

community. We look forward to her continued contributions. I value her longtime friendship and appreciate all she does for others.

"SAY 'NO' TO UNESCO" ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should not rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Speaker, in 1984 President Ronald Reagan withdrew the United States from membership in that UNESCO, citing egregious financial mis-management, blatant anti-Americanism, and UNESCO's general anti-freedom policies. President Reagan was correct in identifying UNESCO as an organization that does not act in America's interest, and he was correct in questioning why the United States should fund 25 percent of UNESCO's budget for that privilege.

Those calling for the United States to rejoin UNESCO claim that the organization has undertaken fundamental reforms and therefore the United States should re-join. It is strange that in the 18 years since the United States left UNESCO, we only started reading about the beginnings of reform in the year 2000. Are we to believe that after nearly two decades of no change in UNESCO's way of mis-managing itself things have changed so much in just two years? Is it worth spending \$60 million per year on an organization with such a terrible history of waste, corruption, and anti-Americanism?

Mr. Speaker, even if UNESCO has been "reforming" its finances over the past two years, its programmatic activities are still enough to cause great concern among those of us who value American sovereignty and honor our Constitution. Consider the following as a partial list of UNESCO's ongoing highly questionable activities:

UNESCO meddles in the education affairs of its member-countries and has sought to construct a U.N.-based school curriculum for American schools.

UNESCO has been fully supportive of the United Nations' Population Fund (UNFPA) in its assistance to China's brutal coercive population control program.

UNESCO has designated 47 U.N. Biosphere Reserves in the United States covering more than 70 million acres, without Congressional consultation.

UNESCO effectively bypasses Congressional authority to manage federal lands, by establishing management policies without Congressional consultation or approval.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in opposing renewed U.S. membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization by co-sponsoring this "Say 'No' to UNESCO" act.

HONORING WILLIAM H. CARBONE
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
CONNECTICUT JOB CORPS CEN-
TER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Job Corps Center in honoring one of our community's most active leaders and my dear friend, William H. Carbone. For his outstanding contributions and invaluable assistance, Bill will receive an honorary membership in the Job Corps Alumni Association as the Connecticut Job Corps Center celebrates the graduation of eighty students.

Since its inception only six years ago, the Connecticut Job Corps Center has helped hundreds of students between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four develop the skills and training they need to obtain jobs that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families. By building partnerships with businesses throughout Greater New Haven, students who successfully complete the Center's rigorous program have access to real careers.

Upon the announcement of its opening in 1996, the Center found an immediate advocate and resource in Bill Carbone. Knowing that young people who have access to job training and a job are likely to stay away from the state's correctional system, Bill initially contacted the Center in an effort to provide a positive step for young people completing the Alternative Incarceration Program. Through this effort, three Job Corps Judicial Liaisons have guided nearly two hundred young people to successfully participate in the Connecticut Job Corps Center's judicial program. Many of these young people have attained their GED, completed vocational training, obtained jobs and so much more. Bill's efforts have created invaluable opportunities for these young people, giving them one of life's most precious gifts—hope.

Our communities would not be the same without the generosity and compassion of those who dedicate themselves to enriching the lives of others. Throughout his career, Bill has worked hard to ensure that some of our community's most vulnerable citizens have access to opportunity. The Greater New Haven area is certainly fortunate to have an individual like Bill working on our behalf. He is a true community treasure.

It is with my deepest thanks and appreciation that I rise today to join the Connecticut Job Corps Center in paying tribute to William H. Carbone. His unwavering support and tireless efforts have touched countless lives and has left an indelible mark on this community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LOW INCOME
FAMILIES FLOOD INSURANCE
ACCESS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in June of 2001, Texas and other States witnessed the

damage wrought by Tropical Storm Allison after it swept through Texas and up the East Coast, and the importance of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) really hit home. Thousands of my constituents suffered substantial flood damage to their homes and businesses, but many of these losses were mitigated because they had federal flood insurance.

Unfortunately, not all my constituents who needed flood insurance could afford to purchase a policy. Because of a recent redraw of Houston's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) many of my low-income folks were brought into the 100-year flood plain, but could not afford the insurance. As a consequence of my constituents' experience, I rise today to introduce the Low Income Families Flood Insurance Access Act.

This legislation helps bridge the insurance gap between those that can afford a flood policy and those that cannot. The bill would provide discounted flood insurance over a five-year term for low-income homeowners or renters whose primary residence is placed within a Special Flood Hazard Area (flood plain) by a redraw of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). If their property is worth no more than \$75,000, they would be eligible to receive a 50% discount on their flood insurance premiums for a five-year period.

It also provides for limited retroactivity if their residence is placed within the flood plain within two years of the enactment of the legislation; otherwise, the five years would begin upon the placement of the property within the flood plain. I hope that this legislation will not only increase participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), but make this program more affordable for the economically disadvantaged. It provides an incentive for those who are most vulnerable to huge losses in floods to get the protection they need at a price they can afford.

The NFIP plays a crucial role in lessening the impact of a major flooding disaster, but to make the program operate most effectively we need greater participation. I believe my legislation will extend the helping hand associated with flood insurance down to those people in greatest need of assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can speed this bill through the 108th Congress.

MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE
TASK FORCE ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce the Military Retiree Health Care Task Force Act of 2003. This legislation will establish a Task Force that will look into all of the health care promises and representations made to members of the Uniformed Services by Department of Defense personnel and Department literature. The Task Force will submit a comprehensive report to Congress which will contain a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions. This report will include legislative remedies to correct the great injustices that have occurred to those men and women who served their country in good faith.

Let us not forget why we are blessed with freedom and democracy in this country. The sacrifices made by those who served in the military are something that must never be overlooked. Promises were made to those who served in the Uniformed Services. They were told that their health care would be taken care of for life if they served a minimum of twenty years of active federal service.

Well, those military retirees served their time and expected the government to hold up its end of the bargain. They are now realizing that these were nothing more than empty promises. Those who served in the military did not let their country down in its time of need and we should not let military retirees down in theirs. It's time military retirees get what was promised to them and that's why I am introducing this legislation.

SHRIMP IMPORTATION FINANCING FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act. This bill aids America's struggling domestic shrimping industry by placing a moratorium on restrictive regulations affecting the shrimping industry. This bill also prevents tax dollars from going to the domestic shrimping industry's major foreign competitors.

The United States domestic shrimping industry is a vital social and economic force in many coastal communities across the United States, including several in my congressional district. A thriving shrimping industry benefits not only those who own and operate shrimp boats, but also food processors, hotels and restaurants, grocery stores, and all those who work in and service these industries. Shrimping also serves as a key source of safe domestic foods at a time when the nation is engaged in hostilities abroad.

Given the importance of a strong shrimping industry to so many Americans, it seems strange that the federal government continues to burden shrimpers with excessive regulations. For example, the federal government has imposed costly regulations, dealing with usage of items such as by catch reduction devices and turtle excluder devices (TEDS), on the industry. The mandatory use of these devices results in a significant reduction in the amount of shrimp caught by domestic shrimpers, thus damaging their competitive position and market share.

Many members of Congress have let the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is the lead federal agency with responsibility to regulate the domestic shrimp industry, know of their displeasure with the unreasonable regulatory burden imposed upon the industry. In response, the agency held briefings with House and Senate staffers as well as industry representatives to discuss how the agency's actions are harming shrimpers.

However, even after hearing first-hand testimony from industry representatives and representatives of communities whose economies rely on a thriving shrimping industry, the agency refuses to refrain from placing regulatory encumbrances upon the domestic shrimping

industry. Therefore it is up to Congress to protect this industry from overzealous regulators. The Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act provides this protection by placing an indefinite moratorium on all future restrictive regulations on the shrimping industry.

Seven foreign countries (Thailand, Vietnam, India, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Brazil) have taken advantage of the domestic shrimping industry's government-created vulnerabilities. These countries each exported in excess of 20,000,000 pounds of shrimp to the United States in the first 6 months of 2002. These seven countries account for nearly 70 percent of all shrimp consumed in the United States in the first six months of this year and nearly 80 percent of all shrimp imported to this country in the same period!

Adding insult to injury, the federal government is forcing American shrimpers to subsidize their competitors! Since 1999, the United States Government has provided more than \$1,800,000,000 in financing and insurance for these foreign countries through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). Furthermore, according to the latest available figures, the U.S. current exposure relative to these countries through the Export-Import Bank totals some \$14,800,000,000. Thus, the United States taxpayer is providing a subsidy of at least \$16,500,000,000 to the home countries of the leading foreign competitors of American shrimpers! Of course, the American taxpayer could be forced to shovel more money to these countries through the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Many of the countries in question do not have free-market economics. Thus, the participation of these countries in United States-supported international financial regimes amounts to a direct subsidy by American shrimpers to their international competitors. In any case, providing aid to any of these countries indirectly grants benefits to foreign shrimpers because of the fungibility of money.

In order to ensure that American shrimpers are not forced to subsidize their competitors, the Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act ends all Export-Import and OPIC subsidies to the seven countries who imported more than 20 million pounds of shrimp in the first six months of 2002. The bill also reduces America's contribution to the IMF by America's pro rata share of any IMF aid provided to one of those seven countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to rein in regulation-happy bureaucrats and stop subsidizing the domestic shrimping industry's leading competitors. Otherwise, the government-manufactured depression in the price of shrimp will decimate the domestic shrimping industry and the communities whose economies depend on this industry. I, therefore, hope all my colleagues will stand up for shrimpers by cosponsoring the Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act.

HONORING THE ANSONIA COPPERS ON THEIR TRIP TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pride that I rise today to extend my

very best wishes to the Ansonia Coppers Junior Midget Football team as they head to the National Championships in Orlando. This group of 24 have worked hard throughout the regular and post seasons for this tremendous opportunity. In addition, their loudest cheering section, the Junior Pee Wee Girls will be on their way to their National Championship competition as well. The Ansonia community certainly has reason to celebrate the accomplishments of these fine young people!

The Ansonia Coppers, a team made up of twenty four boys, ages eleven through thirteen, are undefeated and have played through four rounds of post season games for the opportunity to play in the National Championships. Throughout this season, the Coppers have not only defeated every challenger they have faced, but, more importantly, they have learned one of life's most valuable lessons—teamwork. Football, like all sports, teaches us the value of team work, practice, comradery, and commitment to excellence. These skills will serve these young people well as they begin to make a difference in the world. Working together, they have already accomplished so much. I have every confidence that they will celebrate a great victory in Orlando.

The Ansonia Coppers are members of the Pop Warner Midget Football League which is unique in that all of their support comes from volunteers. From coaches to travel, almost every aspect of the team's playing is due to the support of community volunteers. It is with great pleasure that I also recognize Head Coach Ron Commune, Assistant Coaches Bob Jones, Bill Mikita, Mike Simon, Carl Williams, and Jay Frattalone, and Team Mom Michelle Spader—all of whom have worked hard to give these young people the chance to play! Without their efforts, the success of the Ansonia Coppers would not be possible.

I am thrilled to join the Ansonia community in extending my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to the Ansonia Coppers as they head to their National Championship game. I, as well as the entire community, will be rooting for you! Win or lose, you have made us very proud!

IN SUPPORT OF THE HUD HOUSING AND SECURITY FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House an innovative program created by the Houston office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies in the Houston area. This program, utilizing grant money from the Operation Safe Home program, hires off-duty law enforcement officers to provide security and patrol housing complexes and apartments that are owned by or receive funds from HUD. This program has been a great success, and has made residents feel safer and more secure in their homes.

Unfortunately, this program turned out to be too innovative. Although this initiative has been an unqualified success, it turns out that HUD did not have the authority to make these