Nebraska community colleges are certainly encouraged by the President's proposal, as evidenced by the November 22, 2004, Omaha World-Herald article entitled, ''Nebraska Educators Like Sound of Bush Proposals.'' Mr. Jerry Moskus, President of Metropolitan Community College in Omaha was quoted in the article saying, ''The great part about this was seeing the Members of Congress stand up and applaud for community colleges. I think that was the high point of my month.''

Job training programs are essential, according to Mr. Barry Kennedy, President of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry. ''Those of us involved with economic growth have been talking about this for the last year or so,'' Kennedy told the World Herald. ''We still have people who say they would hire more people if they could just find people with the skills they needed.''

The President's proposal would also encourage students to take more rigorous courses in high school. As an incentive for students to take more demanding high school courses, the President's proposal would provide larger grants for college under the Pell Grant program. This program is said to be consistent with Nebraska's P–16 Initiative, an initiative that integrates a student's education beginning in preschool and ending with a 4-year college degree.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this Member is intrigued and enthusiastically supportive of the President's proposal. Also, this Member would like to express his support for community colleges and the quality education they provide.

HONORING JENNIFER HUNTER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Hunter, one of my remarkable young constituents who had an outstanding accomplishment.

Jennifer is a 12 year-old little leaguer in my hometown of Tarpon Springs, Florida. In April of last year, she used her 60 mile per-hour fastball to throw a no-hitter against one of her team's opponents. She had a 6 and 3 record and a 2.10 Earned Run Average in 54 innings last season. Baseball fans know that these are tremendous accomplishments. They are especially impressive considering Jennifer is playing against boys.

Jennifer, you see, loves baseball and wanted to test her skills against her peers, both male and female. Her teammates were unsure about having a girl on their team at first, until they saw her play. Jennifer recently told Sports Illustrated that ''they thought I wasn't going to be any good.'' However, she says, they became closer once they saw her play, particularly after her no-hitter. Jennifer wants to play in the Women's Professional Baseball League next year, and though the league has no players younger than 18, I am confident that she will give the older women all they can handle.

Mr. Speaker, Jennifer Hunter has shown me, my friends, and neighbors that hard work, determination, and perseverance can help us achieve what many, if not most, thought impossible. I congratulate her and her family and urge our colleagues to wish her luck in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CECILIA COTA-ROBLES SUAREZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute today to the life of Dr. Cecilia Cota-Robles Suarez, a longtime political and educational leader. She passed away last week after a courageous battle against breast cancer. This is why I have fought and continue to fight tirelessly on behalf of breast cancer research, through such legislation as H.R. 1385 which recently passed the House. Without proper funding, it will become increasingly difficult to save the lives of people like Dr. Suarez, whose remarkable and inspirational life touched the lives of countless people. So I join today with family and friends in honoring her memory.

To all those who knew Dr. Suarez, she exhibited love of life, generosity of spirit, and compassion for her fellow man. She was a dedicated teacher who challenged those around her to strive for a better life through educational opportunities, never being satisfied with the way the world is but instead questioning what it could be.

After receiving her Doctorate in education from U.C.L.A., Dr. Suarez went on to fight for early childhood and bilingual schooling. As President of the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) and member of the National Chicana Foundation, as well as the Tri-Counties Mexican American Political Association, she was a passionate advocate and leading activist for Hispanic education. Her tremendous selflessness led her to her role as community leader and respected member of her community.

I join today with family and friends in paying tribute to Dr. Cecilia Suarez, beloved wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her three children Francisco, Mike, and Laura, and her four grandchildren Arnado, Michelle, Christine, and Victoria. Her generous and gregarious spirit will be deeply missed by all.

CELEBRATING THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE 3D MEDICAL COMMAND AT THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE CENTER AT FORT GILLEM

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a very special occasion. The United States Army Reserve 3d Medical Command will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fort Gillem United States Army Reserve Center on Friday, the sixth of February, 2004 at Fort Gillem Georgia located in the 13th district of Georgia.

During my tenure as the Representative of the 13th District of Georgia, the support of Fort Gillem continues to be my top priority. Not only is the installation a vital element to our country's defense, but is the third largest employer in the largest county in my district. The United States Army Reserve Center provides a 1,600 person, two story training and storage facility, medical warehouse, and vehicle maintenance to the multi-mission, multi-service component functions of Fort Gillem. As the logistical base for the United States Army, Fort Gillem consists of 142 buildings and 77 tenants spread over 1,427 acres, with the First U.S. Army as the senior occupant.

The First U.S. Army trains, mobilizes and deploys Army Reserve and National Guard units in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands, and as directed, conducts Homeland Defense, in support of national objectives. The installation is also the home of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Headquarters, responsible for two medium company operational facilities and a Battalion Headquarters. The 2d United States Army Recruiting Brigade Administrative facility and Army Medical Department detachment also provide operational readiness as major tenants of Fort Gillem.

Soon, an 88,000 square foot special design forensic Criminal Investigation laboratory that includes labs, administration, evidence storage and training and conference rooms will join Fort Gillem. With the opening of this new facility on Fort Gillem, the United States Army Reserve 3d Medical Command is now better equipped to continue its critical missions in support of our great Nation, and on behalf of the constituents of the 13th district of Georgia, welcome.

RECOGNIZING BERNHARD ''BARNEY'' MAYRSOHN ON HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Purchase, NY, resident Barney Mayrsohn for his life of service to our country, from the snowy forests of the Battle of the Bulge in WWII to the snowy streets of Moscow today.

In 1943, Barney Mayrsohn was hard at work in college, but with the world at war, he would enter the U.S. Army, joining his father and two brothers, who were also serving. In September of 1944, he was shipped aboard the Queen Mary, with 1,500 of his fellow soldiers, to the European Theater. A member of the 106th Infantry Division, Mr. Mayrsohn would find himself thrust into the largest land battle of WWII in which the United States participated: the German offensive in the Ardennes in the winter of 1944–1945 that would come to be known as the Battle of the Bulge.

During the fighting, Mr. Mayrsohn would prove a brave and resilient soldier, getting wounded twice and earning two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, and a Combat Infantry Badge. As the battle continued unremittingly, the 106th would lose half of the division, and Barney would be taken captive in December 1944.

He was taken by train, along with other Allied prisoners-of-war, to the Stalag 4B prison camp. Along the way, he narrowly escaped

death yet again, as Allied aircraft, while bombing the German railroad tracks, mistakenly dropped a bomb on the train car in front of his.

Mr. Mayrsohn's transition into life as a prisoner was eased thanks to the generosity of British prisoners, who provided him with some Red Cross food packages and extra clothing that they had stored away. Over time, as the Red Army continued its inexorable advance westward, the Red Cross packages ran out and no more were on the way. Prisoners began to starve. Mr. Mayrsohn lost more than forty pounds.

As the sounds of artillery became louder over the spring, it was clear that the Red Army was near. In April of 1945, the Russians arrived at the gates of Stalag 4B. After more than five months in enemy captivity, Mr. Mayrsohn was free.

The captain of the liberating Russian unit gathered together Mr. Mayrsohn and four of his fellow American soldiers with three Russian female military personnel for a picture. This photo would return with Mr. Mayrsohn to America. And there it lay, untouched for 57 years, in a bottom drawer.

After the war, Mr. Mayrsohn would return to college, have a family, and start a successful international trading business. In 2003, he decided to use a previously planned trip to Scandinavia as the perfect opportunity to visit Russia and attempt to reunite with the three women in the photo and the Russian officer who snapped it. Mr. Mayrsohn worked with the Russian Cultural Center in Washington, DC, and the Office of Veterans Affairs in Moscow to discover the identity of the soldiers. While it proved impossible to find those particular people, the Office of Veterans Affairs was able to find two female and two male veterans of the battles that liberated the camp.

In August of 2003, accompanied by two soldiers from the American Embassy in Moscow, Mr. Mayrsohn took the four liberators out to a banquet dinner at a prestigious restaurant in Red Square. At the event, gifts were exchanged, as were stories recalling an age of unprecedented cooperation between the two world powers.

He then met with the officer in charge of Russian Veteran Affairs, who not only agreed to help find the soldiers in the picture; he also presented Mr. Mayrsohn with the Russian Blue Star—similar to our Combat Infantry Badge.

These meetings were covered in the Russian media. The ''Red Star,'' the Russian Defense Ministry's official newspaper, even printed an article on Mr. Mayrsohn's story. While the search goes on for more of his liberators, Mr. Mayrsohn, through his efforts, has helped to create goodwill between our two countries. With the Cold War over, and each country attempting to put aside past differences to look ahead towards a common future, efforts by people such as Mr. Mayrsohn are extremely important. Therefore, even if it is ultimately not possible to find the women in his photo, I would say that his mission was a great success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to cast votes on Tuesday, January 28 and Wednesday, January 29, 2004 as I was part of a Congressional Delegation visiting our troops in Iraq. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

''Yes'' on rollcall No. 6, passage of H.R. 1385, authorizing the U.S. Postal Service to issue stamps supporting breast cancer research.

''Yes'' on rollcall No. 7, passage of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act.

''Yes'' on rollcall No. 8, the Baldwin substitute to S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

''Yes'' on rollcall No. 9, the motion to recommit S. 1920 with instructions.

''Yes'' on rollcall No. 10, final passage of S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

''No'' on rollcall No. 11, motion to instruct conferees on S. 1920, regarding the Extension of chapter 12 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

TRIBUTE TO JAY W. WEISS: A GREAT PERSON AND A GREAT PUBLIC PERSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with great pride—but with deep sorrow—I rise to pay my homage to one of Miami-Dade County's giant leaders, the late Mr. Jay W. Weiss. His untimely demise late Saturday night, January 31, 2004, has cast a veil of sadness over our community.

Indeed, as the business entrepreneur par excellence that he evoked, this extraordinary man easily communed with the pains and anguishes of ordinary people and transformed them into his very own by uplifting them into a timely rationale for creating appropriate solutions to them.

As Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Public Health Trust, he spearheaded the passage of the half-penny tax that now provides continuous support to Jackson Memorial Hospital, along with the funding of the Ryder Trauma Center and the University of Miami/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. These are but a few of the great initiatives his humanitarian spirit willed to come to fruition, and these programs now serve to lessen the burdens of various illnesses and enhance the quality of life for countless people in Miami-Dade County.

Though a highly private individual, he virtually consecrated his life to public service. In so doing he symbolized everything that is good and noble about the American spirit of idealism and optimism in serving our fellowmen.

Our community genuinely feels the loss of a truly decent and caring man who made it his personal business to reach out to the less fortunate among us. Dr. Bernard Fogel, former dean of the University of Miami Medical School, succinctly described Mr. Weiss as someone who believed and lived by the tenets of tzedekah, ''. . . the Jewish tradition of charity . . . that's what he was motivated by—doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do. ''

The numerous accolades with which government officials and various organizations have honored him buttress the unequivocal testimony of the utmost gratitude and respect he enjoyed from a grateful community. He truly epitomized the vision, resilience and compassion of a servant of God whose life served as an example of the great difference each one of us can make on behalf of our community's well-being once we hearken to the calling of our common stewardship over one another.

This is the legacy Mr. Jay W. Weiss bequeathed to us. Indeed, I am privileged to have seen and marveled at the magnificent works that emanated from his boundless heart and great faith. I now join our community in thanking God for letting him grace us with his noble presence during his earthly sojourn.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (S. 1920) to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, our current bankruptcy system is in need of reform. Bankruptcy filings have risen steadily in recent years—growing by nearly 140% during the past four years alone. In Wisconsin, bankruptcy filings are up two-and-a-half times what they were just 10 years ago.

The costs associated with discharging bankruptcy related debt, calculated at over $40 billion in 2001, hurt all consumers through increased prices on goods and services. In fact, losses associated with bankruptcies alone cost the average American family around $400 per year.

We need to reform our bankruptcy laws to protect those people truly in need of debt relief while holding accountable those who can repay their debt. The reforms contained in this amended legislation before us today accomplish this, and provide new disclosure requirements for lending institutions to offer better information to consumers about credit cards and