

such tests on veterans of the 1991 gulf war has handicapped researchers.

Blood is always taken for HIV testing, Kilpatrick said, and those samples are in storage. But fresh samples will be taken only if the serum on file is more than a year old, he said.

He disputed the idea that additional sampling would be helpful because the biological markers of many toxic agents disappear from the bloodstream within hours or days of exposure.

Also, Kilpatrick said, troops are physically evaluated every five years, except for pilots, who are tested more frequently. Medical histories were more valuable to researchers than "hands-on" physical exams, he said.

But gulf war medical researchers said the Pentagon's plan is a missed opportunity, especially considering the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

"We can run into the same thing all over again," said Lea Steele, a Kansas Institute of Health epidemiologist who has studied gulf war veterans. "One of the difficulties of the gulf war was we didn't have any evidence prior to the war. It was hard to link illnesses."

"Now that we're becoming a second time deeply involved in Iraq . . . there is no established protocol that would be very valuable. Some people say Saddam Hussein has less to lose now. He may be more likely to use these things."

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES W.
LAUGHLIN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to James W. Laughlin—one of our Federal Government's finest public servants and a long time resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This March he will retire from an exceptionally distinguished career of service to his country. He has served our Nation as a career civil servant for over 42 years. He has been an exceptional leader and has played a key role in ensuring effective financial management for the Department of Defense. It gives me pride to have the opportunity to honor him today for his tremendous accomplishments.

Mr. Laughlin began his career with the Navy in the financial management field working for various field activities. He progressed to a supervisory budget analyst in the Office of the Navy Comptroller where he was responsible for the Navy's operation and maintenance and civilian manpower programs. In 1974 he transitioned to the Office of the Department of Defense Comptroller.

Mr. Laughlin first served in the Department of Defense Comptroller office as a budget analyst in the Research and Development Directorate, responsible for reviewing the Navy and Air Force multi-billion dollar aircraft programs. He then moved to the Military Personnel Directorate where he was responsible for reviewing the Navy and Marine Corps military personnel appropriations.

Since 1982, Mr. Laughlin has been the senior budget analyst for Military Personnel appropriation matters—a portfolio that totals over \$93 billion this year. Mr. Laughlin is an acknowledged expert on Military Personnel funding issues both inside the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, particularly in the areas of concurrent receipt, military wage credits, and retired pay issues.

Senior leaders, both in the Congress and the Department of Defense, have benefited from his experience, outstanding leadership and distinguished performance. His efforts have enabled our nation's leaders to make the most effective use of defense resources to en-

sure America's military strength. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank him for his service to our country and wish him well on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Mr. MIKE ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, March 20, 2003, the House voted on H. Con. Res. 104, expressing support and appreciation for our Armed Forces and the President participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On House rollcall vote No. 83, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

COMMENDING CALIFORNIA WOMEN
FOR AGRICULTURE IN HONOR OF
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the California Women for Agriculture as they honor National Agriculture Day. The California Women for agriculture is hosting Agriculture Day in LA! at Moor Field in Alhambra, California on March 21, 2003 to commemorate this day.

In its 30th year, the National Agriculture Day program is committed to increasing public awareness about American agriculture. Producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies, and countless others across America will gather on this first day of spring to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. National Agriculture Day focuses on educating Americans about career opportunities available in the agriculture, food, and fiber industry.

As one of California's major organizations, California Women for Agriculture helps to "supply knowledge and skills necessary to convey the mutual benefits of a vibrant agricultural economy and healthy rural communities to those who are in positions to impact the future of agriculture in California." California Women in Agriculture, along with the Agricultural Awareness and Literacy Foundation and Alhambra School District, will be hosting the event for 1,200 inner city 3rd grade students who will be learning about food, fiber, flowers, and forests. The goal of the program is to teach students about agriculture and its importance in our everyday lives. The students will participate in a hands-on learning environment with crops, farm equipment, and live animals. They will learn how it contributes to our healthy, affordable food supply; offers many different careers, cares for the environment and creates a diverse food supply.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend California Women for Agriculture as they honor National Agriculture Day on its 30th Anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the California Women for Agriculture many years of continued success.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND AP-
PRECIATION FOR THE PRESI-
DENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING
IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the men and women who wear the uniform and protect our freedoms. I rise on behalf of their families and loved ones who wait and pray for their speedy and safe return.

This is a solemn moment for the Nation. There has been disagreement here at home and abroad about the policies of preemption. The men and women who wear the uniform don't make policy. They are neither diplomats nor politicians. They are soldiers and their duty is to salute and follow orders. Every member of Congress joins in unwavering support of them and their families for their sacrifice.

I have openly disagreed with the policies that have led us to this moment. This evening we pause as a Congress to salute and honor our troops. And while I strongly disagree with the Administration's policies, this is not the resolution or forum to express my differences. This evening our hearts, our prayers, and our gratitude goes out to the uniformed members of the armed services. God bless them. God bless America.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND AP-
PRECIATION FOR THE PRESI-
DENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING
IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we begin this arduous process of disarming Saddam Hussein of his weapons of mass destruction, I wish to thank our brave men and women in uniform for their service. Let us pray for their safe return to their homes and families.

During my career in the House, I've continually been struck by the dedication of those who wear this Nation's uniform. Prepared to offer the ultimate sacrifice, they serve for love of their country, for the safety of each one of us, and for the cause of freedom throughout the world.

The expertise and professionalism of our service men and women is without parallel. They understand the significance of their mission, and the dangers, but they will complete this task that has been laid before them.

Their mission is to disarm one of the greatest threats to the free and peaceful people of the world. The Iraqi people will no longer suffer from the horror of Saddam's regime. We must ensure our armed forces can complete this job knowing their country is fully behind their efforts.

God bless our brave men and women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 83, recorded on Friday, March 21, 2002 at 3:00 a.m., I was unable to cast my floor vote due to miscommunication with floor staff. This vote was on H. Con. Res. 104, expressing the support and appreciation of the Nation for the President and the members of the Armed Forces who are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. As my colleagues can attest, I am a strong support of our Armed Forces and of our operations in Iraq. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "aye" to Rollcall Vote No. 83.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the House Leadership for introducing this important resolution. Today, we recognize, support, and commend our brave service men and women for their dedication, for their sacrifice, and for their supreme love of country. We thank and honor those who serve on behalf of liberty and freedom.

Our Nation has committed our military to defend the world from grave danger and to assure the security for all nations by disarming Saddam Hussein. For more than 4½ months, this brutal dictator has ignored the clear resolve of the United Nations and the world that Iraq immediately disarm. In the face of Iraq's continued defiance of the international community, the United States and our allies have been forced to act. It had been my ardent hope that, through forceful diplomacy and clear resolve, we would have avoided this war. However, in the face of Saddam Hussein's history of deception, the U.S. and its broad range of international partners have decided now is the time to act to disarm Iraq. In the coming days and weeks, it will be critically important for our Nation to support and pray for the safety of our troops in this time of uncertainty.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11th, I participated in countless classified briefings and hearings before the House Intelligence Committee. We know that Iraq has continued to build weapons of mass destruction, has energized its missile program, and is investing in biological weapons. Saddam Hussein is determined to obtain weapons-grade material to develop nuclear weapons. His biological weapons program is more advanced than before the Gulf War. All of these actions have been done in flagrant violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The Iraqi people have not brought this situation upon themselves, but rather the blame is on the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein.

Apart from the current military action, our focus must be on working with the world community to rebuild Iraq following the military actions. As we move forward in Iraq and in other crisis spots around the world, I am hopeful that the United States will continue to strengthen its unity with the international community.

Today, we stand firmly behind our Armed Forces. We thank the brave men and women who risk their lives to keep our Nation free and safe. We offer our respect, our supreme gratitude, and the promise that we shall not forget your bravery and your sacrifice. We are proud of you. May God bless you and keep you safe.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 104, a resolution expressing the support and appreciation of the Nation for the President and the members of the Armed Forces who are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many people have questioned the need for the United States to remove Saddam Hussein or the method in which this matter has been handled by the Bush administration. However, the time has come to end the debate and turn our complete and unified attention to supporting our troops.

I know there is no more important decision than whether or not to send our sons and daughters into armed conflict. Our President has made the decision to commit troops and with pride and resolve, the Congress stands solidly behind our troops. We will do whatever we can to make certain that they have everything needed for a quick resolution and their safe return home.

Mr. Speaker, the thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with the nearly 300,000 brave men and women who are currently putting their own lives in danger to carry out the orders of the Commander in Chief. Every one of us is proud of their service and their courage. We pray for their safety tonight and in days to come, and offer comfort and support to their families and loved ones.

HONORING LEADERS OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD EASTERN REGION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Susan Herrmann, Kealy Salomon, Perry Colwell, Caroline Hoen, Carol Massey, Freddie Hodges, Kay Scott, Jamie Ann Sabino and Nancy Williams, who have all served ably as leaders of Planned Parenthood Eastern Region.

As members of the Eastern Region Executive Committee, they have volunteered innumerable hours, their energy and passion toward engaging the volunteers and affiliate staff of the Eastern Region with Planned Parenthood's mission. Planned Parenthood's regional councils represent a critical component of Planned Parenthood's political grassroots in the battle to protect and expand Planned Parenthood's mission.

With Planned Parenthood facing its most difficult hour, withstanding constant attacks from the Radical Right, the Eastern Region Council will play a critical role in support and inspiring the staff and volunteers of the Region.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Planned Parenthood Federation, I extend my deep appreciation and admiration to Judy Tabb, Susan

Herrmann, Kealy Salomon, Perry Colwell, Caroline Hoen, Carol Massey, Freddie Hodges, Kay Scott, Jamie Ann Sabino and Nancy Williams for their leadership in protecting the reproductive rights of all.

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's noteworthy 30th Anniversary. Its regional approach to wastewater management has ensured a higher quality of life for Sacramento residents and our neighbors downstream. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this important milestone in protecting the environment and serving the public.

Three decades ago, Sacramento-area leaders, realizing the tremendous potential for the area's growth, joined forces to form the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD). Back then, this represented a unique approach to the conveyance, treatment and discharge of wastewater in the Sacramento region. Until that time (and until the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed in 1983), wastewater treatment and disposal were handled by up to 22 individual treatment plants, many located along the Sacramento and American rivers. These small treatment plants, some built in the 1950's and '60s, had become enveloped by neighborhoods and urban population centers. As the region's population grew, Sacramento County clearly needed a more comprehensive approach to wastewater management.

Sound planning, vision, and the Clean Water Act of 1972 helped the District stay ahead of the rapid changes fueled by Sacramento's expanding population. This massive growth was factored into plans for a regional wastewater treatment plant, which serves the needs of most of the region's residential, business and industrial customers. Construction of the treatment plant and SRCSD's extensive interceptor system were made possible by federal Clean Water Act funds, as well as state and local funding to finance construction.

Thirty years later, SRCSD represents a truly successful regionalized sanitation effort that serves an entire urbanized area with efficient and high quality wastewater treatment services. As a result, the entire region benefits from cleaner waterways, sending all its wastewater to one point of discharge, away from important drinking water intake locations. Mr. Speaker, as Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District celebrates its 30th Anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to its significant accomplishments and dedication to excellent public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 83, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."