

scientific study of language" spoke out against this policy. That meeting adopted the following resolution and because of the importance of this issue to our national security, I ask that it be printed here.

Whereas linguists, translators, and interpreters serving at the Defense Language Institute have made important contributions to the nation's defense since the Institute's inception;

Whereas language specialists fluent in Arabic and other critical languages are especially vital to U.S. national security at this time;

Whereas the General Accounting Office reports that there is currently a serious shortage of such linguists in the military;

Whereas the military's recent dismissal of highly trained and highly skilled language specialists who are gay or lesbian presents a significant risk to national security;

Whereas sexual orientation is irrelevant to one's job performance, and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unjust;

Therefore be it resolved that the Linguistic Society of America make known its opposition to the U.S. military's policy of dismissing linguists, translators, interpreters, or other members of the armed forces on the basis of their sexual orientation.

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunizations Act of 2003. This important legislation will improve our nation's efforts to immunize all children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, or Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. More than \$21 is saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 is saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nationwide vaccination coverage levels decreased from 73.2 percent in 1999 to 72.8 percent in the year 2000. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that health insurance coverage of immunization is spotty at best. According to the Institute of Medicine Report "Calling the Shots," private health insurance immunization coverage varies widely by type

of plan as well as by vaccine. Enrollment in a private plan does not guarantee that immunizations will be provided.

Although 28 states have enacted legislation that would require private plans to cover immunizations, plans governed by ERISA are not subject to these requirements. The IOM Report recommends that all health insurance plans, including ERISA self-insured plans, should offer first-dollar coverage for childhood vaccines recommended in the harmonized immunization schedule.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2003 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans and plans covered by the Public Health Services Act to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-eight states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

HONORING MATT RYAN

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I served with Matt Ryan in the Pennsylvania General Assembly for 24 years.

Having worked with him all those years, never once did I question his dedication to his job or his commitment to making life better for all of Pennsylvania's 12 million citizens.

We worked together on a lot of things, but I'll always remember very fondly the work we did together on the Capitol Preservation Committee.

Time and time again, I've heard tourists who have visited dozens of state capitols say that Pennsylvania's is the most beautiful.

Matt and I shared a vision of restoring that beautiful, century-old building to its original grandeur.

It was a project that took a lot of years, and a project that will never really be complete.

But it was a labor of love for us.

It goes without saying that restoring the capitol was only one of Matt's many accomplishments.

Matt served in the General Assembly for more than four decades, and he seemed like a man who was destined to lead.

He was always fair and always compassionate.

He was good at building consensus, even on difficult issues.

And he was a man of his word.

As the longest-serving Republican Speaker of the House since the Republican Party was founded, he left his mark on this Commonwealth as much as any Pennsylvanian since Ben Franklin.

He was a valuable partner, a respected leader, and a very, very good friend.

I'll miss him.

COMMENDING SILVER BELL CLUB, LODGE 2365 OF POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish National Alliance of the United States, will be hosting the 30th Annual Hank Stram-Tony Zale Sports Award Banquet on May 19, 2003, at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. Twenty outstanding Northwest Indiana High School athletes will be honored at this notable event for their dedication and hard work. These outstanding students were chosen to receive the award by their respective schools on the basis of academic and athletic achievement. All proceeds from this event will go toward a scholarship fund to be awarded to local students.

This year's Hank Stram-Tony Zale Award recipients include Lyndee Lee Arnold of Highland High School, Jennifer Barta of Hammond Morton High School, Jared Byczko of Merrillville High School, Lauren Curosh of Whiting High School, Brittany Drobac of Hobart High School, Lori Granich of Bishop Noll High School, Regina Gregorczyk of Andean High School, Derrick Holeman of Hammond Gavit High School, Biljana Jasnic of Portage High School, Jovan Jęflich of Valparaiso High School, Brad MacFarlane of Griffith High School, Michael Marszalek of Lowell High School, Sean O'Drobinak of Crown Point High School, Tim Piatek of Munster High School, Chad Pruzin of Crown Point High School, Tiffany Redlarczyk of Lake Central High School, Maggie Reichersamer of Hammond High School, Jason Renn of Valparaiso High School, Todd Schafer of Wheeler High School and Kari Schmidt of Hammond High School.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Hall of Fame defensive lineman Dan Hampton. Hampton was a menacing, yet versatile, defender who served 12 seasons aggressively protecting the line of scrimmage for the Chicago Bears. An All-American out of the University of Arkansas, he was selected by the Bears in the first round of the 1979 National Football League Draft. Hampton's contribution to the defense as a rookie paved the way for his Hall of Fame career. He recorded 70 tackles, two sacks, two fumble recoveries, and three passes defended in his first campaign, then eclipsed that performance in his sophomore season by recording 73 tackles and leading the Bears with 11.5 sacks. He also earned his first of four Pro Bowl appearances. Dan Hampton will probably be remembered best as a huge part of the Bears' 1985 defense that allowed just 198 points in 16 regular season games, and 10 points in three playoff games, including a dominating performance over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish

National Alliance of the United States, for hosting this celebration of success in sports and academics. The effort of all those involved in planning this worthwhile event is indicative of their devotion to the very gifted young people in Indiana's First Congressional District.

REGULATING BROADBAND
INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, over two months ago, the Federal Communications Commission adopted an order that will change the way it regulates broadband infrastructure. Under the old FCC rules, broadband provided by cable and satellite is essentially unregulated, but broadband provided by telephone companies is regulated like voice telephone service.

The FCC saw that this created regulatory winners and losers and decided in February to change some of its broadband rules and move in the direction of parity for broadband. The FCC's action was the first step in the process of putting telephone company-provided DSL service on the same regulatory footing as cable provided high-speed Internet service. While, in the same proceeding, the FCC failed to remove its burdensome and economically devastating rules on the unbundled network element platform (UNE-P), at least they started to move broadband regulation in the right direction. This will be a much-needed change in broadband regulatory policy, and I applaud the FCC for this aspect of its ruling.

Today, cable has more than two-thirds of the residential broadband market. To the consumer, the two services are fungible, but cable still dominates. Regulatory parity between DSL and cable modem service will result in more head-to-head competition between the two, creating better prices and new, innovative services. It will be a win-win for the consumer. The FCC should end its internal bickering and issue the text of the rules it adopted in February so the FCC can continue on the path to regulatory parity. Only then will our citizens realize the benefits of a fully-competitive broadband Internet market.

COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DE-
BRIS COLLECTION EFFORT FOL-
LOWING THE SPACE SHUTTLE
"COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 222. This resolution commends those individuals who contributed to the debris collection efforts following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident.

On the early morning of Saturday, February 1, 2003, just after 9:00 a.m. a tragedy struck our nation. For the second time in 17 years we lost the crew of a Space Shuttle. This time

it was the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, the oldest of America's four space planes.

On board was a crew of seven courageous astronauts—six Americans: Colonel Douglas Husband, Commander William C. McCool, Astronaut Kaplana Chawla, Captain David M. Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Captain Laurel Blair Salton Clark, MD, and one Israeli: Colonel Ilan Ramon.

The seven astronauts accepted this mission knowing the potential danger they faced. Despite the danger, they risked their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice in their dedicated efforts to advance our nation's space program. Each of these astronauts will be remembered as a pioneer and a hero.

More heroes emerged in the days and weeks following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident. These heroes collected the debris and wreckage from the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Among the debris collectors were National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, trained to handle the aftermath of terrorist attacks. Their training made them ideal experts for protecting the public from the toxic shuttle fuels. Also helping with the collection were Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and other law enforcement agency personnel.

As impressive as the efforts of public agents was the self-sacrifice of the over 1,500 volunteers who helped with the search for debris. The volunteers are residents of Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas. They hiked over and through thickets, briers, forests, marshes, muddy hillsides, creeks, and barbed-wire fences for over a week looking for debris. The volunteers braved near-freezing temperatures, gusting winds, sleet, and rain. They included teachers, NASA engineers, store-owners, and housewives.

Brian Carpenter, a volunteer from Warren, Texas described his experience, and why he joined the search efforts. "It's cold out here," he said, "but knowing that the day will come when the astronaut's families will be able to smile and think about their loved ones with pride and without grieving, there's warmth in that."

Tracy Jones of Orange, Texas said, "We want to give the families peace of mind. That's the only reason we're out here."

Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 222 to commend Brian Carpenter, Tracy Jones and all of the generous volunteers who helped to collect the Space Shuttle *Columbia* debris. I also support H. Res. 222 to commend the members of the National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, the Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and the other law enforcement agency personnel who sacrificed their time to collect the debris and bring a sense of needed closure to the grieving families of the astronauts. I commend everyone who helped with the debris collection efforts. They too are heroes.

HONORING THE 13TH ANNUAL DC
BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION AND
EARL D. FOWLKES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day weekend, May 23–26, is the 13th Annual DC Black Pride Celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting 4-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large night-club events culminating with the world's largest Black Pride Festival at Washington's new Convention Center. It is considered one of the preeminent Black Pride celebrations in the world, consistently drawing 30,000 people to the nation's capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as from Canada, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family including performances from national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

The event is coordinated by Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD), a nonprofit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors: Earline Budd, Cheryl Dunn, Clarence J. Fluker, Eric Richardson, Members-At-Large; Toni Collins, Secretary; Ronnie Foster, Vice-President; Robert Jones, Treasurer; and Earl D. Fowlkes, President. BLGPD's mission is to build awareness of and pride in the diversity of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community as well as to create a funding source and support for organizations that are addressing HIV/AIDS and other health issues adversely affecting our community.

Mr. Fowlkes has been President of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. since 1997. In addition to his duties with BLGPD, Mr. Fowlkes is the Executive Director of Damien Ministries, Inc., a faith-based HIV/AIDS service organization in Washington, DC, and he sits on the boards of Siloam Ministries, Prevention Works, the DC Black AIDS Network, Project Ujima, International Federation of Black Prides and DC HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee. Mr. Fowlkes is retiring as President of BLGPD to devote more of his energies to the International Federation of Black Prides of which he is also President.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 13th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the attendees that United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

TONY SIANO, "KIWANIAN OF THE
YEAR"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tony Siano, whose commitment to