

him place the public good before anything else when a decision had to be made. During an age of cynicism about those in public life, this alone is truly remarkable.

This has been a heartbreaking moment for all of us in Northwest Indiana, as Larry served Porter County very ably as a public official for 17 years. He was a fine public servant, a man who sincerely cared about his constituents, his fellow citizens and his civic responsibilities. Larry retired in 1999 after 34 years as a steel worker at Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor Plant and in 1982 won his first election as a Porter County Commissioner.

In the early 1980s, while working for the late Congressman Adam Benjamin, Jr., I had the privilege of first meeting Larry Sheets. Later, during my first bid for Congress in 1983, Larry was the first and one of only a few public officials to endorse me. At the time I was "nobody." Larry made me "somebody." Our friendship was extended to a shared passion. Along with my father, Larry, Bill Wallace and I would spend many fall Saturdays together in South Bend, Indiana, watching the Fighting Irish play football.

Although his work with the community put extraordinary demands on his time, Larry never limited the time he gave to his most important interest, his family. He and his gracious wife, Paula, have two terrific children: Amber and Larry Jr.

Mr. Speaker and my other distinguished colleagues, Larry Sheets was a wonderful man. We are going to miss him in Northwest Indiana. He represented the epitome of what a dedicated public servant should be, but seldom is, and for that he will always be remembered.

THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On October 1, 1960, Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

Over the last decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Both countries gained their independence from Great Britain, and now each country celebrates the anniversary of that independence as their national holiday. More significantly, Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under law.

The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring. The people of Cyprus appreciate the leadership that America has shown in trying to end the division of Cyprus and bring about reunification. At the same time, the people of Cyprus stand with the American people and share in the firm resolve to uphold the ideals of freedom, justice and democracy threatened by the forces of international terrorism.

The government of Cyprus has pledged to cooperate fully with the Bush Administration in the battle against terrorism. Cypriots do not stand indifferent and passive in responding to heinous acts that target our sense of security, our civil liberties and our faith in the democratic process. Having achieved its independence after a bitter fight to uphold freedom and democracy, Cyprus understands that great determination and unity are needed in order to safeguard the treasured ideals we share.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 43rd Independence Day, I share the Cypriot's joy for having created a prosperous, open society based on solid foundations. Furthermore, I believe this is an opportunity for the United States of America and Cyprus to come closer together, as we stand united in our resolve to fight the battle on terrorism. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO AN-
GELA MARIE DARIA CARPINELLO
OF CINCINNATI

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in honor of her 100th birthday, I would like to take a moment to recognize Angela Marie Daria Carpinello of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Angela was born in Cincinnati on September 28, 1903. She was the second of 14 children. She had nine brothers and five sisters. The family was raised in downtown Cincinnati. Angela's father was born in Letino, Italy and worked for the City of Cincinnati until he was accepted as a US Citizen at which point he began to work for the local phone company.

Angela met her husband, Nicola Carpinello in Cincinnati. Nicola worked at the Courthouse. Nick served in World War One and received a Silver Star and Purple Heart for his service to his country.

Nick and Angela purchased a home in Price Hill, a neighborhood of Cincinnati. While Nick worked at the Courthouse, Angela was busy raising her family. She loved to cook, clean, and care for her family and others around her.

Angela and "Nick" were married for 52 years. They have three children—Anthony, Malvina, and Evelyn. From these three children come the pride of Angela's life—her 24 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and seven great great grandchildren. To her family Angela is known as "Minnie". And, thankfully, Minnie is able to remember everyone's birthday, anniversary, and other special occasion. She has been truly blessed.

Angela often shares stories from her youth with her family. Her favorite stories include memories of the Great Flood of 1937, shopping at Shillito's with her oldest grandsons, going to God's Bible School with her siblings for Thanksgiving during the lean years, and her trip to Rhode Island to meet her husband's sister.

Angela had a few weaknesses in her life—stopping at bakeries, jewelry stores, and shopping at Gidding Jenny's. She was always well-dressed, treating herself to one new outfit per year. Angela made sure that she and Nick were always in style.

In Angela's 100 years, so much has happened, cars, buses, planes, mass communication, computers, the internet, fast food and she has taken advantage of them all. During the course of her life, Angela has traveled to Rhode Island and Florida.

Thank you, Angela, for your contributions over the past 100 years. From the United States House of Representatives, we would like to wish you a very happy 100th birthday and may God Bless you with many more.

ADMINISTRATION'S AMTRAK
REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I join Chairman YOUNG in introducing, by request, the Administration's Amtrak "reform" legislation. It is a common practice for the Chairman and Ranking Member of a Committee to jointly introduce an Administration's bill, regardless of which political party controls the White House or Congress or the specifics of proposed legislation, and I do this as a courtesy to the Administration. However, introducing a bill "by request" should not be interpreted to imply endorsement. In fact, in the current instance, I am vehemently opposed to the direction the Administration has chosen for intercity rail passenger service for our nation.

For nearly two years we have awaited the Administration's legislative proposal for the future direction of Amtrak. Time and again we have heard that the vision would be revealed "any day now." The Administration revealed the outline of its plan last year and now has given us the final product. It wasn't worth the wait.

The Administration's proposal is little more than a rehash of the widely discredited proposals of the Amtrak Reform Council (ARC): separate ownership of the Northeast Corridor infrastructure from operations; allow entities other than Amtrak to compete for franchises to operate service over potentially profitable routes; and replace the current national network with regional systems that shift the costs to the states. These are all ideas promoted by the ARC. The bill would also phase out Federal operating support for all intercity passenger trains over a four-year period. As a result, the proposal would eliminate nearly all long-distance train service by the end of the third year.

The bill places numerous restrictions on Amtrak management's discretion in running the Corporation—it even forbids Amtrak from using authorized funds for developing high-speed passenger train service. In short, Amtrak is to have no future. In addition, this bill also makes it clear that the Administration believes that labor is a large part of Amtrak's problem. The bill requires that Amtrak negotiate substantial operating cost reductions with its employees as the price of receiving its Federal operating grant.

The Administration is apparently placing its trust in the magic of privatization and decentralization to solve Amtrak's problems. These changes were at the heart of the ARC proposals. Those proposals missed the point when they were advanced more than 1½

years ago, and time has not transformed them into valid solutions.

Amtrak's problem has one root cause: money! From the outset back in 1971, the Corporation has been on a starvation diet. Its opponents insinuate that successive Amtrak managements have somehow conspired to misappropriate funds and not run a profitable operation. The truth is that a succession of hardworking and dedicated management teams could not do the impossible—that is, operate intercity rail passenger service in America and generate an accounting profit. Even under more favorable conditions, no nation in the world has operated intercity passenger trains profitably. But many in Congress have insisted on the impossible, and Amtrak's previous leaders have tried to demonstrate progress toward this illusive and ill-advised goal.

Now we have new leadership at Amtrak, and this Amtrak team has abandoned the long-standing defensive practice of telling Congress what Congress wants to hear. Amtrak's new President, David Gunn, has told Congress what is needed if we want to have decent and reliable intercity passenger rail service in this nation, and he says that this can be achieved without the dismantling of Amtrak as suggested by the Administration's legislative proposal. We should heed his advice and give him and his team a chance.

President Bush has begun naming a new Board of Directors, as well. I have met with the new Chairman, David Laney and he, too, is impressed by the efforts of David Gunn and his management team and their successes to date.

Therefore, while I join in introducing this bill as a traditional courtesy to the Administration, I want to be clear that I support none of its initiatives. I strongly support both H.R. 2572, the Amtrak Reauthorization Act of 2003, and H.R. 2571, the Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century (RIDE 21), recently reported with near unanimity by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am hopeful that the House will soon consider this bipartisan legislation and begin to provide the necessary investment for our nation's intercity passenger rail system.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE EVAN
O'NEILL

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to United States Army, Private First Class, Evan O'Neill, who died on Monday, September 29, 2003, in service to his country.

Nineteen-year-old Evan O'Neill was a resident of Haverhill, Massachusetts, in my Fifth Congressional District. Evan graduated in 2002 from the Whittier Vocational Technical High School, where he studied auto mechanics.

Evan was a member of the 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, and was in his third month of deployment in Afghanistan.

Evan O'Neill comes from a military family that is proud of their son's service to the United States. Evan's father, Michael, a lieutenant with the Andover, Massachusetts Fire

Department, was a Vietnam veteran wounded twice, receiving two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star for his service. Michael O'Neill was as proud as any of the parents of our servicemen and women when he pinned his silver Airborne wings on his son at Fort Benning, Georgia, after Evan successfully completed his fifth and final jump. Evan had wanted to follow in his father's footsteps by someday becoming a paratrooper. His parents were fortunate enough to have had a satellite telephone conversation with their son, just hours before his untimely death.

Evan suffered multiple gunshot wounds during a firefight with suspected Taliban militia, near a coalition base at Shkin, just a few miles from the Pakistan border, an area that still continues to see violent conflicts. Two of O'Neill's comrades were also wounded in the attack.

Evan's death is a grim reminder to us all that while our brave troops continue their battle to rebuild a peaceful Iraq, war is still being waged thousands of miles away, in Afghanistan, where our country's war against terrorism began 2 years ago. More than 11,000 coalition troops remain deployed in the hunt for Taliban members, as well as remnants of al-Qaeda.

I visited Afghanistan last year, and I know that our troops who continue to serve there remain committed to stabilizing that nation and ridding that country of the Taliban rebels, the likes of who executed the attack on our country on September 11th, 2001. Evan had told his family that he wanted not only to serve his country in our military, but also to honor the losses paid by the firefighters and police officers who died in the attack on our nation.

Evan, like many other soldiers who have answered their nation's call to service, paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and liberty.

Evan O'Neill was a loving son, brother, and fiancé, and his commitment to his Nation and his family is one for which he will be forever remembered. His family knows that Evan's dedication to his service was of great value to him.

Both Michael and his wife, Barbara, believe their son died a hero. They are correct. U.S. Army PFC Evan O'Neill served his family, his hometown, and his country, proudly and faithfully.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF MEMBER JARED KUTZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared Kutz, a dedicated, loyal, funny, out-going and important member of my Liberty district office.

Jared has served in both my St. Joseph and Liberty offices for the last two years. As a constituent liaison he visited the northernmost counties of my district. His work keeping in touch with the people and the concerns of the sixth district was invaluable to me and my office.

Jared's easygoing style will be missed by my staff and all sixth district constituents who came in contact with him. Never in his tenure

did he have a bad word to say about anyone. His outgoing and down to earth style ensured that he was never among strangers. He represents the very best of what a congressional staffer should be.

I know Jared very well from our many trips across the district together. He has worked long hours and sacrificed many of his own priorities to help do the work of the people of the sixth district. I am proud and grateful of the work he did and will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared Kutz for his many important contributions to me, Missouri's sixth district and the United States House of Representatives. I also ask that you join me in extending to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

AMENDING THE WAR POWERS
RESOLUTION OF 1973 TO REQUIRE
REPORTING A POST-CONFLICT
STRATEGY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2003, President Bush reported to Congress, "consistent with the *War Powers Resolution*," (emphasis added) as well as P.L. 102-1 and P.L. 107-243 and "pursuant to" his authority as Commander in Chief, that he had "directed U.S. Armed Forces, operating with other coalition forces, to commence operations on March 19, 2003, against Iraq."

While declaring the beginning of war with Iraq, the Bush administration neglected to prepare for its aftermath. At that time, he should have also delineated his post-conflict reconstruction strategy because winning the peace is often harder than fighting the war.

The United States should not have waited for the end of the war to begin planning Iraq's post-conflict reconstruction. "Conflicts today," retired four-star General Anthony Zinni has said, "cannot be divided into two separate phases, the shooting and the peacekeeping parts. The war plan for the combat and the aftermath has to be 'seamless.'"

Not having had a clear strategy to shape Iraq's political landscape at the outset of war has had negative implications for the success of the United States-led postwar efforts. From this failure by the Bush administration, we learned that the United States must have military and political strategies in hand before armed intervention.

To make sure that future presidents do not again fail to protect United States military personnel during post-conflict reconstruction involvement, the War Powers Resolution of 1973 should be expanded to demand a clear strategy for winning the war, as well as winning the peace. In its amended form, it will include a post-conflict reconstruction strategy in its list of required reports to Congress.

Successful post-conflict reconstruction does not begin the day after. It begins the day before.