

including abortion, contraception, and minors' rights.

Throughout her career Ms. Paul has been an advocate for reproductive freedom, and has worked on a number of landmark cases that secured for women the fundamental human and civil right to make their own child-bearing choices.

I am honored to congratulate Eve W. Paul on her retirement. Her work in the service of human rights has left the world a better place. We wish her well.

HONORING THE INDO-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY FEDERATION AND
ITS FOUNDING PRESIDENT,
JEEVAN ZUTSHI

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Indo-American Federation and its Founding President, Jeevan, Zutshi on the occasion of the Federation's second annual Unity Dinner. Until 1995, Mr. Zutshi served as senior Vice President of the Federation of Indo-American Associations (F.I.A.) focused on assisting new immigrants and educating youth.

The Indo-American Community Federation, founded in 1994, is an organization committed to promoting Indian socio-cultural heritage and the assimilation of Indo-Americans in mainstream America through participation and involvement.

In the aftermath of the September 11th terrorism attack, Mr. Zutshi convened Unity Dinner 2002 to bring the community together. Elected officials and community leaders were among the over 400 individuals representing California's diversity who attended Unity Dinner 2002. This year's Unity Dinner will be held on January 24, 2003 and will build on the success of the Federation's efforts to maintain positive intercultural ties.

Jeevan Zutshi fully exemplifies the goals of the Indo-American Federation. He has been an energetic voice for community acceptance of different cultures since he emigrated to the U.S. from Kashmir, India in 1972. In addition to the Indo-American Kashmir Forum, Mr. Zutshi is a founding member of the Indian American Friendship Council, the Federation of Indo-American Association of Northern California, and the Kashmiri Overseas Association.

I commend the Indo-American Community Federation and its founder Jeevan Zutshi for their important contributions to our community.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN
IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States and the many contributions that Korean Americans have made to our great country.

The history of Korean Americans is rich in hard work, perseverance and the overwhelming desire to succeed. When the first Korean immigrants left their homeland in 1903, for a new world and an unknown future, they were unsure of what to expect. Numbering only 56 men, 21 women and 25 children, their journey brought with them the same hopes and dreams of all people seeking the promise of a better life in America.

For the past 100 years, thousands of Koreans have followed the lead of those first pioneers. Over the past century, Korean Americans have made numerous contributions to American society, American culture and our economy.

Today, Korean Americans are a thriving part of the American fabric and are poised to begin a new century of success in the United States. I believe their dedication to this country deserves the highest honor and praise.

I congratulate all Korean Americans on the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States. I offer my blessings for a safe and prosperous future.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN BYRD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian and extraordinary young athlete, Mr. Jonathan Byrd. With his monumental victory at the Buick Challenge last year, Mr. Byrd became the first person to win on the PGA TOUR in his rookie year since Jose Coceres. Jonathan began the season ranked 404th by the Official World Golf Ranking and, by season's end, climbed to an amazing 72nd. Those achievements earned him the well-deserved title of PGA Rookie of the Year.

Jonathan's path to athletic excellence began when he was still a toddler in his hometown of Elgin, S.C. His father, Jim Byrd and good friend and occasional golfing buddy of mine introduced Jonathan to the game of golf at the young age of three. Jonathan first began developing his skills using a 5-iron that was cut down until the grip nearly reached the hosel. He played his first nine holes when in the second grade finishing at 62, and he has only improved since.

Mr. Byrd continued to hone his talent throughout adolescence and into early adulthood. He later won the Northeast Amateur and the Carolinas Amateur, was an All-American selection for three out of his four college years at Clemson University. He was a member of the 1999 Walker Cup Team.

I have followed Jonathan's career and have had the pleasure of golfing with him in South Carolina. I can personally attest to his extraordinary talent and strength of character. His success is a reflection of the overwhelming support he has received from his family, his community, and supporters. Their investment and faith in him have been justly rewarded.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Byrd for his outstanding athletic achievements. His integrity and dedication to physical excellence, and mental toughness are inspiration to all. Mr. Byrd's talent will serve him, his friends and

family for many years to come. I extend my most heartfelt congratulations to Jonathan Byrd for his accomplishments, and wish him good luck and Godspeed in all his future endeavors.

MEDICAL MONITORING FOR
RESCUE WORKERS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge the President to spend the funds that this Congress authorized for medical monitoring of firefighters, police officers and others who so bravely responded to Ground Zero on September 11th, 2001.

I worked closely with my colleague, Mr. CROWLEY of New York and the other members of our state's delegation to designate \$90 million to screen and evaluate emergency responders for hazardous exposure in the wake of the attacks.

Sadly, the Administration has only spent a fraction of the full amount—enough to fund only 9,000 of 40,000 medical screening examinations. Based on an initial sample of 250 WTC workers, one-half of WTC workers are experiencing ongoing pulmonary problems, ENT symptoms and mental health issues.

I am disappointed that the administration is not spending the additional funds to cover the entire population of heroes who were there when we needed them.

This is a glaring example of the most outrageous priorities. The administration supported spending \$187 billion in a farm bill to subsidize America's farmers not to grow crops, but won't spend \$90 million to subsidize the health care of America's firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, when farmers need our help, we're there for them with subsidies. When big oil wants a hand-out, we're there for them with lavish tax-breaks. But when a New York City firefighter who was on the job on September 11th needs to be screened for a breathing problem, we tell him we can't afford to help.

I was with President Bush in the immediate aftermath of the attack at Ground Zero. I admired his leadership on that day, when he stood with our firefighters in the rubble. Now, we need his leadership in standing with our firefighters in his budget.

RECOGNITION OF VISTA,
CALIFORNIA'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the occasion of the city of Vista, California's 40th Birthday. I am a long-time resident and also have the distinct honor of representing the citizens of Vista in Congress.

Forty years ago Vista was a small agricultural community located in northern San Diego County. The residents felt that the community was being neglected due to its isolation from downtown San Diego. In order for the community to grow and expand, the residents of Vista

knew that they would have to unite and incorporate as a city. On January 28, 1963, the citizens of Vista voted to incorporate. The Vistans made the right decision and since its incorporation, Vista has experienced an enormous amount of growth and change. Today, Vista is a community of nearly 90,000 residents.

The people of Vista have always had a strong sense of tradition, family-values, and a value for diversity. For these reasons I chose Vista as the place to raise my family and the ideal place to grow my business. Vista is a community that has successfully linked culture, education, and commerce. Vista hosts a variety of community events year-round and enjoys an award winning public school system. Vista's business-friendly reputation and centralized location between Southern California's trade centers makes it attractive to businesses.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the city of Vista's 40th year of incorporation, I would like to personally thank all the citizens and community leaders that have molded Vista into the community it is today. I wish the citizens of Vista good fortune and continued success in the future.

THE VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1986, Congress established the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, a no-fault compensation system that provided for quick and fair recovery for those who experience injuries related to a vaccination. It assured that victims would not have to go through long and expensive litigation with uncertain recovery.

Unfortunately, plaintiffs' attorneys recently began to seek ways around the administrative compensation program created by the act. They are trying to somehow distinguish injuries related to ingredients in vaccines from the vaccines themselves. The courts have uniformly rejected these attempts to circumvent the statute. It is the claimants, however, that suffer. Rather than receive the expedient compensation to which they are entitled under the vaccine program, they are drawn through a lengthy court proceeding—ultimately just to find themselves required by the court to file a claim under the no-fault system. Claimants do not lose any rights in this system because as a bipartisan coalition of the Congress set it up, claimants who are not satisfied with the compensation award through the program can then opt to proceed to traditional litigation.

The vaccine ingredient provisions in the Homeland Security Act sought to clarify current law and ensure that claims for all vaccine related injuries go through the vaccine program. Unfortunately, that purpose has been

misconstrued in the media due to the manner in which the provisions came to be in the Homeland Security Act. I support the repeal of the vaccine injury provisions to allow for further discussion and explanation of these measures. These measures did not change existing law and their repeal should not be seen as an attempt to change existing law.

TRIBUTE TO TOM CONNELL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Florida's most cherished and dedicated civil servants, Tom Connell. Tom will be leaving our office at the end of the month to begin his much-deserved retirement and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all he has given and wish him well in his future endeavors. For the past 5 years Tom has worked as the Veterans' and Military Affairs caseworker for Florida's First Congressional District. He is the ultimate professional, the greatest of friends, and one of the most valuable members of our organization.

Over 100,000 veterans and 18,000 active duty military personnel reside in the district I represent, giving Mr. Connell the heaviest case-load of all our caseworkers. He continuously brings unique and valuable insight into the primary issues faced in the office, drawing from over 30 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy. Entering the service in 1965, he sailed beneath the open seas as a submariner, serving as Chief of the Boat on three different submarines. For the last 5½ years of his duty, Mr. Connell was appointed Fleet Master Chief of CNET, all the while learning and developing the tools he would need to truly become the district's expert on veteran's affairs and military issues.

Kindly referred to as "Father Tom" around the office, he has infinite patience when dealing with the more challenging casework. Regardless, he listens and genuinely tries to resolve their issues as best he can. The phone on his desk never seems to stop ringing and walk-ins have become a part of his daily routine. A gifted public speaker, Mr. Connell has been an outstanding representative at various veterans rallies and numerous events.

Mr. Connell joined the office with considerable experience as a caseworker and was instrumental in getting the office up and running in very short order. A talented and strong leader, Mr. Connell continuously takes the time to train and advise other members of the staff in an effort to make our office the best it can be in representing the people of Northwest Florida.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the month I will lose a great member of my team. Not a day goes by where Tom's tremendous sense of humor does not make us laugh and we will miss his unique capability of never letting us

forget that we work for the greatest government in the world. Respected and admired by us all, I wish Tom nothing but the best as he embarks on his well-earned retirement with his beautiful wife Billie. He will be truly missed. Tom Connell, you are and always will be a reason for our success.

RECOGNITION OF RANCHO BUENA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND PAGEANTRY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rancho Buena Vista High School band and pageantry, an award winning group that was selected from a pool of hundreds of high school bands throughout the United States and abroad to participate in the 114th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

Rancho Buena Vista High School located in Vista, California, has developed an instrumental music program that is one of the best in Southern California. The marching band, The Rhythm of the Ranch, and pageantry received top awards in the 2001 competitive season by winning the distinction of Grand Champion at the Etiwanda Field Tournament, Lester Oaks Field Tournament and the Savanna High School Field Tournament. The Rancho Buena Vista Drum Line also won the top award and was named Grand Champion in the spring 2001 Drums Across California Competition.

The Rancho Buena Vista High School band and pageantry was one of only 24 bands chosen to participate in this world famous parade. The Tournament of Roses Parade is seen each New Year's Day by approximately one million spectators, a domestic television audience of 80 million viewers, and an international audience of over 350 million people. The Rhythm of the Ranch band members raised the money to participate in the Rose Bowl Parade through extensive fundraising efforts. One of the marching band and pageantry's proudest accomplishments was being featured in an educational video produced by Warner Brothers Publications that was released and premiered at the school in January 2002. The video, Here Comes the Marching Band, was shown in conjunction with a fundraising dinner and the money raised was used to fund the parade trip and cover the costs of new uniforms and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the Rancho Buena Vista High School band and pageantry's participation in the Tournament of Roses Parade, I would like to congratulate them for their demonstration of excellence in music and performance. I wish them continued success in the future.