

defense. The goal of the Cadet Corps is to encourage young people to develop an interest in basic seamanship and teach cadets patriotism, courage, confidence and self reliance.

Cadet CPO Downey has been a member of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Program's Tomcat Squadron for over 5 years. She has completed a large number of advanced training courses over her tenure in the program, including seamanship training aboard the USNSCS *Grayfox*, Coast Guard training, Master at Arms School, and Petty Officer Leadership Academy. In addition, she has completed sixty-four hours of community service and won numerous citations and ribbons.

Cadet CPO Downey's promotion to Chief Petty Officer was brought to my attention in a letter from her Commanding Officer, LTJG Lisa Stoyanovich, who writes me to say that CPO Downey "is a very personable young woman who takes pride in herself and her unit. CPO Downey's performance of her duties is always top-notch, her leadership abilities are exceptional, and her ability to motivate other cadets is finely tuned. Through her years of Navy League Cadet and Naval Sea Cadet training, she has earned the respect of her peers, and the officers in the unit."

The letter from Lieutenant Stoyanovich goes on to say that "Chief Petty Officer Downey has developed into a mature, solid leader and is a fine example of what the Sea Cadet Corps hopes to develop in young people."

I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Petty Officer Jennifer Downey for her achievements as a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

OPPOSING THE SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill despite being one of its cosponsors and having voted for it when it came before the House on October 15th.

I strongly believe Syria's actions ought to be called into question. To say this regime is a bad actor is putting it mildly. Their actions are rightly condemned, especially when it comes to their tacit support for terrorism and ongoing occupation of Lebanon. The United States ought to use the tools at our disposal—both political and economic—to demand an end to their egregious policies.

There is, however, a reason why I am voting against this resolution. It is based on my long held reservations about the President's intentions on foreign policy. Given his belligerent declarations yesterday, I have genuine concerns that he may seek authority in this resolution to pursue aggressive military action against Syria.

After all, Mr. Speaker, this President did not need much to march to war against Iraq. At best, the evidence was soft, the intelligence was trumped up and now not a grain of proof can be found showing Iraq had any weapons of mass destruction. But, ultimately, President Bush used past declarations of Congress meant merely to reprimand Iraq for its policies to justify full-blown war against that regime.

This resolution today contains provisions that rightly admonish Syria, but do so on the

basis of reasonable beliefs and assumptions, not proven facts. Most notably, there is reference to Syria's "hostile actions" in regard to the United States and our troops in Iraq. Although our suspicions are well founded, there is as yet no proven connection between the government of Syria and terrorism in Iraq.

I have concerns the President may not draw this distinction and take these words as grounds for pursuing preemptive military action.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't trust this President. His actions toward Iraq have clearly demonstrated his willingness to lie to the American people. But, they also underscore his willingness to use force indiscriminately without the burden of proof.

I cannot support a resolution that might be used as a vehicle for the President to act counter to the interest of the American people. I vote "no" on this resolution.

HONORING THE BASIC HIGH SCHOOL MJROTC UNIT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Basic High School Marine Corps JROTC unit. I am proud to represent this outstanding group of young men and women and urge the entire House to join me in commending them today.

The MJROTC unit at Basic High, in Henderson, Nevada is one of the top JROTC units in the country, having been recognized as a Naval Honor School for the 2002–2003 school year. In addition, the Basic High MJROTC unit is the National Champion of the unarmed competition at the United States Air Force Academy National Invitational Drill Meet Championship, and has won seven times in the last 9 years. The Basic High armed competition unit has won the National Championship every time it has competed.

Basic High MJROTC is not only a champion on the drill field; it is also a champion in producing young men and women of character. Basic High MJROTC has been an active part of honoring Veterans Day in Henderson, with the whole battalion presenting the colors for the City of Henderson ceremony. The unit also led the local celebrations of the 228th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps. I want to thank the members of the unit, and instructors Lieutenant Colonel Montgomery, Master Gunnery Sergeant Ignatz, and First Sergeant Rael for standing always faithful, "Semper Fidelis," to the best traditions of Nevada, America, and the U.S. Marine Corps.

HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the amazing life and contributions of Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, OP, Ph.D., as she prepares to retire from service to the

Barry University community this December. Sister Jeanne is the president of Barry University, which is located in Miami Shores, Florida. Since becoming president in 1981, Sister Jeanne has worked endlessly to increase the reputation and endowment of Barry University, raise hundreds of millions of dollars for her student's aid, and create a student body and alumni that stretches 70 countries, ranking number one in diversity among southern regional universities.

Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where she first learned what it meant to love and educate. As a little girl, she realized that in order to stop hatred, crime, and injustice, education must be the first priority on any agenda. Sister recalls the story when she was a 13-year old girl riding a streetcar in Detroit, she noticed a black woman enter the car with four small children. As the streetcar lurched forward, one of the children fell into her lap. Without hesitating, young Jeanne gladly held the young child for the remainder of the ride. Later, as a man departed the streetcar, he walked by and spit on young Jeanne.

Startled by what occurred, Jeanne asked her father later that evening why the man spit on her. Jeanne's father replied, "prejudice". Innocently, Jeanne asked, "how do you stop that?" "Education" was her father's answer. This simple response began a vision. A vision we honor today.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters founded Barry University in 1940, as a university dedicated to educating women. Since then, the University has continued to be administered by women, including the last 22-years with Sister Jeanne at the helm. My first year in the people's House, was also Sister's first year as Barry president. The year was 1981, and for Sister Jeanne it was the beginning of an educational revolution. In 22 tremendous years, Barry has changed from a predominantly women's university of 2,000, into a diverse campus of 8,500. She has raised nearly \$170 million for the university since she took office and has seen the university contribute nearly \$200 million to South Florida's economy last year.

Under the supervision of Sister Jeanne, Barry has been able to sustain in excess of 1,000 employees, up from 340 when Sister Jeanne started in 1981. Barry's budget has also increased dramatically rising from \$8.3 million to a staggering \$100 million. Barry's endowment has also risen more than 2,000 percent to \$22 million during the past 22 years. The university now offers seven doctoral degrees, including the only Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in the Southeast, and only seven universities in the country to offer such a degree. During her term as president, Sister Jeanne has inspired those around her to give more and more of themselves to better the lives of the students of Barry University. A tireless educator, Sister Jeanne has not only contributed greatly to Barry University, but also to many other institutions around Florida and the nation.

Sister Jeanne has served as chair of the Council of Independent Colleges from 1994–1996, the chair of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities also from 1994–1996, and as an Executive Council member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges from 1991–1996. Just in Florida alone, Sister Jeanne has

served as president of the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities and chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities. As a testament to her dedication to education, four Florida universities: Holy Cross College, University of Miami, Rollins College, and Lynn University, have conferred honorary degrees on Sister Jeanne, making her one of the most respected and loved educators in Florida's history.

Sister Jeanne has also been an advocate of revitalizing South Florida's economy. South Florida's power elite noticed her qualities and dedication and named Sister the first female member of two exclusive groups: The Orange Bowl Committee and the Non-Group. The Orange Bowl Committee is a group of dedicated, South Florida volunteers, who are committed to bringing tourism to South Florida through the annual college football game. Now, one of the four most prestigious college football bowl games in America, the Orange Bowl festivities bring in an excess of 150,000 visitors every year, which contribute to a thriving South Florida economy.

Despite all her dedication and hard work, even Sister Jeanne is susceptible to illness and in 1996, Sister was diagnosed with lung cancer. However, even this disease could not stop her determination. Following disclosing publicly her illness, Sister helped raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Speaker, as a fellow lung cancer survivor, I know how difficult life seems after being diagnosed with such a terrible illness. For Sister Jeanne to continue her work like this is an inspiration to every cancer patient and survivor in America. I am also grateful to Sister for her thoughts and prayers during my illness earlier this year.

Sister Jeanne is a dear friend, and someone I am truly proud to know and love. Sister Jeanne's vision continues. Her love for Barry and South Florida is evident evermore. Under Sister Jeanne's supervision, Barry University is attempting the largest construction project in Miami Shores history. Nearly \$18 million will bring a new student center and residence hall to accommodate the growing student population, which Sister Jeanne has pushed to grow and expand ever since she took office.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of Florida's Congressional Delegation, I salute Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin for her 22 years as President of Barry University. May God bless Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin.

H.R. 2297, VETERANS BENEFITS
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2297, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, contains myriad benefits for our nation's veterans, many of which are long overdue. The bill builds on education benefits by expanding the Montgomery GI Bill program, a successful program that will now include educational assistance for on the job training in certain self-employment programs. It also increases monthly educational benefits for spouses and

dependent children of veterans with permanent total disabilities, or who have died as a result of combat.

Among the housing benefits in the bill is a provision allowing remarried surviving spouses of veterans to be buried next to the veteran in a national cemetery, based on the original marriage. A prohibition on remarried spouses burial eligibility is unfair to many of the dedicated spouses who have faithfully supported their veterans for years. I was a cosponsor of the original bill for this measure and support its passage.

The section of the bill relating to benefits for former Prisoners of War contains a provision that will add cirrhosis of the liver to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities for former POWs. It also eliminates the unfair requirement that a POW must be held for at least 30 days to qualify for presumption of service-connection for certain disabilities, such as psychoses and states of anxiety. We owe it to our former POWs to repay them for what they have been through as much as we possibly can, and this provision is a step in that direction.

Yet another beneficial provision in this bill is the extension for six years of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. As a representative in a state with over 9,000 Native American veterans, and with over 17,200 Hispanic veterans in my district alone, I fully support this provision and believe it is a necessary step to the continued service to all minority veterans.

Another provision in the bill provides federal contracting officials the discretionary authority to award sole source contracts to small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. I am pleased that the Senate took out the "notwithstanding any other provision of law" phrase that was in the original version of H.R. 1460, from which the language for this provision of H.R. 2297 was taken. The language included in the original version of H.R. 1460 was very harmful to the 8(a) small business contract program, a program that benefits minority-owned small businesses all across this country. As a member of both the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and House Small Business Committee I worked to forge a suitable compromise that would ensure increased contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses, while not harming the 8(a) program that has helped provide economic opportunity for minority entrepreneurs. With the help of the Chairmen and Ranking Members of both committees, we were able to unanimously pass an amended version of H.R. 1460.

Unfortunately the unanimously passed version of H.R. 1460 is not what is included in H.R. 2297 today, but neither is the originally damaging language of H.R. 1460 included in this bill. I do have remaining concerns about the effect of the included contracting provision on the 8(a) and other small business programs, but considering the numerous important provisions for our nation's veterans contained in this bill, I will vote in favor.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I strongly support increased opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs. In fact, with the support of Congresswoman SUE KELLY, I recently introduced H.R. 3483, the Seeds for Soldiers Act, to establish a loan program and a vocational rehabilitation program for veterans. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Com-

mittee, I strongly support strengthening benefits for our Nation's veterans, who have fought so bravely to protect our country. I support the passage of H.R. 2297 and look forward to continuing work in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to support our Nation's heroes.

LET'S GO LANCERS

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, while the Boston Red Sox failed to finally capture a World Series victory that has eluded them since 1918, another group of Hardball Heroes from Red Sox Nation did achieve their ultimate goal. The Malden Catholic Lancers defied all expectations, overcame every obstacle, and defeated every opponent to finish the year as Massachusetts Division One State Champions.

While Red Sox fans will have to wait until next year yet again, the Lancers fans can rejoice and celebrate the success of this young team of schoolyard superstars.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with faculty, students, my fellow alumni, and all members of the Malden Catholic community who are saying congratulations!

It was Coach Stephen Freker's guidance and leadership that fueled these young men as they drove to the championship. The National High School Baseball Coach's Association affirmed what we knew all along by naming Coach Freker New England's Coach of the Year.

These Lancers worked hard, practiced long, and gave their hearts and souls for the blue and gold all year long. While they are great individual players, their true greatness lies in their ability to play as team.

Mr. Speaker, this was our year.

Let's Go Lancers!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GLENDALE GENERAL RICHARD GRIDLEY CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the General Gridley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on their 90th anniversary celebration.

Mrs. Mary Howard Gridley Braly founded the chapter on December 19, 1913. Mrs. Braly served as an organizing regent, and was later named Regent-For-Life by Chapter members. Mrs. Braly and her daughter first became members of the National Society of D.A.R. in 1983 in Highland Park, Illinois. Then recording Secretary General Miss Eugenia Washington, one of the D.A.R. founders, signed their applications.

The chapter is named for General Richard Gridley, ancestor of Mary's first husband James Conger Gridley. General Gridley was born in Boston in 1711. In 1745 he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the Artillery in