

principles embodied in the ADA to the hundreds of millions of people with disabilities worldwide who have no domestic protection. This is worthy of our leadership. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by playing the role the world expects of us.

It would be a shame to let the chance pass by to demonstrate political and moral leadership in a process in which the end result can only be the improvement of life for countless millions of people. We can't afford to shortchange this treaty by declaring at the outset our intention not to be a party to it or to participate in a meaningful way in its development.

Just like the ADA, a convention will not be a magic legal solution with the power to create immediate change in the attitudes, cultural perceptions and ignorance that lead to discrimination and human rights abuses of people with disabilities. What it will do is create a place for disability in the human rights framework. It will put disability on the radar screen of governments and societies as a legitimate human rights issue to which they must give heed. It will provide guidance and standards and create a legal obligation for States Parties to respect the rights of this sizable population. It will serve as a powerful advocacy tool for the global disability movement to promote inclusion and equality of opportunity.

Change will be gradual—probably painfully slow. But this is the best first step we can take toward promoting change on a global scale. Our commitment to leadership on disability rights should not end at our shores. This is about 600 million people worldwide whose rights have been ignored for too long.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member agrees with the sentiments expressed in an April 22, 2004, Omaha World Herald editorial entitled "A New Fight Against Slavery." This Member commends the article to his colleagues.

A NEW FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY

Slavery has long been officially illegal in most of the world. Yet de facto slavery continues for hundreds of thousands of women and children kidnapped and exploited as prostitutes, domestic servants or forced laborers.

The revenues generated for criminal enterprises total a staggering \$7 billion a year. The U.S. Intelligence community projects that within a decade, the worldwide returns from criminal trafficking in human beings will exceed those from the sale of illegal narcotics or guns.

Paula J. Dobriansky, U.S. undersecretary of state for global affairs, described the scale of this problem during a recent speech. "Each year," she said, "an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 human beings—mostly women and children in search of a better life—are bought, sold or forced across international borders."

Although most of these cases involve developing and middle-income countries, some of the exploitation reaches U.S. shores. Between 18,000 and 20,000 women and children are coerced into the United States annually by traffickers, Dobriansky said.

Despite the challenge in tackling such a global phenomenon, progress is being made. When a State Department report listed

friendly countries such as South Korea, Greece and Turkey among those failing to address human trafficking, those governments soon ratcheted up their law enforcement efforts.

Greater international cooperation has led to significant arrests. One operation involving 12 countries led last year to the apprehension of 207 suspected traffickers.

In this country, Congress and the White House have cooperated to sharply increase the penalties for such crimes. In early 2004, the federal government was pursuing more than 300 human-trafficking investigations.

Private aid agencies as well as governments are contributing millions of dollars to help resettle women and children and provide them with educational assistance or other help.

The official abolition of slavery was one of the milestones of the 19th century. Successfully choking off the opportunities for human traffickers would be one of the great achievements in the 21st.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to acknowledge April as Occupational Therapy Month. Occupational therapy is a health, wellness, and rehabilitation service provided by medically qualified professionals whose expertise includes anatomy, physiology, psychology and other disciplines which enable them to provide "skills for the job of living."

Occupational therapy is based on performing the meaningful activities of daily life, such as self-care, education, work, or social interaction, especially to enable or enhance participation in such activities despite impairments or limitations in physical or mental functioning. Occupational therapy helps children with disabilities in schools learn, help adults with mental illness function safely in the community, and helps stroke and other neurological patients recover as much ability as possible to lead full, productive, meaningful lives.

More than 2300 occupational therapists live and practice in the great state of Illinois of which 125 providers reside in my district, in western and central Illinois.

This year's focus for Occupational Therapy Month is older driver issues. The number of Americans aged 65 and older is expected to double to 70 million by the year 2030. With an increasing proportion of elderly persons expected to stay mobile longer, health care professionals, policymakers, and caregivers have raised concerns about addressing driving safety and quality-of-life issues among older adults.

Occupational therapy can optimize and prolong an older driver's ability to drive safely, and ease the transition to other forms of transportation if driving cessation becomes necessary. By identifying strengths as well as physical or cognitive challenges, occupational therapists can evaluate an individual's overall ability by testing his or her vision, reaction time, strength, judgment, and endurance to operate a vehicle safely and recommend assistive devices or behavioral changes to limit risks.

I want to recognize occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in the im-

portant service they provide to millions of individuals and families and to our nation as a whole.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of the Michigan State University Debate Team. On April 6, 2004, The Michigan State University Debate team placed first at the National Debate Tournament held at Catholic University in Washington, DC. The National Debate Tournament is the premier debate tournament in the country. Only seventy-eight of the nation's very best Universities are invited to compete at the highest level of collegiate debate.

The MSU Debate Team has had a long history of success in national debate competition finishing in the Final Four of the National Debate Tournament in 1968, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2003. In 2000, the Michigan State University finished as a runner up in the competition. However, despite their previous success, the 2004 championship marks the first championship in the school's history. The Michigan State Spartans are only the third public school in the fifty-seven year history of the competition to take the first place honors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishment of the Michigan State University Debate Team. I am extremely grateful to represent one of the premier universities in the country and delighted to share their successes with you.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DAVID SPIRTEs, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Spirtes, Superintendent of the Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island and resident of East Moriches, New York, who passed away on Thursday, April 15. A 31-year veteran of the National Park Service, Mr. Spirtes was highly respected for his fair and cooperative nature, as well as his strong environmental stewardship of the parks entrusted to his care. He was a man of integrity, noted for the respect with which he treated others, service to his country in the armed forces, and devotion to his family.

A native of New York, David Spirtes began a long and successful career with the National Park Service 31 years ago. Before securing his first career position with the agency in 1977, he served as a seasonal park ranger at such prestigious parks as the Grand Canyon, Everglades, and White Sands National Monument. Mr. Spirtes quickly rose through the ranks, promoted to subdistrict ranger at Yellowstone National Park, then to chief ranger at

Glacier Bay National Park. In 1994, he first acquired the rank of superintendent at Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, and also held the post at Western Arctic National Parklands in Kotzebue, Alaska. During his years with the Park Service, Mr. Spirtes became known for his ability to foster cooperation between residents and other groups with conflicting interests without compromising the integrity of the natural resources under his supervision.

In May 2003, David Spirtes brought this same professional and conciliatory quality to his native New York as superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore—a national park known both for its natural beauty and political sensitivity. Upon his arrival at Fire Island, Mr. Spirtes found a community divided over a number of issues, ranging from erosion to the use of vehicles on the beach. To dispel the existing atmosphere of contention, he quickly acquainted himself with the park, its residents, and other parties affiliated with its operation, thoughtfully weighing the priorities and agendas of each. Although he had been at Fire Island for less than a year, Mr. Spirtes is credited with mending much of the divisiveness in the community through his cooperative brand of leadership and willingness to listen. Mr. Spirtes quickly gained the respect of the Fire Island community and is often touted as the best superintendent in the park's history.

During his long career, David Spirtes earned numerous awards for his achievements in wilderness management, assisting in the Exxon oil spill response, and managing search and rescue operations. In 2000, he was honored with the Secretary of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award. Mr. Spirtes graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1970. Prior to joining the National Park Service, he served as a pathfinder and infantryman with the Army's prestigious 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, their young daughter, Alexandra, two brothers, Richard and Peter, and sister, Judy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of David Spirtes. Throughout his exemplary career with the National Park Service, Mr. Spirtes worked to preserve and promote the most important natural treasures in our nation, which enhanced the quality of life of countless communities and all Americans. Though his stewardship of Fire Island National Seashore was brief, his many contributions will not be forgotten by the residents of Fire Island and those with whom he worked. Mr. Spirtes' leadership and strength of character are qualities each of us should aspire to embrace as we carry out our professional and private endeavors.

**HONORING ALICIA MCCOMBS OF
GIRL SCOUT TROOP 47**

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award by Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council in Peoria, Illinois. She is Alicia McCombs of Girl Scout Troop 47.

Alicia is being honored on May 2, 2004 for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls ages 14–17 or in grades 9–12.

Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of the Girl Scouts—Kickapoo Council, Alicia began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in September 2000. Her project consisted of co-directing a school play with responsibilities including set building, costumes, makeup, and lighting. Alicia is currently a senior at Lewistown High School.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment for Alicia and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
AWARDING LARRY O'TOOLE THE
MASSACHUSETTS SMALL BUSI-
NESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry O'Toole, founder and president of Gentle Giant Moving Company. Gentle Giant has received numerous accolades since its incorporation in 1985, including the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's 2002 Small Business of the Year award, the 2002 and 2003 Better Business Bureau Local Torch Award for Excellence, five time winner of both the Improper Bostonian's Best Moving Company award and Boston Magazine's Best of Boston: Best Moving Company. However, just this spring, Mr. O'Toole has been named the Small Business Administration's State Small Business Person of the Year from Massachusetts.

Mr. O'Toole began Gentle Giant in 1980, with \$17, a truck he borrowed from a friend and a single ad placed in a weekly Boston newspaper. By 1990, the company's revenue was \$2 million; by 2000, it was \$12 million. There is no special secret to Gentle Giant's success. Mr. O'Toole relies heavily on well trained, well conditioned moving crews; in fact, three Gentle Giant employees participated in the Barcelona Olympics. The company also consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to assist those who are moving, to the point where Gentle Giant offers complimentary packing seminars on Saturday mornings. The

result of Mr. O'Toole's business approach is sound—90% of Gentle Giant's business is either repeat or referral.

However, there is more to running a successful business than profit and sound business strategy. There is also giving back to the community, and in this regard, Mr. O'Toole and Gentle Giant are nonpareil. Gentle Giant has partnered for years with the AIDS Action Committee, the Boys and Girls Club and the Somerville Homeless Coalition. Mr. O'Toole has started the Gentle Giant Rowing Club, offering free and subsidized rowing lessons to teens and adults. In fact, just this year, Gentle Giant sponsored 11 runners in the 2004 Boston Marathon.

In closing, I salute Larry O'Toole for being awarded the Small Business Administration State Small Business Person of the Year for Massachusetts. It is a well deserved recognition.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V.
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

The United States Supreme Court case, decided on May 17, 1954, challenged the constitutionality of racial segregation in public schools. The landmark decision of Brown v. Board of education affected changes in national and social policy by putting an end to the legality of racial segregation.

The achievements of early leaders continue today as Linda Brown and Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughters of Oliver Brown, the first of the 12 families to file suit, promote equality in education. Their foundation, the Brown Foundation for Education Equity, Excellence and Research, provides scholarships for minority students.

In the spirit of equality, I am pleased to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

**CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the somber occasion of the 89th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and to call upon the Administration to finally recognize this horrible crime for what it truly was, systematic and deliberate murder.

The Armenian Genocide began on April 24, 1915, and within eight years one and a half million Armenians were tortured and killed. Tortures that the Armenians were forced to endure included forced labor, rape, kidnapping, and death marches under the guise of "temporary relocation." A grave injustice was intentionally committed by the Ottoman Empire during these years, and it is imperative that we now stand up and demand that this injustice be officially recognized by Turkey, the United States, and the World.