River provide hundreds of thousands of people, not just the opportunity to relax and enjoy their vacations, but the opportunity to take a trip in time, from the ancient canyon walls of the Colorado River to the twentieth century wonder of the Hoover Dam complex, to the exciting resort community of Laughlin, Nevada.

I recently wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Interior asking her to support improvements to the boat ramps and adjacent facilities on Lake Mead to attract more users to this magnificent body of water.

I am pleased to be the sponsor of this bipartisan resolution, and look forward to its passage by this House. I urge all my colleagues to lend it their support.

GREEK-TURKISH COOPERATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to commend the governments of Greece and Turkey for the agreement that they have reached on confidence-building between their armed forces.

On Wednesday, Lord Robertson, the Secretary General of NATO, announced that the two NATO member countries have reached agreements on cooperation between their national defense colleges and on exchanges of military personnel for training purposes.

This Member is pleased to note that the talks between the two countries are expected to continue, with the aim of reaching further confidence-building measures.

Mr. Speaker, this Member commends Secretary General Robertson and the Greek and Turkish governments for this initiative.

CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI'S BICENTENNIAL IN 2005

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today, on Constantino Brumidi's 198th birthday, I have introduced a resolution which will honor, in conjunction with his bicentennial in 2005, the life and work of this Italian immigrant who spent 25 years painting, decorating and making beautiful the United States Capitol.

In January of 2005, the Capitol Visitor Center is scheduled to open, marking the largest expansion ever to the United States Capitol. I am introducing this resolution now in order to have time to coincide what will be a momentous occasion with the 200th anniversary of Brumidi's birth. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting that we celebrate the opening of the CVC while concurrently honoring the man who sacrificed so much to adorn this very building with such beauty.

Constantino Brumidi was born almost 200 years ago in Italy and lived there until 1850, working as an artist in Rome and the Vatican where he had many commissions, including a famous portrait of Pope Pius IX. In 1852, due to political upheavals in Rome, Brumidi immigrated to the United States and immediately applied for citizenship. From then on, he dedicated the rest of his life to making the United States Capitol one of the most impressive structures in our great Nation.

In 1865, Brumidi spent 11 months dangerously high atop the Capitol Rotunda laboring on his masterpiece, "The Apotheosis of Washington," in the eye of the Capitol dome. Six years later he created the first tribute to an African-American in the Capitol when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the center of his painting of the Boston Massacre. And in 1878, at the age of 72 and in poor health, Brumidi began work on the Rotunda frieze, which chronicles the history of the United States.

Constantino Brumidi's life and work exemplifies the lives of millions of immigrants who came to the United States, who came here to escape adverse conditions in their native lands, who through their skills and hard work bettered their lives and the lives of their children, while immensely enriching the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge prompt consideration of this resolution.

OFFSET OF FEDERAL TAX RE- FUNDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEBTS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to be introducing legislation that would establish federal tax refund offset program for state and local governments. Specifically, this program would require the federal government to withhold refunds from those individuals and corporations that still owe state or local government tax obligations.

Today, the reverse situation exists. A number of states allow their own state agencies, local governments and the Internal Revenue Service to submit a list of delinquent taxpayers. The state then matches these delinquent accounts against taxpayers who may qualify for a state tax refund. If a match is found, the state reduces the refund by the amount of the delinquency and remits the funds to the claimant. These programs have proven to be low-cost and highly effective. Congress recognized the effectiveness of these programs and directed the Internal Revenue Service to establish a similar program to cover claims by other federal agencies, as well as for past-due child support obligations. In 2000, Congress expanded the program by directing the Treasury Department to accept claims by states for income tax obligations.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on these successful programs by permitting local governments to participate. The local governments could submit their outstanding tax debts to the Department of the Treasury for an offset against any federal tax refund, just as federal agencies and states do now.

This legislation would also permit a claim to be made for any legally enforceable tax obligation owed to the state or local government.

In an era of tight state and local government budgets, it is patently unfair to have the tax-paying citizenry bear the costs and burdens of those who do not pay their fair share. As President Kennedy recognized, "[t]o the extent that some people are dishonest or careless in their dealings with the government, the majority is forced to carry a heavier tax burden." (April 20, 1961) The legislation that I am introducing today will provide a means to help distribute that burden more equitably.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in opposition to H.R. 2427, the so-called Pharmaceutical Market Access Act.

The high cost of prescription medicines is one of the most serious issues facing our seniors. Proponents of H.R. 2427 claim that if we would simply open our borders to medicines that are imported from other countries our problem would be solved. Unfortunately, the solution is not that easy.

I have consistently voted against unsafe importation measures because they subject consumers to medicines that may have been altered or are cheap imitations of medicines approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The bill before us seriously threatens the safety of U.S. consumers; therefore, I will vote against it.

Safety is the ultimate issue in this debate. H.R. 2427 would allow for the importation of prescription medicines from other countries without any assurance that those medicines are safe. The 106th Congress enacted legislation that would allow importation but only if the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies those medicines are safe. But neither former Secretary Shalala nor Secretary Thompson has been able to do this. The Canadian government also recently stated that it cannot and will not assure the safety of the medicines exported to the U.S. Additionally, consumers will not be able to depend on their local pharmacies to screen their medicines. Importing medicines from foreign countries is the wrong prescription for America.

There are other ways to help lower the costs of medicines. Together Rx is an initiative developed by seven of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies to provide seniors and other eligible Medicare patients with access to savings on over 170 medicines using just one discount card. The card is free and requires patients to merely fill out an easy-to-understand registration form to qualify. Once approved for Together Rx, patients may fill their prescriptions at any pharmacy they choose and get a discount immediately at the register. This initiative, which is honored at almost every pharmacy in the U.S., has already saved nearly one million Medicare patients almost \$100 million since its inception.

Instead of supporting risky plans like importation, we should encourage seniors to take