

Marine Lance Cpl. David Owens Jr., age 20, served his country with pride and honor. His loss has touched many in this community. It is fitting that this plaque have a permanent place at James Wood High School as a remembrance of David's sacrifice for his country.

I know this has been a difficult time for his parents. As the father of five children, my heart goes out to them. They, too, have made the ultimate sacrifice.

I ask that everyone here tonight remember all the service men and women who have lost their lives defending our freedom. We owe them and their families a huge debt of gratitude.

I also ask that everyone pray for the men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in Iraq, in Afghanistan and other parts of the world where we have a military presence. They need and deserve our support.

I want to read the words of the hymn "Eternal Father," also known as the "Navy Hymn," which is often sung at the funeral of service men and women, particularly sailors and Marines.

It was the favorite hymn of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a former secretary of the Navy, and was sung at his funeral in Hyde Park, New York, in 1945.

It also was played by the Navy band in 1963 as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to lie in state.

Eternal Father, strong to save
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
To all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength and skill
Their land to serve, they law fulfill;
Be thou the shield forevermore
From every peril to the Corps.

May we all remember Lance Cpl. David Owens, Jr. and keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

REMARKS BY FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN, RICHARD SHICKLE

Tonight we are here to honor Marine Lance Cpl. David Owens, Jr. He made the ultimate sacrifice. He gave all that he had for his Country. He gave his life for each and every one of us. But he is not the only one that gave something to this great country and to each and every one of us. David Edward Owens, Sr. and Deborah Owens, mother and father, gave us their son Marine Lance Cpl. David Owens, Jr.

As a father of four I cannot imagine the pride and the pain that these two people must feel each and every day. The questions "Why him?" and "Why us?" must haunt them every minute of every day.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens, all that we can say is "Thank you" from the bottom of our hearts. Please allow the citizens of Frederick County to become part of your family.

REMARKS BY FREDERICK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMAN, STUART WOLK

Tonight I stand before you humbled. Humbled by a life short lived but more accomplished in those few years than I can imagine accomplishing in my lifetime.

A few short years ago, David Owens engaged in battle on the ground we are now standing on. He fought valiantly for his team then and upon leaving James Wood, continued to fight valiantly. Only this time, the stakes were bigger and his new team for which he was fighting was our country. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his team and we mourn his loss tonight, as we have since receiving the tragic news. There is no great-

er love for country, for humanity than to give one's life for the freedom we all cherish. Let us never take those freedoms for granted and let us always remember the supreme sacrifice made by our hero: Lance Cpl. David Owens, Jr.

I cannot begin to fathom the loss that Mr. and Mrs. Owens have experienced but I wish to thank them for their son and the manner in which he always conducted himself. As a member of the Frederick County School Board, as a citizen of Frederick County and of this great country, I feel fortunate to stand here in his memory and in his honor.

Thank you.

BASIC PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION AND EXPANSION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in strong support of S. 1685, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003. This Member, who is a cosponsor of the House measure, would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) for introducing the measure.

Under S. 1685, the Basic Pilot Program, which is an employment verification program, would be extended through 2008 and, indeed, would expand access to the program for the entire U.S.

Mr. Speaker, the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 correctly prohibited employers from knowingly hiring illegal aliens or people with non-immigrant visas. Unfortunately, at that time, Congress did not give employers the corresponding tools with which to comply with this Act.

For example, due to concerns regarding discrimination, employers are limited in the questions they may ask of potential employees to verify if those individuals are authorized to work in the U.S. If the employment verification documents that potential employees produce appear to be legitimate, then employers must accept the documents as legitimate without further inquiry of the potential employee.

During Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) enforcement raids, certain employers were found to have hired large numbers of illegal aliens, either knowingly or unintentionally, and subsequently they were subject to penalties. As technology has progressed to allow for the cheap and quick production of legitimate-looking fraudulent documents, the inability of employers to distinguish between valid documents and fraudulent documents has significantly increased. It became clear that businesses dedicated to complying with the IRCA needed new tools to assist with the endeavor.

When the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 was enacted, it authorized the creation of three employment verification tools, including the Basic Pilot Program. Initially, employers in California, Florida, Texas, Illinois, Florida, New York, and Iowa could voluntarily use the Basic Pilot Program to compare the information received from potential employees with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) databases to determine if potential employees could be employed legally in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the 1990's, many legal immigrants and illegal aliens moved to Nebraska seeking jobs in the meatpacking industry. Subsequently, this Member began to receive contacts from businesses in his district concerned about their capacity to comply with the IRCA. Therefore, on November 30, 1999, this Member joined his House and Senate colleagues in the Nebraska Congressional Delegation in a letter to then-INS Commissioner Doris Meissner requesting the extension of the Basic Pilot Program to Nebraska. This Member continues to firmly believe that providing Nebraska businesses with the tools to hire a legal workforce is an important component in maintaining a stable economy in the state and in meeting needs to effectively enforce immigration laws in this country's interior. On March 19, 1999, the U.S. Department of Justice granted Nebraska businesses access to the Basic Pilot Program. Currently, about eight Nebraska businesses actively utilize the program.

Mr. Speaker, for Congress to allow the Basic Pilot Program to lapse following the horrific and unspeakable terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, would demonstrate true negligence. More than ever, the U.S. must fully enforce its immigration laws to protect its citizens from future attacks. In its capacity to identify document fraud and illegal aliens, the Basic Pilot Program can indeed play a role in the fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, this Member encourages his colleagues to vote for S. 1685.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ELSBERRY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a devoted patriot from Denver, Colorado. Pat Elsberry is a great citizen who works to inspire America's youth to become involved with the American legion. Her enthusiasm permeates through the community as she passes her knowledge of the military and veteran's issues to her fellow Coloradans. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing her tremendous contributions to the Denver community.

Each day, Pat proudly flies an American flag above her home. In Pat's garage, she displays scores of pictures, flags, articles and other memorabilia from the Korean War. Each keepsake is illustrative of Pat's patriotism and deep love for our country. During the Korean conflict, Pat answered our country's call to duty and honorably served in the Army for four years.

Pat has held the position of Commander of American Legion Post 37 for the past three years. In that time, membership numbers have soared from 40 to more than 160. Under Pat's guidance, the American Legion visits various schools in the area to talk about previous wars and what it means to be a veteran and serve our nation in the armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Elsberry is a dedicated individual who enriches the lives of her fellow Americans by educating them on the history of our country. Pat has encouraged the support

of our American servicemen and women through her compassionate speeches and leadership. Pat's enthusiasm and selfless service to those in the Denver community, and this nation, certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3550 "THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS"

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, along with nearly every member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I and Congressman JIM OBERSTAR are introducing a truly historic highway and transit funding bill that will benefit every State in the Nation.

The introduction of this bipartisan legislation would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of Congressman OBERSTAR. In addition, the Chairman PETRI of the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, along with the subcommittee ranking Democrat, Congressman LIPINSKI were instrumental in getting this legislation written for introduction.

The legislation provides \$375 billion over the next six years. This proposed level of funding is based upon the needs of our country as outlined in the U.S. Department of Transportation Condition and Performance report.

With this bill, we will have the resources to maintain our existing transportation infrastructure and begin to improve it as well. We can address our national congestion crisis and safety problems.

Our transportation infrastructure is old and getting worse. Thirty two percent of our major roads are in poor or mediocre condition and 28% of our bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Congestion is affecting our quality of life and costing our nation \$67 billion a year—more than \$1,100 for the average commuter each year.

Commuters are sitting longer and longer in traffic jams and billions of gallons of fuel is wasted each year due to congestion.

Most importantly, this country is facing a transportation safety crisis. More than 42,000 people die each year on our roads and highways. Nearly one-third of all these fatal crashes are caused by substandard road conditions and roadside hazards. This is totally unacceptable for the most advanced nation in the world.

Over the next six years, we provide \$298 billion for highway, road and bridge improvements . . . and \$69 billion for transit programs.

This legislation proposes to increase the minimum guaranteed percentage for every State from 90.5 percent to 95 percent by 2009. We understand that more equity is needed for all 50 States.

The bill significantly increases funding for highway safety programs.

In addition, the bill authorizes \$17.6 billion for "Projects of National and Regional Significance"—a major boost for these important projects.

It also authorizes \$7.5 billion to address the problem of railroad-highway crossings and the elimination of road hazards.

Our legislation will also have another positive benefit by giving a major boost to our nation's economy. Nationally, this proposal creates more than 1.3 million new highway jobs over the next six years.

It is time to face the facts—our highways, bridges and transit systems are aging and not up to the standards which our citizens expect. We need to stimulate the economy and this important legislation will do just that. America's congestion and safety crisis will not go away—it must be addressed immediately.

Enactment of this landmark legislation is a legacy for all users of our transportation infrastructure, both today and for future generations and moves our aging transportation system into the 21st century.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE ACT OF 2003

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2003 and in celebration of the Nation's family caregivers during National Family Caregivers Month and Alzheimer's Awareness month. This week before Thanksgiving, as we anticipate gathering with family, friends and loved ones, I am privileged to recognize and honor the millions of family caregivers who care for family members with disabling or chronic conditions such as those afflicted by Alzheimer's disease. There is no doubt in my mind that caregivers—those who devote themselves selflessly to caring for loved ones with disease such as Alzheimer's—are the true heroes. I know because my dear mother was a victim of Alzheimer's and my father was a hero caring for her to the day she died.

Today over 4.5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Almost half of all Americans over age 85 suffer from this devastating debilitation. With the graying of the baby boomer population a sharp increase in Alzheimer's disease is expected. Over 70 percent of people afflicted with Alzheimer's disease live at home, with 75 percent of home bound care provided by family and friends. There are over 25 million family caregivers in America and by 2020, the number of adults requiring assistance with daily living will increase to almost 40 million, placing a tremendous load on the family caregivers.

We cannot afford to lose any family caregivers to stress or illness. We as a nation cannot afford it because family caregivers provide \$250 billion per year in unpaid care. Yet, the lack of support is taking its toll on caregivers. While a large proportion of caregivers report finding an inner strength, significant numbers report serious physical or mental health problems, including headaches, stomach disorders, back pain, sleepless nights and depression. Mortality risks for caregivers are 63 percent higher than for noncaregivers.

In addition to serious health consequences, many families suffer emotionally and economically. Families of children with disabilities face a significantly higher divorce rate than families

of children without disabilities. Lack of respite care has even been found to interfere with the ability of parents of children with disabilities to accept job opportunities.

Without adequate family support, children with disabilities face a nearly 4 times higher risk of abuse and neglect than children without disabilities and the abuse rate of the elderly is unacceptably high.

Respite works. It allows families to remain together and avoid more costly out-of-home placements. Hospitalizations, institutionalization, nursing home and foster care placements have been shown to actually decline when respite or crisis care is the intervention.

This bill will help create a family caregiving respite policy in our country, not just a band-aid solution. Families are under greater stress today than ever before and the numbers who will assume caregiving roles is rising at an alarming rate. Respite works, respite saves money, respite save families. We cannot afford to ignore the family caregivers any longer. We must give them respite.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATT MCCHESENEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated law enforcement officer from my district. Deputy Matt McChesney is a caring and capable law enforcement professional who is committed to improving the lives of families impacted by domestic violence. I am proud to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Matt's tremendous service to the Colorado community before this body of Congress and our nation.

Matt often sacrifices sleep, and the few days he has off, to come into the District Attorney's office the morning after a domestic abuse arrest. There, he works tirelessly to ensure that each victim is treated with dignity and respect. In addition, Matt works with the Victim's Assistance Program and the Operations Division to educate and train volunteers on how to assist victims. For Matt's dedication and commitment to others, he was recently named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The people in Matt's district are safer as the result of his service and protection.

Mr. Speaker, Matt McChesney is a dedicated individual who sacrifices his time to helping those who are victim to the terrors of domestic violence. His compassion and selfless service to our state definitely deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks for your service Matt, and congratulations on a well-deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for four votes on Wednesday, November 19, 2003. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: