

drugs while also reducing the number of outpatient visits that VA physicians must perform each year. VA facilities would then be able to devote more time and care to those veterans who require inpatient services.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation to give our nation's veterans prompt access to the prescription medications that they need and have earned.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago this month, President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act (PL 103-3), legislation that allows employees to take time off from work to care for a new baby or sick family member. Because of this landmark legislation, more than 35 million Americans have been able to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

Today, I am introducing the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act. Building upon the success of the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), this legislation would allow more people to benefit from FMLA by allowing employees in companies with more than 25 employees to take Family and Medical Leave and would extend employee leave for workers to meet their family's needs. The legislation includes 24 hours of leave (during any 12-month period) for parents and grandparents to go to parent-teacher conferences or to take their children, grandchildren or other family members to the doctor for regular medical or dental appointments.

Currently, the FMLA allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for newborns, seek emergency medical care for themselves, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse. My legislation would add commonsense enhancements to FMLA.

In 1997, this legislative measure was supported by President Bill Clinton. In February 1997, President Clinton said, "I call upon Congress to expand the family leave law to give parents an additional 24 hours of unpaid leave each year to take a child or an elderly relative to a regular doctor's appointment or to attend parent-teacher conferences at school. In so doing, we'll make our families stronger and our workers more productive, building the kind of country and economy we all want for our children."

On behalf of America's families, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in support of the Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ LANDS LEGACY STUDY ACT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly introduce the César Estrada Chávez Land Legacy Study

Act. This bill will look for ways to honor César Estrada Chávez, founder of the United Farm Workers and passionate champion of human and civil rights.

Specifically, the bill directs the National Park Service to look for ways to recognize Chávez's contributions to our society through historical sites and park areas. It is the first step in honoring his tremendous accomplishments and the local communities where his footprints were made.

César Chávez was a humble man. Little did anyone know the greatness that he would bestow on future generations.

In his early childhood, César Chávez was raised as a farm worker in Yuma, Arizona. Raised during the Great Depression, his family lost everything and was forced to join the thousands of farm workers that wandered the Southwest to find work. During his youth, the Chávez family migrated throughout the Southwest, working in various farms that fed our country.

The young César Chávez experienced first hand the hardships and injustices of the thousand of farm workers at that time. His home was barely livable and his school hardly fit to be called schoolhouse.

Unfair labor practices—harassment, abuse, long hours, low pay, hazardous working conditions and limited education opportunities kept farm workers from being self-sufficient and empowered citizens.

Witnessing and experiencing this lifestyle, César Chávez sought to make changes in the way farm workers were treated.

He united many others who also suffered similar atrocities with those who empathized with the struggle to become part of the union movement. In 1952, he left the fields and joined the Community Service Organization. There he conducted voter registration drives and campaigns against racial and economic discrimination.

In 1962, he took his vast experience, his compassion, and his brothers and sisters in this multi-ethnic struggle and started the National Farmworkers Association—today's United Farmworkers of America.

The UFW succeeded in organizing the oppressed. They overcame this oppression through boycotts and pickets, and when all else failed, hunger strikes.

Chávez was a student of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent philosophies. He knew that you cannot unite people through violent means, but you can connect them by joining hands in peaceful demonstration.

Since its inception, the UFW has achieved incredible results through its organization. Fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, housing, pesticide regulations, and countless other rights and protections are more a reality because of the UFW and in turn because of its founder—César E. Chávez.

In the past, we have honored other heroes, like Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, through national parks and land. The life of César Chávez and his family provides an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate and interpret the history of agricultural labor in the west through the National Parks Service.

RECOGNITION OF SABRINA WELLS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sabrina Wells, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 300, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the gold award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. Earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. Earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting; and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Sabrina organized a golf clinic for middle and high school girls.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sabrina Wells for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY HALL NICHOLS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of distinguished African-Americans in Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

Today I rise to pay tribute to Shirley Hall Nichols. Mrs. Nichols is a native of Leake County in Mississippi. After earning a bachelor's degree from Alcorn State University in 1979, she began working as a paraprofessional at Carthage Elementary School. Later that year she began teaching secondary math at Velma Jackson High School.

In 1997, Mrs. Nichols was given the opportunity to earn a masters degree from Mississippi State University. Mrs. Nichols earned her masters in School Administration in 1999, where she went on to serve as principal of Amanda Elzy Elementary School and later East Elementary/Middle School.

Mrs. Nichols became the first Afro-American to hold the position of Asst. Superintendent of Education in Leake County. She is still active in many educational and community organizations. Mrs. Nichols is currently working towards a doctorate degree at Mississippi State University in school administration.

REGARDING TITLE IX

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for Title IX. Today Secretary Paige has released a report that I believe drastically weakens the purpose of Title IX.

Mr. Speaker, changes to the Title IX standards as applied to athletics are not warranted or necessary. Modifications to the standards that would limit future opportunities for women in favor of expanded opportunities for men would violate the goal of gender equity. Using the results of an interest survey, as the commission report recommends, would limit women's participation opportunities, and be factually inaccurate.

Mr. Speaker, what we should be doing to ensure equal opportunity is enforcing Title IX and implementing its policies at every level of education. The responsibility of the federal government is to ensure equal opportunity, not to ensure that particular sports teams are added, discontinued, or maintained.

Currently, there are 2.8 million girls participating in high school sports, but there is only room for 150,000 women in college sports. This disparity is obscene. We need to do a better job at providing equal opportunities for all athletes.

Mr. Speaker, enforcing Title IX is just the right thing to do and the reality is that if our colleges and universities want to benefit from federal dollars, then they must provide gender equality at their institutions. Gender equity does not end at the admissions door either, gender equity in athletics is a must.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this Congress refuses to fall into this trap of pitting sports teams against each other. We must realize it is about civil rights first and foremost.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BUTLER, PA

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 200th anniversary of the city of Butler in western Pennsylvania. This charming city has a long and rich history and I am confident that it will enjoy a future filled with continuous growth and prosperity.

Butler, like the rest of our great country, was originally inhabited by the Native-American tribes; the land was used as a hunting ground by Indians from the Iroquois Nation during European settlement. The Venango Trail, which runs through Butler, was commonly traveled by settlers in colonial times and was famously traveled by George Washington in the mid 1700's.

Named for Richard Butler, one of Washington's generals in the Revolutionary War, the

town of Butler was officially established in 1803. Over the next two hundred years, the city of Butler flourished and became known for its steel industry. In early March, Butler will celebrate its 200th anniversary. May it celebrate for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the city of Butler, Pennsylvania on their 200th anniversary celebration.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in celebrating National Peace Corps Day.

Since its founding in 1961, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our Nation's commitment to encourage progress, provide opportunities, and promote world peace and friendship at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

To date, more than 168,000 Americans responded to our Nation's call to service by becoming Peace Corps Volunteers in 136 countries. Volunteers serve at the grassroots level in villages and towns around the globe. Living and working within local communities, volunteers serve as teachers, farmers, foresters and small business advisors, dedicated to improving the lives of those around them. In doing so, they make significant and lasting contributions to communities and individuals around the world.

Volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, return to the United States with a commitment to service, as well as the skills and interest in world affairs needed to be leaders in the global community. I believe I would not be a Member of Congress today were it not for my experience in the Peace Corps and I believe I am a better person because of this service.

I would also like to recognize the Peace Corp Volunteers currently serving from Connecticut's Fourth District: Allison R. Ball in Micronesia; Megan Banigan in Guatemala; Dario Borghesan in Togo; Emily J. Bristle in Mali; Camilla A. Brooks in the Philippines; Nkechi N. Eneh in Mauritania; Sondra E. Ganelli in Samoa; Emily R. Hamilton in Paraguay; Timothy Mills in Senegal; Peter T. Nasuti in Uzbekistan; Lindsay B. Nemirow in the Dominican Republic; Matthew G. O'Driscoll in Nicaragua; Brooke J. Oppenheimer in Gambia; David M. Ottaviano in Panama; Aimee E. Petras in Morocco; and Deva N. Rama in Guatemala.

National Peace Corps Day honors its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirms our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DETENTION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, with my colleague Mr. FRANK of Mas-

sachusetts, the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act to provide authorization for the detainment of "enemy combatants" in the war on terrorism while guaranteeing that they are granted timely access to legal counsel and judicial review.

In the war on terrorism, the term enemy combatant has been broadly defined. In some cases, American citizens have been deemed "enemy combatants" and incarcerated indefinitely without access to counsel or the courts. This has resulted in an unprecedented accretion of power over American citizens.

After the shameful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, we must be vigilant to protect against the government's decision to detain, perhaps indefinitely, any American without adequate review of the basis of its decision.

Inspired in part by the internment of Japanese Americans and by the anti-spying excesses of the Cold War, Congress in 1971 passed an Act providing that "no citizens shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except pursuant to an Act of Congress." Congress has yet to authorize the detention of citizens in the war on terrorism, yet American citizens have in fact been detained as enemy combatants.

For this reason, my colleague Mr. FRANK and I are introducing the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act, authorizing the government to detain an enemy combatant who is a United States person or resident who is a member of al Qaeda, or knowingly cooperated with a member of al Qaeda in the planning, authorizing, committing, aiding, or abetting of one or more terrorist acts against the United States. Furthermore, our bill requires that detainees be guaranteed timely access to legal counsel and meaningful judicial review to challenge the basis for a detention.

While we must grant broad latitude to our armed forces when it comes to protecting national security, American citizens should not be held indefinitely upon the sole determination of one branch of government without access to counsel or judicial review of those determinations. We must ensure that we do not sacrifice the Constitutional rights we pledged to uphold, and without which, none of us are safe from unwarranted intrusions on our liberty.

Mr. Speaker, in sum, the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act will provide for clear standards and procedures under which American citizens or lawful residents believed to be members of al Qaeda or its supporters may be detained as enemy combatants while also provided due process.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL J. QUIRK

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this nation's most dedicated citizens, Michael J. Quirk. At a time when the President is encouraging all Americans to serve their country in a volunteer capacity, there is no greater example than that of Mr. Quirk. For over 30 years he fought for this nation in the United States military and for