

which has an increasingly expanding immigrant population, battered women claim that they are in fear of reporting their violent relationships until their immigration concerns are addressed.

These women, Mr. Speaker, are fed misinformation about United States laws and are faced with the threats of deportation by their abusers. Many of these women are overly dependent on their abusers because they face racial and language barriers. Others face cultural barriers and being a victim of domestic violence is considered taboo.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in encouraging and supporting all victims of domestic abuse to seek help and to report all violent and criminal acts without being ashamed to do so. We must help prevent women from being ashamed and embarrassed and encourage them to report the abuse from these monsters.

Further, I strongly encourage Congress and the Administration to support and pass legislation pertaining to health care and law enforcement in order to combat violence against women. The abuse of women is an all too common occurrence and the fight to prevent this crime must strengthen.

TRIBUTE TO SPARKMAN HIGH
SCHOOL OF HARVEST, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sparkman High School from Harvest, Alabama for winning the statewide "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. I am proud to announce that this group of bright students from my Congressional district will represent the state of Alabama in the national competition event that will be held on April 26, 2003. The Sparkman class will join more than 1,200 students from across the United States in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals.

The "We the People . . ." program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These young scholars from Sparkman High School have worked diligently to reach the national finals by participating in local and statewide competitions. Through their experience, they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitution. I want to congratulate these students on this outstanding achievement.

The "We the People" program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. The national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate different positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Students will give testimonies followed by a period of questioning by the judges to explore their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles

of our government. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles that we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

The class from Sparkman High School is currently conducting research and preparing for their upcoming participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. I commend their teacher, State Representative Sue Schmitz, for teaching these young "constitutional experts," and I wish the class the best of luck at the "We the People" national finals. They represent the future leaders of our nation.

THE PRESIDENT'S STEEL INITIATIVE ONE YEAR LATER: A SUCCESS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, the President made a courageous decision to impose a temporary trade remedy against dumped and subsidized steel imports that were causing serious injury to our U.S. steel industry and its workers. This action was taken under Section 201 of the Trade Act, and the international rules of the World Trade Organization Safeguards Agreement. One year later, it is clear that his steel initiative has begun to produce an important consolidation and restructuring of the U.S. steel industry that will benefit our national economic security and our domestic steel customer base long-term.

Since the President's decision, prices are recovering, steel supply is generally robust, and the industry has begun dramatic consolidation and restructuring. This recovery is important news for Nucor Steel Utah, located in my district, and for steel producers in other similar communities all across America. The result at the end of the three-year period will be top quality steel, produced in high technology mills in America, which will become an even better value for our nation's steel consumers.

The President is also addressing the root cause of the import problems, by negotiating with our trading partners to eliminate global excess capacity and foreign government subsidies. As a result, the world's steel producing nations are for the first time talking meaningfully about reducing unneeded capacity and eliminating subsidies.

I thank the President for upholding our trade laws, despite intense opposition from abroad. His decision was the correct one. Thank you, Mr. President, stay the course. Your plan is benefiting my district and the nation's steel industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor

vote on rollcall numbers 40, 41 and 42. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 40 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 106, Congratulating Lutheran Schools; rollcall vote 41 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 54, Expressing support of National Visiting Nurse Association Week; and rollcall vote 42 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 111, Honoring the Legacy of Fred Rogers.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 40, 41 and 42.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
CORWIN M. NIXON ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Honorable Corwin M. Nixon, a dear friend and distinguished constituent, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 9, 2003.

Corwin has served Warren County, Ohio, and the State of Ohio with great distinction. From 1948 to 1960, he served as a Warren County Commissioner. Shortly thereafter, Corwin was elected to the Ohio General Assembly as a State Representative, where he served for 30 years from 1962 to 1992. He had the distinction of being minority leader of the Ohio House of Representatives during his last 14 years in office.

Throughout his successful public service career, Corwin Nixon was always a true gentleman who worked well with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Corwin also cared deeply about his constituents. He has told me he "used to mail get-well cards to everyone who got sick." Corwin once was shown four get-well cards that were kept on a constituent's mantel, one for each time this person had been in the hospital. He has also told me of his habit of sending a congratulatory note with a \$1 bill enclosed to newborns, and how to this day these lucky recipients of his thoughtfulness come up to him to thank him.

Corwin has been extremely active in a number of good causes and organizations locally, statewide, and nationally. He is President of the U.S. Trotting Association, where he has been a member for 16 years. For 34 years, he has been an original member of the American Horse Council. Corwin also serves on a number of boards, including the Grandview Hospital, Bethesda Hospital, and Big Brothers and Sisters. Among other activities, Corwin has managed the well-known Lebanon Raceway for 50 years.

Family has always been important to Corwin. He and his wife, Eleanor, were married for 45 years before she passed away. They have two children, Keith and Karen (twins), and three grandchildren, Melissa (Missy), Tina, and Keith Jr. They also have four great grandchildren, Corwin Keith III, Eleanor, Preston, and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, Corwin Nixon is a remarkable person who has touched so many lives and has given so much to our community, our state, and our nation over many years. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his

many accomplishments as he celebrates his 90th birthday on March 9, 2003.

**PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP ON
STEEL**

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on March 5 a year ago, President Bush boldly gave temporary trade relief to our domestic steel industry. I believe his plan is succeeding.

It is my understanding that since 1973, Alabama's steel industry had steadily lost 16,000 employees, or about half the labor force. We needed a bold plan.

I am proud to have supported the President and his initiative to stop the illegal dumping of foreign steel in the United States. His proposed Section 201 trade relief over three years was also intended to leverage negotiations to address the root cause of the world's surplus capacity, what the President called a "50-year legacy of foreign government intervention in the market and direct financial support of their steel industries."

Well, a year later, some of our steel companies, including those in Alabama, are actually rehiring workers as domestic steel prices have firmed up, although they are still below the level two years ago. Also, to the best of my understanding, the critics' predictions of hefty price increases in consumer goods proved mistaken. And I am pleased that international negotiations are underway, thanks to the leverage of the Section 201 tariffs.

The results of the President's leadership on steel look good so far. I urge him to finish his program on schedule.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE LIFESPAN
RESPITE CARE ACT OF 2003**

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Lifespan Respite Care Act, which I am reintroducing today with the support of a group of 51 original cosponsors from both parties.

Each year, over 26 million Americans care for an adult family member who is chronically ill or disabled. An estimated 18 million children have chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions that place significant demands on their parental caregivers. Nearly four million Americans of all ages who have mental retardation or another developmental disability live with their families. Providing voluntary care for these people is equivalent to nearly \$200 billion annually, which is the estimated cost if the family caregivers' services were provided by paid caregivers. More importantly, this voluntary care allows seniors and others to continue living at home, which improves their spirits and often speeds up recovery time.

Family caregiving has some clear benefits—it contributes to family stability and it often spares families from more costly, out-of-home

placements. While voluntary care is personally rewarding, it can result in substantial emotional, physical, and financial strain on the caregiver. Surveys of family caregivers consistently show an unmet need for respite care services. Respite care services relieve caregivers from daily caregiving tasks on a temporary or longer-term basis. This is often necessary for caregivers to address their own health issues or other crises a family may encounter—for example, in the areas of employment, housing or domestic violence. In too many situations, caregivers do not know how to find information about available respite care and access these services. In other cases, respite care is still unavailable to those who need it. Meanwhile, existing respite programs are finding it difficult to recruit and retain trained providers.

In response to this need, I have worked together with the National Respite Coalition to craft legislation that eases the burden of responsibility on the family caregivers who give so much. In many cases, this would allow them to continue to provide care for their loved ones. Many lifespan respite programs are already in place at the state and local levels, providing invaluable services to the families of people with chronic disease or disability. We are proposing to build upon these tremendously successful existing programs. The Lifespan Respite Care Act would authorize funds for development and coordination of state and local respite systems, training and recruitment of respite care workers, and creation of a National Resource Center on Lifespan Respite Care. By passing this legislation, we could take a proactive step toward providing quality at-home care for millions of Americans with special needs, preventing caregiver burnout, and safeguarding against the unsafe or inappropriate care that can result from the unmet need for respite care.

I thank you for the opportunity to bring this legislation to your attention and ask for the support of my colleagues to move this bill forward.

**THAILAND, BURMA, LAOS AND
VIETNAM TRIP REPORT**

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Thailand, the Thai-Burma border, Laos and Vietnam with U.S.-based NGO Jubilee Campaign, and with Lord David Alton of the British House of Lords. We met with government officials, NGOs, and refugees, in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam to establish relationships and raise human rights concerns, particularly trafficking and religious freedom issues.

I would like to begin with commending the people of Thailand for their well-deserved reputation for hospitality. I flew to Thailand on Thai Airways and had a wonderful experience. During our visit throughout Thailand, we were met with warm hospitality. It is this tradition and culture of hospitality that has made Thailand a safe haven for the refugees fleeing death and destruction in Burma. I urge the current Thai Administration not to pursue policies that would damage that reputation of wonderful hospitality.

In Thailand, we met with organizations working with refugees along the Thai-Burma border and with the Internally Displaced People (IDPS) inside the jungles of Burma. The situation in Burma is dire, and I would not hesitate to call it, according to international legal definitions, genocide. In Article 2 of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." Reports make clear that the ironically-named State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) of Burma, the ruling military junta, has engaged in a deliberate policy to eliminate the ethnic minorities. A scorched earth policy, destroying entire villages along with food storage and production sources, systematic rape, the use of humans, including women and children, as landmine sweepers, forced labor, also known as slavery, the refusal to allow the duly elected leader of the country to take office, and many other abuses have turned the country of Burma into one large concentration camp. Sadly, the international community has turned a deaf ear to the cries of the ethnic minorities, the refugees, the IDPS, the democracy activists. Why is it that the international community fought with weapons to stop the genocide in former Yugoslavia in Europe but is ignoring the one occurring in Southeast Asia? There are a large number of organizations that carefully track the violations in Burma so there is no shortage of evidence of the human rights abuses the SPDC commits. The Karen Human Rights Group, the Shan Human Rights Foundation, the Shan Women's Action Network, the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, Christians Concerned for Burma, Partners Relief and Development, and many other Burma groups produce reports of current and past atrocities committed by the SPDC. We were given copies of over one dozen reports which provide detailed documentation of these brutal policies. I urge my colleagues to read these reports to gain further understanding of the situation in Burma.

My delegation visited refugee camps north of Mae Sot, Thailand and spoke with Karen refugees, Christians, Buddhists, and Muslims who all had fled the attacks of the SPDC on their communities. We saw landmine victims, orphans and school children, who all had suffered from the actions of the SPDC. The Thai government has been gracious in caring for these refugees, often with little help from the international community, yet there are many IDPs hiding in the jungles of Burma who need a safe place to go. I respectfully request that the Thai government allow the IDPs to enter the camps and be registered as refugees. In addition, I respectfully request that the Thai government allow the UNHCR to establish a permanent presence within the camps to help administer the needs of the refugees.