

For thirteen years, the City of Monterey Park has been instrumental in bridging the cultural divide amongst its residents. Their leadership and initiative on multicultural awareness have set a high standard for other cities. The 32nd Congressional District is a culturally diverse district, and it is important that all of us work together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve the dreams for our families and ourselves.

Throughout my career in public service, I have advocated for policies that promote greater multicultural harmony and recognize the strength that lies in the great diversity of our community, our State, and our Nation. In order to build upon the strength of our diverse communities, we must break down the discriminatory barriers that exist in our country. In this regard, I am fighting in Congress for efforts to eliminate discrimination in all aspects of society, including health care, education, housing, and employment.

I take great pride in the cultural diversity that can be found in Monterey Park and throughout the Los Angeles region. I commend the City of Monterey Park and the Monterey Park Community Relations Commission for their efforts to promote greater multicultural harmony and understanding. These types of events bring the community together to focus on diversity and appreciation of our differences.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS JOSE CASANOVA JR.

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Private First Class Jose Casanova Jr., United States Army 82nd Airborne Division. This young man, from my hometown of El Monte, was a communications specialist who served his country with courage, pride and loyalty. On October 13, 2003, Private Jose Casanova Jr. made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed while serving our country.

Private Jose Casanova Jr., a product of the public school system, earned his high school diploma in June of 1999 from Arroyo High School. During high school, Private Casanova was an active member of the student body participating in football, soccer, track and band. After graduation, his passion for music and helping people led him to return to Arroyo High School as a mentor to younger musicians.

On January 3, 2002, Private Casanova enlisted in the United States Army to serve his country and to achieve his dream of going to college and becoming a firefighter. Private Jose Casanova Jr. received training in Fort Bragg North Carolina. His 82nd Airborne unit was activated and deployed to Iraq on February 14, 2003.

Jose Casanova Jr., a United States citizen and a true patriot, is survived by his mother Teresa Muñoz De Casanova and father Jose Casanova Jr. and eight siblings: Sergio, Gustavo, Olga de Carmen, Veronica, Teresa, Maria De Lourdes, Melissa and Gerardo.

Private Casanova's sacrifice will not be forgotten. We are forever in his debt.

ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT OF 2003

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Adoption Caucus, I rise in support of the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003, H.R. 3182, to continue rewarding States for their efforts to promote adoption of children in need of loving families. Since 1997, the number of children adopted from foster care has increased 64 percent. I am happy that States have made substantial progress in finding safe, permanent homes for kids. However, many older children still linger in foster care, and this bill will assist States to find adoptive families for these children. Approximately 126,000 children currently are awaiting adoption, half of whom are age nine or older. The Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 enhances the current incentive program, which rewards States that make gains in the number of children adopted, by creating a new incentive for States that increase adoptions of children age 9 or older. This change reflects a proposal outlined by the Bush Administration.

PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP MUST
STOP TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to the families of the three Americans who were killed yesterday, and a fourth who was seriously injured by a massive terrorist explosion, while they were traveling along the main road toward Gaza City. They were employees of a government contractor that provides security services to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

I also want to express my outrage at the continued terrorist attacks that take the lives of children and innocent people in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Only twisted minds could ever conceive of such murders as "warfare."

What made this particular terrorist attack unusual was that it involved American citizens, part of a diplomatic and security convoy traveling to Gaza to interview Palestinian candidates for a Fulbright scholarship. Ironically, this scholarship was established to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills. What was tragically not unusual, however, was that this was just the latest in a string of hundreds of violent killings spanning several years.

Mr. Speaker, when I visited Israel a few months ago, I met with Palestinian leaders who expressed their opposition to terrorist attacks. However, their actions have not backed up their rhetoric. Yesterday's terrorist bombing further demonstrates the Palestinian authority's continued reluctance—perhaps even aversion—to aggressively dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in areas under its control. Although Palestinian officials condemned this attack, their inability to act against such acts of terrorism has led to continued terrorist attacks against both Americans and Israelis.

In order to have real progress toward peace, Palestinians must have a leader who is willing to stop terrorism—leadership the world has not seen from Yasser Arafat. The Palestinian authority, while denouncing terrorism, has never fought terrorists or terror organizations in a serious or effective way either under Arafat's direct leadership, or in the shadow of his leadership.

It is clear that despite the best efforts of people of good will on both sides, real progress toward peace can never happen as long as the Palestinians have a President who is unwilling to stop terrorists from blowing up innocent Israelis and Americans.

NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY
IN MARYLAND

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in Baltimore, Maryland, metropolitan area.

We need little reminder today of the courage and sacrifice of our service men and women. Whether protecting us in past World Wars, in North Korea, Vietnam, or the Persian Gulf, or fighting today in the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, our military has rarely questioned their mission to protect the freedoms and liberties we American citizens enjoy every day. In exchange for their service, we promised to take care of our veterans in life and in death. This bill addresses the most basic of those promises for our veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Maryland has a long-standing tradition of military service and sacrifice dating back to the Revolutionary War—when the Old Line Soldiers were considered General Washington's favorite after saving the Continental Army from destruction as only the Marylanders were left standing. This historical tie was reinforced when the Secretary of the Navy established the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in 1845—a testament to Maryland's contribution to the future service of our nation.

That tradition continues today with bases in Ft. Meade, Aberdeen, Ft. Detrick, and Andrews Air Force Base, just to name a few. Maryland is home to over 45,000 active, reserve and guard service men and women, as well as their families. And there are over half a million civilian veterans residing in the State of Maryland.

Yet there is no longer federal or national cemetery space for first interments—for veterans who wish to have a casket burial. While there is state cemetery space, I stand here today on behalf of the veterans I represent, on behalf of their families, and on behalf of the veterans throughout my home state of Maryland to ask my colleagues to keep the national promise to all veterans. At the very least, we should offer choices to veterans between national and state cemetery burials. Families should not be forced to travel great distances to visit their loved ones.

There are approximately 27 million veterans in the United States today—10 percent of our national population. And Roll Call on September 29, 2003, said that we are losing 1,500

veterans a day. It is for these brave veterans that I introduce this bill and ask my colleagues for swift passage.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CHEMTRONICS, INC.

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important business in my district celebrating its 50th anniversary. In 1953, Bert Gross, James Lowry and Daniel Brimm joined together to start Chemtronics, Inc., a local small-business specializing in technology that could remove metal in a very rapid and controlled manner. Chem-tronics, Inc. was incorporated in October 1953, with company offices and chemical etching facilities set up in rented World War II surplus barracks on Gillespie Field in El Cajon, California.

Early sales efforts were focused on aircraft frames and skins but they soon realized that the chemical milling process could be applied advantageously to jet engine components as well. With this new opportunity, the company embarked on a campaign to earn a contract with General Electric Co., working on their TF-39 jet engine. From the middle 1960's into the early 1970's, Chem-tronics Inc., built around nine hundred of these parts.

By the early 70's, tools and trained personnel were developed for repairing and accurately reforming titanium fan blades for jet engines utilizing a process patented by the company. This activity has expanded in scope and size over the years and is now a major element of the business with its own specialized management and marketing staff, known as Aviation Repair, also located in El Cajon, California.

Chem-tronics, Inc., while still small, was becoming recognized as a high quality product-producing, vertically integrated, one-stop-shop facility. By 1975, Chem-tronics had products on space launch systems, most of the larger commercial airframes, and several of General Electric Co. and Pratt & Whitney Co.'s larger commercial jet engines.

During this same period of time, Daniel Brimm, who had bought out his earlier partners, developed a unique integral stiffening feature with chemical milling that he patented called Unistructure. This was a critical turning point in the success of Chem-tronics, Inc. Since 1976, Unistructure stiffened light-weight products have been designed and built for virtually every new By-pass Outer Duct for every military jet engine built in the USA. Driven by a company commitment to provide each customer with a one-stop-shop, Chem-tronics began to supply complete product design services in 1978, which included computer aided design and computer, aided manufacturing.

The trend of expanding Chem-tronics' technology has continued over the years with increasing levels of production, factory floor space, manpower and facilities. Major customers include General Electric Co., Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, Rolls-Royce-Allison, Allied Signal, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing. Through these customers, Chem-tronics' products have become an important

part of military and commercial aircraft, such as the B-1B and B2 Bombers, Joint Strike Fighter, F22 Raptor, as well as the space shuttle and various space launch systems.

The current president, James Legler, joined the company in 1978. Through his leadership, Chem-tronics, Inc. has continued to grow as an aerospace industry leader in technology, quality products, and commitment to customer satisfaction. My fellow colleagues, Chem-tronics, Inc. represents the small-business spirit that made America great. Join me in congratulating this company for their success in creating jobs, providing critical services and products to our country's national security, and making the San Diego community proud for 50 years.

SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in cautious support of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act (H.R. 1828).

It is entirely appropriate that we send a strong message to the Syrian government that they have not done enough to weaken terrorist activities in their country. Syria's continued support of international terrorist organizations like Hizballah, Islamic Jihad and Hamas is unacceptable. The United States has given Syria ample opportunity to remove these terrorist threats, and we cannot stand idly by while terrorist operations continue.

In addition, the United States must clearly state that the Syrian occupation of Lebanon will not be tolerated. The people of Lebanon deserve to be ruled by the Lebanese, and not an occupying Syrian force with ties to terrorism. Syrian troops in Lebanon represent a destabilizing force that threatens the peace of Israel and the entire Middle East region.

The Syria Accountability Act must be used as a political lever intended to send an unmistakable message to Syrian President Assad that his government's support for terrorist organizations and occupation of Lebanon cannot be allowed. It must not, however, be interpreted as a catalyst for military action in Syria. Inflaming the dialogue about Syria's reported connections with al-Qaeda or Iraq will only lead to rash decisions unreflective of the best interests of the United States and our allies in the global war on terrorism.

We must remain committed engaging the Syrian government in diplomatic exchange. Only by talking can we expect to improve our bilateral relations with Syria and bring about a peaceful resolution to this challenging issue.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF DAIRY FORWARD CONTRACTING LEGISLATION

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation to make perma-

nent the authority for dairy producers and processors to have an important risk management tool known as forward pricing contracts. As the ranking minority member of the Agriculture Committee's subcommittee that has jurisdiction over dairy policy, I hope to move this legislation forward before the existing statutory authority expires next year. I am very pleased that my subcommittee chairman, Mr. Gutknecht of Minnesota, has joined me in introducing this legislation, along with 14 other of our colleagues.

Forward pricing contracts allow farmers and their customers the opportunity to freely negotiate a long-term contract for the sale of their agricultural products at a fixed price. This risk management tool gives farmers greater predictability for income streams, which in turn allows for better management of farm and business operations.

Buyers and sellers of many farm commodities rely heavily on forward contracts. According to a report by the GAO, forward cash contracting is the risk management tool most frequently used by producers outside the dairy sector. A majority of cotton (76 percent), corn (65 percent), and wheat (57 percent) producers use forward contracts to lock in their prices and revenue. Dairy producers have utilized this tool less, primarily because the legal requirements of the federal milk marketing order system have prevented dairy processors from offering this risk management tool to dairy farmers.

In 1999, Congress decided to amend federal law to remove this impediment to dairy forward pricing contracts. A pilot program was established, allowing dairy producers and processors to enter into voluntary agreements for the sale of a set amount of milk for a fixed price over a specified period of time. These contracts are based on a negotiated price rather than the minimum price set monthly under federal milk marketing orders.

The pilot program went into effect in July 2000, and is due to expire December 31, 2004. Although it has only been in place for a few years, it is an important tool for the dairy industry to have that deserves permanence. The bill that I introduced today would make this program a permanent authority and thereby ensure the availability of forward pricing contracts to any and all producers and processors who voluntarily want to use such a risk management tool.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and making it become law in the near future.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my colleagues know that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida—the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works every day—not just in