

of the programs similar to the success of the Global Fund and other international initiatives. By widening the knowledge base of non-governmental organizations and professionals in Haiti, the U.S. will take advantage of a unique opportunity and obligation towards Haiti's future.

We worked together to get the humanitarian loans, which had been held up by the Inter-American Development Bank officially released on May 9, 2003. It is my hope that we can continue to push for the full release of these loans and the potential for future humanitarian grants through the IDB. I also believe we must move forward on establishing a health infrastructure for efficient delivery of these health and social sector funds.

Today I submit this legislation, and thank all of my original cosponsors: Reps. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, AL WYNN, DONALD PAYNE, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, ROBERT WEXLER, JOHN CONYERS, CORRINE BROWN, and MAJOR OWENS.

I look forward to the support of my colleagues and the Administration.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with you the attached letter, which I recently received from the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems in support of my and my colleagues' legislative efforts to enable Americans to access prescription drugs from Canada. I would like this letter included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS,
Montpelier, VT, September 29, 2003
The Honorable BERNARD SANDERS,
House of Representatives,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: On behalf of the hospitals in Vermont, I am writing to extend our support for your efforts to allow for the re-importation of prescription drugs from Canada. As you well know, access to safe, affordable medication is an issue for many Americans. In our rural state, patients of all ages travel to Canada to purchase FDA-approved, less expensive medications. That option should be available to all patients seeking more affordable prescription drug coverage.

Our hospitals are committed to ensuring that our patients have access to affordable, quality healthcare. We applaud your efforts and the efforts of your colleagues on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

THOMAS HUEBNER,
Board Chair,
M. BETRICE GRAUSE,
President & CEO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on October 28, 2003, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall vote nos. 569–573.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On rollcall 569, "yea;" on rollcall 570, "yea;" on rollcall 571, "yea;" on rollcall 572, "nay;" and on rollcall 573, "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall no. 566: "no" (on H. Res. 407); rollcall no. 567: "yes" (on the Obey motion to instruct conferees); and rollcall no. 568: "yes" (on H.J. Res. 73).

EXTENDING AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for their support of the "Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act," H.R. 1616 and the bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., S. 470. These bills extend the authority for and make possible the construction of a national memorial commemorating the achievements of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his commitment to the struggle of civil rights for all Americans.

Dr. King dedicated his life to the realization of full equal and civil rights for all Americans irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. He stood on the front lines in the struggle against social injustice, discrimination, and inequality, often at great risk to himself. Despite numerous death threats, Dr. King never wavered in that commitment.

Madam Speaker, the Lewis and Sarbanes bills are a win-win situation for all parties involved. The National Park Service currently owns a vacant lot that does not have any significant historic value. The City of Atlanta would like to acquire this land for the sole purpose of encouraging commercial development within its city limits. In addition, the land on which the National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum currently sits is land-locked and lacks adequate emergency access. Exchanging this land within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for property in

which the National Park Service could establish easy access to the Visitor Center and Museum would be mutually beneficial to both parties. This would simultaneously resolve the National Park Service's access issue and give the City of Atlanta much needed commercial space.

Madam Speaker, once again I am proud to support both bills the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Land Exchange Act and the bill to extend the authority for construction of the MLK Memorial. I would like to give a special thanks to my colleagues Mr. LEWIS and Senator SARBANES for their leadership in sponsoring these important pieces of legislation and in helping to keep the dream alive.

HONORING BILL AND SUE GROSS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Orange County Department of Education to thank two outstanding individuals, Bill and Sue Gross, whose unparalleled commitment to teachers in California is an inspiration in the field of education.

Each year more than fifty public, private, and community college teachers from Orange County, California, are recognized for their outstanding contributions and dedicated efforts in the field of education. The Orange County Department of Education, led by Superintendent William M. Habermehl, coordinates the annual selection and recognition of these teachers.

During the last dozen years, the Teachers of the Year program has had the additional support and generosity of two local residents, Bill and Sue Gross. In 1991, the Grosses established the Dr. James Hines Foundation in memory of a teacher who had positively influenced Sue Gross' life. In the ensuing 12 years, through the Foundation, the Grosses have given over \$1 million in cash awards to these exemplary teachers. This year, as an added surprise, Bill and Sue Gross invited all one hundred 2003 and 2004 Teachers of the Year nominees to be their guests on a 10-day cruise to Alaska.

Orange County residents Bill and Sue Gross are champions of teaching excellence, deserving of special commendation and recognition by the Congress of the United States of America. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bill and Sue Gross for their years of commitment to California's educators.

92ND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 92nd National Day celebration of Taiwan. The Republic of China on Taiwan is a flourishing democracy of 23 million citizens who, like us, cherish their constitutional guarantees of freedom and human rights.

Over the years, Taiwan has transformed itself from a one-party dictatorship to a vibrant

multipart democracy. Free and fair elections are held at all levels of government—elections in which nearly 70 percent of Taiwan's citizens participate. The Taiwanese enjoy many freedoms including the right of assembly, expression and association, freedom of religion and freedom of the press. Human rights are well-established and protected. Taiwan is committed to upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and the Declaration and Action Program of the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights.

Taiwan has the world's 12th largest economy and is the United States 8th largest trading partner. Its GDP of \$386 billion is the 23rd largest in the world. However, perhaps more impressive is the fact that only 1 percent of its population live below the poverty line. Its thriving, market-based economy has enabled it to contribute generously to international aid efforts. In the first half of 2001, Taiwan provided nearly \$700,000 through its International Cooperation and Development Program. The Republic of China-Central American Economic Development Fund has also enabled it to solidify cooperative relationships with Central American nations and reflects Taiwan's growing interest in that area.

Last year, Secretary of State Colin Powell praised Taiwan, stating that it has become "a resilient economy, a vibrant democracy and a generous contributor to the international community." He called it a "success story" for Asia and the world—words with which I heartily agree.

It is particularly important at this time to recognize and to thank nations that have been our unswerving friends for many years. We must also acknowledge those democracies that have stood as our allies. I take great pleasure in congratulating Taiwan on its National Day celebration and look forward to a continuation of our mutually beneficial relationship.

HONORING THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a great man, a man who died before his time, the late Senator Paul Wellstone.

On October 25, 2002, the people of Minnesota, the Senate and our nation lost a beloved colleague and humanitarian. Paul Wellstone was a man of deep convictions who cared deeply for those around him. A champion of working families, the poor, the disenfranchised, the forgotten, the voiceless, and the disabled, Paul Wellstone was a liberal Democrat in the truest sense of the term during a time when liberalism was not politically fashionable.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Wellstone took stands on issues of principle. He voted against the Resolution authorizing the use of military force in Iraq and the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. He was the only Democrat to vote against the Democratic version of the estate tax repeal; opposed the Administration's national missile defense program and was against permanent normal trade relations with China. Paul

Wellstone was not ashamed of voting his conscience, even if this meant that he would often stand alone. For this, Senator Wellstone won the accolades of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, as the son of immigrant Russian Jews, Paul Wellstone believed in the promise of America. Prior to his entry into the United States Senate, this plain-spoken man was a devoted and beloved associate professor of political science at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he taught for 21 years. And although diagnosed with a mild case of multiple sclerosis, Paul did not let it incapacitate him. He continued to fight for those issues dear to his heart: affordable universal health care, mental health parity, family leave, veterans affairs, and environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly blessed to have known Paul Wellstone. On that fateful day 1 year ago on October 25, 2002, I lost a beloved friend and colleague and the world lost a fearless and selfless public servant and tireless advocate for justice. He has left a deep void in this institution and is truly missed. He is often remembered for a particular saying—that "people yearn for a 'politics of the center', not 'the center' so widely discussed by politicians and pundits in Washington, but, rather, a politics that speaks to the center of people's lives." On this 1-year anniversary of the death of this courageous and principled man I urge my colleagues to commit themselves to his legacy and fight for the things to which Paul Wellstone dedicated his life. I know I will.

A TRIBUTE TO CHIEF OF POLICE
ELVIN G. MIALI ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding official of the city of Fountain Valley, California. Chief of Police Elvin G. Miali has devoted almost four decades of his life in service to his community and to his country. Chief Miali has excelled in his many law enforcement assignments over the years beginning in the city of San Gabriel and culminating in the city of Fountain Valley.

The experience, commitment and professionalism which Chief Miali brings to the leadership of a major law enforcement organization is highly respected and commended by his peers throughout Orange County and the State of California. Setting high standards for himself and all his department personnel and staff, he is known for achieving exceptional results under the most demanding of situations. The trademark of his leadership is "first class, the first time, every time."

Chief Miali began his law enforcement career on February 27, 1967, with the city of San Gabriel, California, where he rose through the ranks and achieved the position of Captain. During this time his assignments included the Detective Bureau for 12 years, six of which dealt with robbery and homicide. In August 1986, he was selected Chief of Police for the Fountain Valley Police Department. His community contributions during 17 years as Chief of Police include active efforts to combat drug abuse, child abuse, and drinking and

driving, as well as promoting charitable efforts such as helping underprivileged children at Christmas. Before it had a name, Chief Miali introduced the Community-Oriented Policing philosophy.

A most distinguished police officer with an undergraduate degree in Police Science, a master's degree in Public Administration, and a graduate of the POST Command College and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program, Chief Miali is known throughout Fountain Valley and Orange County as one of the city's principal ambassadors.

Chief Miali, together with his wife Charli and their two children, Elvin and Carla, are proud citizens of Fountain Valley, a city which can rightfully look to Chief Miali for making its motto "A Nice Place to Live" happen every day.

Mr. Speaker, as Chief Miali completes his 36 years of devoted public service in law enforcement, and sets his course for new and ever challenging community involvement, I am sure my colleagues will join me in saluting him and thanking him for the exemplary job "well done"—for Fountain Valley, for California, and for America.

SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act. This important legislation takes a strong and decisive stand against international terrorism. It also demonstrates the firm resolve of the United States in opposing those who support terrorism or provide funding and safe harbor for its perpetrators.

Syria continues to be a major sponsor of international terrorist groups, and has been listed by the State Department as a sponsor of terrorism since the inception of the terrorist list in 1979. Numerous terrorist groups, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and at least seven more, have headquarters in Damascus. In addition to offices, these groups maintain training camps and other facilities on Syrian territory. Hizballah, referred to as the "A-team of terrorism" by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, operates in areas of Lebanon occupied by Syria and receives supplies from Iran through Syria. In doing so, Syria is in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 which directs all states to "refrain from providing any form of support" for terrorism. Furthermore, their attacks on Israel, launched with the acquiescence of the Syrian government, harm innocent civilians and risk leading to a wider regional war.

In addition to its harboring of international terrorism, Syria's 20,000 strong occupation force has continued to occupy Lebanese territory, denying Lebanon its independence and political sovereignty. This occupation has also prevented Lebanon from fulfilling its obligation under UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 520 to deploy its troops to southern Lebanon. As a result, southern Lebanon is under the control of the terrorist group Hizballah,