

the A.M.E. Zion Church, which is comprised of five conferences, and as President of the Board of Bishops.

Bishop Johnson's record of service is impeccable. He served in the U.S. Army with 15 years experience in the Airborne Division. He has served as pastor of A.M.E. Zion Churches in three different North Carolina conferences, including seven years as pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Southern Pines, North Carolina. After serving as pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, North Carolina he spent four years presiding as Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, which is comprised of six conferences.

But his reputable service extends well outside of the church walls. In 1993, Bishop Johnson delivered the Gardner C. Taylor Lecture & Preaching Series at Duke University Divinity School. He has published "A Manual for Ministerial Studies" for the A.M.E. Zion Church, in addition to several scholarly essays on Christian stewardship requisites for ministerial practice. He passed his skills and experiences to aspiring ministers when he served for ten years as professor of practical ministry at Hood Theological Seminary of Livingstone College in North Carolina.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Bishop Johnson grew up in Tampa and earned a degree from North Carolina State University. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School of Duke University.

Bishop Johnson is married to Dorothy Sharpe Johnson, who now serves as missionary supervisor and Episcopal secretary of the South Atlantic District of the A.M.E. Zion church. The couple has two sons.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Johnson has led an exceptional career dedicated to teaching and preaching the virtue of kindness. This year will be the last Palmetto Annual Conference where he would preside. He will be retiring next year, and deservedly so, as he has already contributed more to the betterment of our society than most people could hope for in one lifetime. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this humanitarian.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM  
LEWIS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Lewis, a friend and former colleague who epitomized what being a public servant is all about.

Tom devoted his life to serving his country and his countrymen. He fought for America in the Air Force, serving tours of duty in both World War II and Korea during his eleven-year military career. Tom used the knowledge he gained in the Air Force later in life as a jet and rocket-testing chief for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, eventually supervising work on sensitive and sophisticated military and commercial aircraft systems.

Tom came to Congress the same year I did, in 1983, after serving as both Mayor and city councilman of North Palm Beach from 1964 to 1971. He then went on to represent that area in the Florida House of Representatives until 1980, when he was elected to the Florida Senate.

During his time in these hallowed halls, Tom zealously fought for the people of his district, whom he considered more than just constituents. He was largely responsible for saving the Hurricane Hunter Plane Program, the aircraft which fly into hurricanes to collect data so meteorologists can predict when and where these storms will hit. He also led the effort to build a much-needed VA medical center in his district, as well as to save the Big Cypress Natural Preserve, a unique part of Florida's environment.

After his retirement from Congress in 1994, he worked to protect Florida's agricultural interests during trade negotiations and led a campaign which raised \$66 million to improve a stretch of U.S. Highway 27 on which more than 100 people died between 1982 and 1997. That portion of highway in Palm Beach County now bears Tom's name.

My colleague from Florida, the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said it best when he noted a decade ago that there was "not a corner of his vast district that you can go without seeing the fruit of Tom's work."

Mr. Speaker, Tom was much more than a dedicated public servant. He was a loving husband to his wife, Marian. He was a devoted father to his three children. He also was one of my closest confidants in Congress. It saddened me to learn that he passed away last month. I am comforted, however, in the knowledge that he will be remembered as one of the most respected, accomplished, and honorable members of this institution.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America and their inspiring mission of faith for America's youth.

LTIA originated in my home district of Northwest Arkansas and has successfully spread throughout the country and even to places as far away as Russia. Their purpose is to provide America's future leaders with a strong Christian foundation of faith in today's secular society.

The participants of the program attend weekend seminars that teach them how their faith is a logical solution for many of the world's most challenging problems. They learn how to debate their worldly colleagues in an intelligent and inviting method. Furthermore, the students may attend a weeklong seminar once a year—here in our nation's capitol. While here, they meet with leaders in the Christian movement, attend discussions with their colleagues from all over the nation, and meet with their Congressional representatives.

I believe this training is vital in preparing our future leaders to take their place in society. The youth of today face physical, emotional, and social challenges that shock the imagination. They are inundated with graphic images of sex and drugs everywhere they turn. Yet, we expect them to maintain their childhood innocence, without providing them with the tools

they need to combat the horrible examples they receive. LTIA provides America with a wonderful solution of a generation steeped in their Christian faith and trained to face a materialistic society.

As the former President Ronald Reagan said, "The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted; it belongs to the brave." I believe the students involved in the Leadership Training Institute of America are part of our brave future and I applaud their efforts to make America an even greater nation than she is today.

HONORING BRAVERY OF MARINE  
STAFF SGT. BRIAN IVERS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Staff Sgt. Brian Ivers for his bravery in the face of combat during Operation Freedom in Iraq. Mr. Ivers is a resident of Fort Collins and is a Police Officer of that fair city.

Serving his country on active duty in the Fox 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 1st Division, his company was ordered to rescue a group of Marine artillerymen who took a wrong turn in the town of Al Gaharraf. Encountering a near blinding sand and rain storm as they entered the town, no air support could be provided.

Staff Sergeant Ivers' platoon came under fire as they entered Al Gaharraf. As the first platoon dismounted, they immediately engaged with the enemy. Sergeant Jim Cawley's platoon worked to suppress the enemy long enough to allow Sergeant Ivers' platoon to enter the town.

Sergeant Cawley's platoon fought a gun battle while occupying a building. A grenade was launched into the building and leveled many of the marines because of the concussion. Enemy fire had increased all around them while they were returning fire. One of the marines was trapped inside the building.

Staff Sergeant Ivers attempted to rescue him. In his own words, Brian said, "I got up to get him as I thought I could just grab his hand and drag him out. As I moved along the wall, rounds began to punch holes out of the concrete in front of me. I turned to go back to where I had just come from and was struck in the side with a round. The force of it spun me around and at the time I thought I had been hit in the kidney."

Later, Brian would realize that the bayonet had taken the impact of the round, deflecting it to his flack jacket, thus saving his life. His platoon was in contact with the enemy for over a half hour and was running low on ammunition. They were finally told to pull out because air cover was expected. A tank showed up about 40 minutes later.

Brian's ribs were blue with bruises. Months later, Brian found out that he had broken the eleventh rib—a good reminder that their battle had saved a unit of the eleventh Marines.

Because he received a wound while in combat, Staff Sergeant Brian Ivers will receive the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed

to live in a country that honors its citizens for their spirit, their ideas, their individuality, and their courage.

I am so proud of Staff Sergeant Brian Ivers. Along with a grateful district, state, and nation, I applaud Brian Ivers for his courage and selfless dedication to duty. He has helped protect our democracy and kept our homeland safe by placing his life on the line.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,  
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2989) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Flake/McGovern amendment to lift the United States travel ban to Cuba.

Over the past 40 years, our policy of isolation toward Cuba has been an arguable failure. The removal of the totalitarian regime in Cuba has not occurred—even a decade after the fall of the Soviet Union, Cuba's primary financial sponsor. Positive movements toward political change have not occurred in Cuba over the past 40 years—even as an overwhelming number of former communist regimes have collapsed and embraced democratic principles. These factors beg the question of whether our current policy toward Cuba is the best course of action for the people of the United States and the people of Cuba. At the very least, these factors demand that we reexamine our current policy.

With the free exchange of ideas and words profoundly important in American culture, it seems contradictory that our government would deny its people the opportunity to peaceably spread this concept without unnecessary restrictions. If the central mission of American Foreign policy is to protect Americans and our interests abroad, how does restricting the ability of Americans to travel to Cuba, a nation deemed by the U.S. Department of Defense as not posing a "military threat to the U.S. or to any other countries in the region," justifiable?

I am concerned that Cuban civilians suffer under government oppression, and it is time to confront the fact that denying direct American tourism to Cuba has resulted in no beneficial change. The island of Cuba is only 90 miles away from the United States and is surrounded by nations that embrace democracy. Positive steps to bring American ideas and words to Cuba are the right course of action, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,  
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2989) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, today, as we consider the FY04 appropriations bill for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, I find myself facing a familiar dilemma. So often during consideration of appropriations bills, I, as I'm sure many of my colleagues do as well, face difficult choices when voting on final passage. Because appropriations bills often include so many provisions, there are always positives and negatives. It is the nature of appropriations bills that we are forced to determine whether or not the good outweighs the bad.

As we prepare to vote on final passage of this bill, a similar assessment has to be made. I am deeply disappointed in many parts of this bill, most notably the less than minimal funding for Amtrak. However, because the bill also has very important funding for New Mexico and the Nation, I will be voting in favor of passage. I cannot let the perfect—which this bill clearly is not—be the enemy of the good—which this bill is.

Before I do cast my vote, I would like to voice my displeasure with both the funding provided for Amtrak, and also for the flawed process. Not surprisingly, the Rules Committee has once again stifled debate by not allowing Mr. OLVER to offer his amendment to increase Amtrak funding by \$500 million. The \$900 million included in the bill is insufficient to ensure the solvency of an essential element of our national transportation network. Should Amtrak be unable to continue its important service, not only would our transportation system be severely weakened, but many communities that heavily rely on Amtrak and its passengers for economic sustainability would be devastated. Many communities in New Mexico are heavily reliant on Amtrak for their economic well-being, and they would badly struggle without it.

However, as I said earlier, there are often many positives along with the negatives in an appropriations bill, and this bill is no exception. Overall, the FY04 Appropriations bill before us provides a 3 percent increase over last years bill, and provides 4 percent more funding than the administration proposed. In addition, the bill provides \$34.6 billion in total highway funding, 7 percent more than current funding and 14 percent more than requested. The bill also provides \$7.2 billion for mass transit programs and \$500 million for election reform activities authorized by the 2002 Federal election standards overhaul law.

I strongly support these provisions and recognize how important the funding provided in this bill is for investment in the Nation's highway, transit and aviation programs, which are all so critical to our safety and homeland secu-

ity efforts, as well as to economic development. Therefore, I support this legislation. However, I will vote in support of this bill with the strong hope that the insufficient Amtrak funding will be addressed in conference.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 456, final passage of H.R. 2861, the FY04 VA—HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill, I was recorded as voting "yea." I oppose this bill and intended to vote "nay." This bill significantly underfunds veterans' health care. Our veterans' health care system is in crisis with an average of 200,000 veterans waiting six months or more for an appointment at Veterans Administration hospitals. The funding in this bill is clearly inadequate to meet the needs of our veterans. We must deliver the quality health care that was promised to those who have served to protect American security around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on September 9, 2003, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall vote Nos. 481–488. For the record, had I been present, I would have voted: No. 481, "no"; No. 482, "no"; No. 483, "no"; No. 484, "no"; No. 485, "no"; No. 486, "no"; No. 487, "no"; and No. 488, "no".

CONGRATULATING 137TH SPACE  
WARNING SQUADRON

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2003*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a truly outstanding part of this nation's defense—the 137th Space Warning Squadron based in Greeley, Colorado. For the second time in three years (an unequaled achievement), that unit has won the Distinguished Mission Support Plaque given by the National Guard Association of the United States.

This national award is given to only five outstanding units throughout all the Guard both Army and Air.

In addition to Colonel William Hudson, I would like to recognize the leadership at the 137th of Major Daniel Salgado and Major David Simmons for their outstanding work, as well as Brigadier General Mike Edwards (at the 140th Wing, Buckley AFB) and Major General Mason Whitney (the Colorado Adjutant General). The award shows the outstanding ability, competence, and potential of our Colorado Guardsmen at the Greeley location.

Additionally, the 137th in 2002 received many accolades for inspections, conversions,