

In addition to the infrastructure needs I mentioned, we suffer from having 42 million uninsured Americans and rising health costs for insured individuals, proposed reductions in Medicaid funding, insufficient funding for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant of the National Health Service Corps, a national nursing shortage, the most far-reaching energy blackout in U.S. history, attempts to buy homeland security on the cheap, and record-level deficits.

Americans need and deserve affordable health care, capable schools, quality education, sufficient homeland security, safe and reliable roads and mass transit, modern water infrastructure, and jobs, jobs, and jobs. We won't get these things by ignoring our problems here at home.

We need to reinvest in America, first and foremost.

TRIBUTE TO ANALYTICAL SERVICES FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE NASA WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding Huntsville-based aerospace contractor, Analytical Services, Inc. for being named the 2003 NASA Woman Owned Business of the Year. ASI began operations under the strong leadership of Irma Tudor in Huntsville, Alabama with just two employees in 1992. Today 250 people work for ASI, 150 of them are from my district.

Analytical Services, Inc. provides program planning, technical writing and multimedia design and development to the Orbital Space Plane program which is managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. ASI supports the OSP mission to provide a system for crew rescue from the International Space Station, and ultimately crew and limited cargo transport to and from the Station. It is also supporting the management of the design and development of a new multipurpose space transportation system for assured access to space and to provide operational flexibility for NASA.

ASI is best summarized by their company philosophy, "and then some." ASI employees are committed to these words by providing their customers with responsiveness, innovation, professionalism, and then some. ASI has a strong dedication to its community and should serve as a model for small businesses everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, today ASI Founder, President and CEO, Irma Tudor, will accept the 2003 NASA Woman Owned Business of the Year Award on behalf of all the employees of ASI. Since I cannot be there, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of North Alabama, to congratulate all the employees of Analytical Services, Inc. on a job well done and thank them for their service.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the motion to instruct conferees offered by my dear friend and colleague, and fellow member of the Armed Services Committee, the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Ciro Rodriguez.

This motion instructs the conferees on the Defense Authorization bill to adopt provisions that were overwhelmingly approved by the House when it passed the Armed Forces Naturalization Act earlier this year. These provisions would remove administrative and financial barriers to obtaining citizenship by those non-citizens who are risking their lives to defend our Nation. Thirty-seven thousand legal permanent residents currently serve in our armed forces, and their service deserves to be recognized.

The Rodriguez motion also recognizes the important supportive role that family plays and calls for inclusion of measures to ensure that when their loved ones die in the line of duty, family members will not suffer even more by having their immigration status placed in jeopardy.

After every major conflict in the past 100 years, we have granted citizenship to thousands of immigrants who fought wearing the U.S. uniform. Let us do the right thing and act now to continue the American tradition of honoring those who have proven their loyalty to our country on the battlefield. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Rodriguez motion to instruct.

TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTHDAY, LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE SENATOR CLAUDE DENSON PEPPER

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday, life and legacy of the late Senator Claude Denson Pepper.

I first met Congressman Pepper in 1984 when we worked together to craft the National Democratic Platform. Even then, at age 84, his energy and passion for making life better for others was clear. During his near 90-year career, Pepper played a leading role in American politics. Pepper won vast victories for all Americans, notably our country's elderly population.

Pepper was elected to the United States Senate in 1935, where he gained the respect and friendship of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He stayed in the Senate for 3 terms and served in the House, where he represented the greater Miami area. He served his House district for almost 30 years, becoming Chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging and of the House Rules Committee.

Claude Pepper did so much for so many, but is best remembered for his work on behalf of older Americans. He was their voice and their advocate. He led the battle to pass legislation that erased mandatory retirement laws. He authorized the bill that created the National Institute on Aging. His leadership made passage of Medicare a reality.

Near the end of his life, Chairman Pepper fought for the enactment of a prescription drug benefit in Medicare. Concurrently, he worked to enact a long-term home benefit in Medicare to assist the growing number of Americans who needed help performing essential activities of daily living in their homes. Pepper came away a few votes shy of enacting these bills, but his visionary actions shaped the path for future generations.

Pepper's life work was firmly rooted in his personal principles. His passionate advocacy and unquestionable integrity made him a role model for public servants and generations of young men and women to invest their lives in giving back to their communities.

Claude Pepper is a hero to senior citizens and all Americans, and I am proud to have known him. As Congress continues to debate the future of Medicare and other programs, we would do well to remember his legacy and his simple philosophy: "Make it better. Do all you can to make life better for others."

Thank you, Senator Pepper, for your service to our country, and for making our Nation a better place for generations of senior citizens.

CONGRATULATING P.V.'S HUT ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of P.V.'s Hut, which is celebrating its fiftieth year as a popular institution in my hometown of Union City, Tennessee. Over five decades, P.V.'s Hut has served millions of its famous specialty—hand-made hamburgers.

P.V.'s Hut was founded in June 1953 by Horace Aaron "P.V." and Mary Lou Peevyhouse. Their daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Jim Isbell, now operate the restaurant, but patrons know they are receiving the same exceptional service that generations of customers have received at the small diner for five decades.

When I was a young boy, my family would go to P.V.'s for twenty-five-cent hamburgers and would dine at one of the two small tables located inside the restaurant at its original location. P.V.'s Hut has moved to a larger building now and can accommodate more guests at its booths and lunch counter. The prices have also changed over the years, but patrons still travel from miles away for hand-made hamburgers and baked-from-scratch pies at affordable prices.

Mr. Speaker, as we look for ways to help our economy grow, let us take the opportunity to thank and praise those small business owners who work so hard every day to contribute to our local and regional economies. They truly make a difference, with their customer service-minded business philosophies and their dedication to the community.

Because of its founders' and owners' love for old-fashioned food service, P.V.'s Hut has

been rewarded with fifty years of success. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating P.V.'s Hut on its long service to our community and hoping all the best for P.V.'s in the years to come.

INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION
CENTER FOR TORTURE VICTIMS
RECEIVES CONRAD N. HILTON
FOUNDATION HUMANITARIAN
PRIZE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the leadership shown by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for focusing attention on the widespread use of torture by some outlaw regimes by awarding this year's Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize of \$1 million to the International Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (IRCT). I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate and pay tribute to the ICRT.

Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus I have had the privilege of working with ICRT and its network of affiliates around the world. Every year, the Caucus organizes a public briefing to mark the United Nations "International Day in support of Survivors of Torture," during which we bring together survivors of torture from all over the world, healthcare personnel who assist in their treatment and rehabilitation, Members of Congress, congressional staff and the general public. These briefings are designed to educate our colleagues and their staff, on the practice of torture and the devastating physical and emotional complications that revisit torture victims, and to encourage appropriate Congressional action to address this important issue.

This Hilton Award will be presented to ICRT today at a luncheon in New York City, at which the Dalai Lama will speak. The awarding of this prestigious prize comes at a very appropriate moment, as this Congress is about to re-authorize the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 by our adoption of H.R. 1813, which has already been approved by the House Committee on International Relations.

The United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment establishes the basic human right of freedom from torture. Thus far, 134 States have recognized this right by becoming state parties to this important convention. Yet torture continues to take place in more than 117 countries. It is estimated that one-third of the world's 12 million refugees are victims of torture.

Mr. Speaker, torture is a brutal form of social and political control designed to stifle dissent through terror and it violates the basic rights of human beings and is contrary to the principles of the U.S. Constitution and fundamental nature of our Republic. Politicians, journalists, teachers, students, religious leaders, trade union and human rights activists are special targets. The aim of torture is not to kill

the victim, but to break down the victim's personality. Crippled, traumatized, and humiliated, the victims are returned to their communities as a warning to others.

I will not elaborate on the methods and consequences of torture, which my colleagues know well from previous debates here on the House floor. But I would like to emphasize again that there are an estimated 500,000 torture survivors in the United States alone—refugees and asylum-seekers who have fled repressive regimes. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of victims of torture seeking help at U.S. rehabilitation centers, and many centers now have long waiting lists. In the United States there are 25 rehabilitation centers and programs joined together under the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs. The passage of the Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998 positioned the United States as a leading donor to the work against torture. The re-authorization of this legislation, which the Committee on International Relations reported to the House on July 23rd, will continue and expand American leadership to assist those who have been subject to this terrible human rights abuse. I urge the House leadership to schedule this bill for floor action as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly summarize for my colleagues the global efforts that IRCT has undertaken to eliminate torture and to explain the extraordinary work they are accomplishing now. The medical response to torture began in 1973 with an Amnesty International campaign calling for help to diagnose torture victims. At that time, very little was known about torture methods or the physical or psycho-social consequences for torture victims. An Amnesty group of four doctors in Denmark was the first to respond and was soon joined by a network of some 4,000 medical doctors from 34 countries worldwide. It quickly became evident that, in addition to documenting cases of torture for use in potential legal proceedings, it was also critical to identify methods to help treat and rehabilitate victims of torture.

In 1982, the first rehabilitation center was founded and established by medical humanitarian my dear friend Dr. Inge Genefke and the Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims (RCT) in Copenhagen, Denmark. As the global movement developed, and the need for global support increased, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) was founded in 1985, initially as the international arm of the RCT, until 1987 when it became a fully independent organization. IRCT's mission, with Dr. Genefke as its Ambassador, is to support and promote the rehabilitation of victims of torture, to advocate for the prevention and eradication of torture worldwide, and to provide documentation and research that will ultimately bring perpetrators to justice.

Mr. Speaker, from a handful of rehabilitation centers in the mid-1980s, a global network of 200 rehabilitation centers and programs is now operating in 80 countries. These efforts, however, are just a beginning in the global fight against torture. To keep a spotlight on the issue, IRCT's global campaign, "Together against Torture," involves more than 10,000 people and 300 organizations in some 100

countries every year to commemorate the United Nations International Day in Support of Torture Victims, which takes place annually on June 26.

In recent years, IRCT has developed successful models in post-conflict interventions in support of torture victims in East Timor, Kosovo, and in Pakistan for Afghan refugees. The IRCT Documentation Center is the world's largest library on torture-related research and IRCT is initiating the first comprehensive monitoring and documentation system on torture at the global, regional, and national levels.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me mention to my colleagues statements from global leaders in support of IRCT.

Dr. Bertrand Ramcharan, Acting U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said: "Torture is a violation of basic human rights. Through extensive documentation and research, IRCT has become an essential source for governments and legal authorities in their efforts to expose atrocities and to bring perpetrators to justice."

Mary Robinson, former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Ireland, said: "Through its support for victims and its global campaigning for the universal ratification and implementation of the U.N. Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol, the IRCT reminds us of our shared responsibility for ending torture throughout the world."

Former United States President Jimmy Carter said, "Freedom from torture is one of the most fundamental of all human rights principles, enshrined in the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and other international agreements. This year, it is particularly fitting that the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has chosen to bestow its Humanitarian Prize on the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, an organization that has done so much to end torture and to support its victims worldwide."

Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Per Stig Miller said, "There is no doubt that IRCT has had a determining role in placing torture and organized violence onto the international agenda and that the organization has achieved a special recognized status and voice that is listened to worldwide. The prize underlines the need for continued international support towards the work of the IRCT."

Dr. Reiner Brettenhaler, President of the Standing Committee of European Physicians, said: "We are proud to nominate the IRCT for this year's Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize. A unique strength of the IRCT is its approach to the work against torture: focusing on the medical aspects of torture, thereby focusing on the individual recovery of those subjected to this act of inhumanity."

Mr. Speaker, I again want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the ICRT and its global network of treatment and support centers for their continued invaluable service to humanity. I also want to commend the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for recognizing and supporting the ICRT's efforts by awarding it the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize.