

and parliamentary leadership, which contributes to that country's self-imposed isolation.

In addition, this bill would impose sanctions against the Lukashenka regime, and deny high-ranking officials of the regime entry into the United States. Strategic exports to the Belarusian Government would be prohibited, as well as U.S. Government financing, except for humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products. The U.S. Executive Directors of the international financial institutions would be encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance that serve humanitarian needs.

The bill would require reports from the President concerning the sale or delivery of weapons or weapons-related technologies from Belarus to rogue states.

Mr. Speaker, finally, it is my hope that this bill would help put an end to the pattern of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE commitments by the Lukashenka regime and will serve as a catalyst to facilitate Belarus' integration into democratic Europe in which democratic principles and human rights are respected and the rule of law is paramount. The Belarusian people deserve our support as they work to overcome the legacy of the past and develop a genuinely independent, democratic country based on the rule of law and democratic institutions.

TRIBUTE TO THE WEBSTER HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Webster Schroeder High School Men's Varsity Football Team for winning the Class AA New York State Football Championship and for their outstanding efforts throughout this past season.

With great patience, courage, and dedication the Webster Warriors came together this season to capture the New York State Title, 28–7 against the Shenendehowa High School Football Team. The Webster Warriors, ranked eighth in Eastern Region Football, have continued their 19 game winning streak, the third longest in the state, with a perfect 13–0 season.

Through teamwork and determination the Warriors have established themselves as fierce competitors in AA Football. The team has stayed focused on its goals and has not let anyone stand in its way towards reigning at the top of the division.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, it is my honor to congratulate the Webster Schroeder High School Football Team and their coaching staff on their Class AA State Football Championship. With these remarks, I would like to recognize the following players and staff. Andrew Fichera, Mike Smith, Justin Costanza, Mike Kaplun, Ray Jones, Joe Aquilina, Dave Serinis, RJ Kelly, Eddie Paffendorf, John Piccone, Jack Mooney, Mike Mahoney, Janney Appell, Dave Dodge, Lee Williams, Mike Stencil, Carl Garritano, Phil Galletto, Jeremy Powers, Mitch Pawluk, Mike Ruggieri, Steve Caezza, Mike Hughes, Marco Falletta, Joe Nacca, Jim Mikolajko,

Chris Joyce, Greg Pitts, Khyle Petrie, Andrew Hughes, Bryan Lehrer, Ryan Johnson, Aaron Frank, Craig Avalone, Jimmy Johnson, Brandon Mack, Rob Herman, Melood Abugasea, Mike Yokopovich, Chris Massaro, Mark Dyroff, Steve Jonas, Dave Burgess, Joe Powell, Chris McClurg, Brian Caston, Justin Schifano, Russ Corona, Steve Hollis, Jeff Bucciarelli, Evan McConnell, Chad Costanza, Brian Mack, Billy Bulmahn, Mark Chavoustie, Head Coach Anthony Bianchi, and Assistants Jim Bellucco, Dave Howlett, Chris Urban, Jim Cleveland, Jim Fichera, and Vito Torregiano.

IN HONOR OF HECTOR M.
CORCHADO, RECIPIENT OF THE
HISPANIC AMERICAN GOOD
SCOUT AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Hector Corchado who was honored on February 7th at the Hispanic American Good Scout Award Dinner at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

A longtime resident of Newark, Councilman Corchado has proven himself to be an effective and dedicated member of his community. Elected to the City Council in 2002, Mr. Corchado began his career in the Newark Police Department over 14 years ago, where he served as a detective and sergeant in the Community Affairs Division. A natural leader in the Police Department, he went on to become deputy mayor of Newark before serving on the City Council.

Committed to improving the lives of Newark citizens, Mr. Corchado has been extensively involved with community organizations throughout Newark: he has organized neighborhood clean-up projects, coordinated Block Associations to work with other community groups, and assisted small businesses and churches with smart-growth development. While with the Newark Police, he developed a system now used to track and identify gang activity. He also helped draft legislation to ensure fair participation of local contractors and businesses in Newark.

Councilman Corchado has participated in the Leadership Newark Program and served as a member to the Essex County Commission on Unity.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Hector Corchado for his dedicated service to his community and for his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his fellow citizens.

THE ARTISTS' CONTRIBUTION TO
AMERICAN HERITAGE ACT

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, together with a bipartisan group of our colleagues, in introducing the "Artists' Contribution to American Heritage Act of

2003." The bill would alleviate an unfairness in the tax law as it applies to charitable donations of property by the taxpayer/creator and significantly enhance the ability of museums and public libraries to acquire important original works by artists, writers and composers, and ensure the preservation of these works for future generations. The proposed legislation is the same as we introduced in the 106th and 107th Congresses, except for advancing the effective date by a year.

Since 1969, the law has provided that the creator of the artistic property is only allowed a charitable deduction equal to the cost of materials that went into the property. For example, an established artist who donates a painting to the local museum is allowed a deduction for the cost of the canvas, brushes and paint, etc. used to produce the painting. Of course, these amounts are de minimus. There is no real tax incentive to contribute such works of art for the public to enjoy. In fact, the tax law works in the other direction. It makes more financial sense to the creator to sell his or her work. If a collector or art buff buys a painting that appreciates over time, because the artist becomes well established or was a known and collected artist when the painting was purchased, the collector is allowed a deduction for fair market value when the painting is contributed to the local museum. This is the fairness issue.

Before 1969, the artists/taxpayers received the same treatment—the deduction was based on fair market value. The law was changed, primarily because of the perception that some taxpayers were taking advantage of the law through less than accurate valuations of their charitable gifts. After the law was changed in 1969, gifts of donor generated art work (paintings, manuscripts, compositions, artistic and historically significant correspondence and papers) to qualifying charitable organizations and governmental entities dropped significantly. Creators were more likely to sell their works than to contribute them. The situation has not improved over the years.

There have been significant changes in the valuation process since 1969. All taxpayers making charitable contributions of art work (other than donor generated art work) are required to: (a) provide and/or retain relevant information as to the value of the gift, (b) provide appraisals by qualified appraisers or, in some cases, (c) subject them to review by the IRS's Art Advisory Panel, depending on the dollar amount of the contribution. These changes would apply to creator-donated property under our proposal.

In addition to the valuation safeguards already in the law, our proposal would add additional protections to prevent abuse. These include the following: (a) limiting the value of the deduction to the amount of income the creator received from similar property and/or similar activities, (b) providing that the deduction can only be claimed in the year of contribution, i.e. the carry over rules do not apply, (c) limiting the deduction to property created at least 18 months before the contribution, (d) limiting the deduction to gifts related to the purpose of the institution which receives it, and (e) excluding contributions of property (letters, memos, etc.) created by taxpayers in their role as employees or officers of an organization.

The benefit to the nation when artists are encouraged to contribute their work during their lifetime cannot be overemphasized. It allows the public, historians, scholars and others

to learn from the artist his/her aesthetic aims for the work; how it was intended to be displayed, performed or interpreted; and what influences affected the artist.

Our proposal represents an important step in providing some tax incentive, with needed safeguards, for the creators and moves toward putting them on the same footing as collectors who contribute similar property. It could make the difference in a decision by the creator/donor to contribute some of their created work to a museum or public library. That way important works are preserved and we all benefit. We urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MORTGAGE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation that I am reintroducing with my colleague, JOSE SERRANO of New York. Following the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, individuals who required temporary housing assistance relied upon the Mortgage and Rental Assistance program (MRA), included in the Stafford Act, for aid. Under the MRA program, which can be used for both natural and non-natural disasters, they may have been eligible for grants to repair homes to a habitable condition, or to obtain mortgage or rental payment assistance to prevent foreclosures or evictions.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 amended the Stafford Act to end the program in May 2002. Without this program, thousands of people affected by future major disasters, including hurricanes, earthquakes, and terrorist acts, may be unable to obtain any assistance to address their housing needs.

This legislation reauthorizes this program so that it will be available in the future. Although there were clear problems with FEMA's implementation of the MRA program in New York after 9/11, progress has been made to ensure that FEMA assists all the individuals who have experienced these types of housing problems because of the terrorist attack. With the program finally running the way it should, we must take the necessary steps now to guarantee that anyone affected by future disasters will have the aid that they need.

DO-NOT-CALL IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday February 12, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, as someone who has, my share of unsolicited telemarketing calls, I sympathize fully with the concerns of the sponsors of the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act (HR 395). However, I would remind those who support federal intervention to "put a stop" to telemarketing on the basis of its annoyance, that the Constitution prohibits the

federal government from interfering in the areas of advertising and communications.

In addition to exceeding Congress' constitutional authority, legislation to regulate telemarketing would allow the government to intrude further into our personal lives. Our country's founders recognized the genius of severely limiting the role of government and reserving to the people extensive liberties, including the freedom to handle problems like this on the local level and through private institutions. The fact that the privately-run Direct Marketing Association is operating its own "do-not-call" list is evidence that consumers need not rely upon the national government to address the problems associated with telemarketers. Furthermore, many state public utility commissions have imposed regulations on telemarketers. Further regulation at the federal level will only result in a greater loss of liberty. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to take the constitutional course and oppose the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act.

RECOGNITION OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S BIRTHDAY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, when we hear the term "women's rights" we must think of the early suffragette Susan B. Anthony who fought to establish equality for women. But few people equate this woman with the plight of the unborn.

I'd like to take the opportunity, on this 183rd year following her birth, to commemorate the woman who fought to bring equality to women, African Americans, and unborn children.

Long before pro-choice advocates took the term "women's rights" for their own cause, Susan B. Anthony and the early suffragists were advocating "women's rights." Among the women's rights demanded by the suffragists was the right of a mother to give birth to her child. In fact, Anthony has been quoted as stating that abortion destroys a woman's life, wronging her greatly. For Anthony, women's rights and the rights of unborn children are partners in the same cause.

Let us recognize in the voice of Susan B. Anthony the truth that abortion is a great wrong. Mothers who choose to have an abortion both extinguish the light of their unborn child and inflict almost certain emotional damage upon themselves. There is no reason for this needless pain and suffering to go on.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF THE ELKS, NAPA, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, Napa Chapter, for providing 100 years of out-

standing community service throughout the Napa Valley in my home state of California.

Over the past century, every corner of our community has benefited from the contributions made from the distinguished membership of the Napa Elks Lodge #832. From its stage productions that entertained an entire community throughout the early 1900's to the charitable contributions it has provided families needing shelter, food and education, the Napa Elks Lodge has been a cornerstone of our community.

When the youth of our area need help in funding school programs or financial assistance to attend college, the Napa's Elks Lodge is always there with a helping hand. The same holds true for assisting community organizations that help our most vulnerable neighbors. Last year alone, dedicated Elks members raised over \$8,000 for the Napa Emergency Women's Services, Children or Parents Emergency Services, Youth Programs and Job Rehabilitation. Every year it awards over \$20,000 in college scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Mr. Speaker, during this past century the Napa Elks Lodge has been more than a tremendous service organization. Its members have provided daily examples of personal and social responsibility as well as advocating the Elks principles of justice, fidelity, charity and the spirit of American patriotism. Kelly Lamm, who will become the next Exalted Ruler, exemplifies the progression of this outstanding organization. A past board member of the local women's bar association and long-time volunteer with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, Ms. Lamm's commitment to service is a model of the true Elks character. She will soon be accepting the reigns from Exalted Leader Bret Meltzer who has provided outstanding leadership in guiding the Lodge to its recent successes.

Mr. Speaker, the Elks represent a dedicated and meaningful fabric of our community. As they are the standard by which other service organizations should compare themselves, it is most appropriate that we honor them on their centennial celebration.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH ACT OF 2003

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Environmental Health Research Act of 2003.

Arctic polar bears show high concentrations of certain synthetic compounds in their tissues. Whales in the world's oceans carry PCBs and other contaminants at concentrations that cause developmental defects in humans.

U.S. streams and groundwater show widespread contamination with chemicals, dioxins, and antibiotics. Alligators in Florida's lakes suffer from reproductive problems that appear to be associated with chronic chemical contamination. New studies have made a persuasive case that contaminants were in part or wholly responsible for the loss of the lake trout and herring in the Great Lakes many decades ago.