

confidence that Alu Like will continue to be a leading service organization in its promotion of social and economic self-sufficiency for all Native Hawaiians. But today is a time for us simply to reflect on the great success of our Alu Like 'ohana (family), all of whom deserve our praise and commendation for a job truly well done.

Mahalo, and aloha!

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
SPECIALIST STEVEN RAY GIVENS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, just over ten days ago the First Congressional District of Alabama and indeed, our entire state and nation, said goodbye to another casualty of war in Iraq.

Army Specialist Steven Ray Givens, a native of Houston, Texas, and a longtime resident of Mobile, Alabama, had recently volunteered for a second tour of duty in Iraq after having already completed an earlier 14-month tour. Steven, a member of the Third Infantry, Third Brigade, of Fort Benning, Georgia, returned to Iraq in mid-January, 2005, and had planned to make a career with the Army. Unfortunately, on May 8, 2005, he was fatally wounded during an attack by Iraqi insurgents.

During his career with the Army, Steven set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are the hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military.

While serving his country with all his ability, Steven also showed great concern and charity for those he fought to liberate, frequently asking his friends and family back at home to send toys and snacks for the children in Iraq. As he left for his second tour he told his family, "I can do something," and he truly did. This dedication to devote his life to serving his country and his concern and charity towards the children are a telling sign of what kind of man Steven was. This young man has shown America and the world the values and ideals our great country stands for.

It is appropriate for us to pause and thank God that there are still young men like Steven, whose life personified the very best America has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, as you can imagine, south Alabama is truly mourning the loss of this fine young man. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Army Specialist Steven Ray Givens and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy, but to a people who are in the infant stages of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should remember his wife, Cayssia Givens, and his two-year-old son, his parents, Joyce and Mike McDuffie, and his other family members and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DANIEL R. BORCHERDT ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Daniel R. Borchert of Archbold, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Daniel's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2009. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Daniel brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Archbold High School in Archbold, Ohio, Daniel has attained a grade point average of 3.80, which places him near the top of his class of more than one hundred students. While a gifted athlete, Daniel has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. In addition, Daniel has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Daniel has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Daniel has excelled in Varsity Basketball where he was selected as First-Team All Ohio. Daniel's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Daniel will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Daniel R. Borchert on his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Daniel will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

FDA AND GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED FOODS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the following article to the attention of my colleagues. We must continue to challenge the FDA's assumption that all genetically engineered food is safe.

[From the Independent, May 22, 2005.]

REVEALED: HEALTH FEARS OVER SECRET

STUDY INTO GM FOOD

(By Geoffrey Lean)

Rats fed on a diet rich in genetically modified corn developed abnormalities to internal organs and changes to their blood, raising fears that human health could be affected by eating GM food.

The Independent on Sunday can today reveal details of secret research carried out by Monsanto, the GM food giant, which shows that rats fed the modified corn had smaller kidneys and variations in the composition of their blood.

According to the confidential 1,139-page report, these health problems were absent from another batch of rodents fed non-GM food as part of the research project.

The disclosures come as European countries, including Britain, prepare to vote on whether the GM-modified corn should go on sale to the public. A vote last week by the European Union failed to secure agreement over whether the product should be sold here, after Britain and nine other countries voted in favour.

However, the disclosure of the health effects on the Monsanto rats has intensified the row over whether the corn is safe to eat without further research. Doctors said the changes in the blood of the rodents could indicate that the rat's immune system had been damaged or that a disorder such as a tumour had grown and the system was mobilising to fight it.

Dr. Vyvyan Howard, a senior lecturer on human anatomy and cell biology at Liverpool University, called for the publication of the full study, saying the summary gave "prima facie cause for concern".

Dr. Michael Antoniou, an expert in molecular genetics at Guy's Hospital Medical School, described the findings as "very worrying from a medical point of view", adding: "I have been amazed at the number of significant differences they found [in the rat experiment]."

Although Monsanto last night dismissed the abnormalities in rats as meaningless and due to chance, reflecting normal variations between rats, a senior British government source said ministers were so worried by the findings that they had called for further information.

Environmentalists will see the findings as vindication of British research seven years ago, which suggested that rats that ate GM potatoes suffered damage to their health. That research, which was roundly denounced by ministers and the British scientific establishment, was halted and Dr. Arpad Pusztai, the scientist behind the controversial findings, was forced into retirement amid a huge row over the claim.

Dr. Pusztai reported a "huge list of significant differences" between rats fed GM and conventional corn, saying the results strongly indicate that eating significant amounts of it can damage health. The new study is into a corn, codenamed MON 863, which has been modified by Monsanto to protect itself against corn rootworm, which the company describes as "one of the most pernicious pests affecting maize crops around the world".

Now, however, any decision to allow the corn to be marketed in the UK will cause widespread alarm. The full details of the rat research are included in the main report, which Monsanto refuses to release on the grounds that "it contains confidential business information which could be of commercial use to our competitors".

A Monsanto spokesman said yesterday: "If any such well-known anti-biotech critics had doubts about the credibility of these studies

they should have raised them with the regulators. After all, MON 863 isn't new, having been approved to be as safe as conventional maize by nine other global authorities since 2003."

THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN COLLINS FOOTE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HOYER and I rise today to honor Helen Foote, a woman of faith, family, a selfless spirit and infectious laughter.

Ms. Foote was born to the late Reverend Benjamin Collins and Henrietta Collins in South River, Maryland. One of eight children, Helen received her education in a one-room school and spent her free time like most children, fishing, hunting and picking apples from the trees in a nearby orchard. On Sundays, Helen and her cousins spent time learning the art of playing the piano. It was here, during those lessons, her already well-known laughter earned her the nickname "KeeKee" embodying the sound of her continuous and infectious laugh.

As she grew up, Ms. Foote developed a reputation for spreading joy both through her laugh and through her altruistic nature. Whether helping wallpaper her parent's bedroom, caring for her ailing mother or donating her time to her church, Helen Foote was the very model of selfless dedication. In fact, her benevolence eventually led Hope Memorial St. Mark United Methodist Church to name her Mother of the Year in 2004. And as a mother of five daughters, one stepdaughter, 10 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 6 step-great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild, that award was well-earned.

The daughter of a Reverend, religion always remained a pivotal aspect of Ms. Foote's family life. At a young age she attended Chews United Methodist Church in Owensesville, Maryland. In her later years she became a member of Hope Chapel now referred to as Hope Memorial St. Mark United Methodist Church. It was here Ms. Foote served as a Communion Steward, an Usher and a member of the United Methodist Women.

Today you can still find Ms. Foote doing the things she loves best: working in her yard, cooking meals for her family, rooting for her beloved Baltimore Orioles, and, occasionally, wallpapering a bedroom.

Helen Foote is truly a blessing to all she encounters. She is an inspiration, a foundation for the young and dedicated, and a distinguished and divine family woman. Helen Foote is truly a woman of strength and I am honored to rise today and honor her in this Congress.

THE FAIR LAND TRANSFER COMPENSATION ACT OF 2005

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fair Land Transfer Compensa-

tion Act, a bill for fee simple transfer of certain federal lands to the District of Columbia to provide partial in-kind compensation for the federally imposed structural balance documented in a 2003 GAO report to be "between \$470 million and up to more than \$1.1 billion." My bill would transfer 65.73 acres of land in Southeast Washington, D.C. known as Reservation 13 and the parcel known as Poplar Point, also in Southeast. The bill introduced today would assist in providing the compensation that would be authorized by H.R. 1586, the Fair Federal Compensation Act (FFCA) introduced by the bipartisan House regional delegation and me in April. The FFCA would authorize an annual federal contribution of \$800 million (to increase annually with the consumer price index) to partially compensate the city and relieve a dangerous structural imbalance.

The extensively documented GAO report confirming exclusive federal responsibility for the District's structural imbalance and the bipartisan sponsorship of the FFCA demonstrate the need for federal action. However, neither the administration nor the Congress has responded, despite the District's continuing apprehension and repeated introduction of the FFCA. Today's bill providing valuable land to partially compensate the District would mark the first significant federal response to the FFCA.

The District of Columbia has had administrative control of Reservation 13, a GSA property, for 150 years and has used the parcel for the D.C. General Hospital, the District of Columbia jail, and other public facilities. Poplar Point is a strip of land owned by the National Park Service but has never been developed for use as a park.

The transfer authorized in this bill has several advantages for the District and for the federal government: an immediate benefit in partial payment that the District has long sought from the federal government to compensate the city for the structural imbalance; satisfaction, through the transfer of valuable federal land, of some of the responsibility the GAO reports that the federal government bears for the District's structural imbalance; the highest and best use for underused land that the District desires for mixed uses that are unavailable if the District continues to have administrative control but not ownership; a continuing revenue stream in the nature of an annual contribution from investments the District will be able to attract following transfer of the land; and compliance with the Federal Property Act (FPA) requirement that the federal government receive value for the transfer. The bill requires an appraisal and estimates of the financial benefit to the District that are necessary to determine the extent to which the bill would reduce the federal government's responsibility for the structural deficit.

The federal government has never used the parcels in my bill, and has no intention of doing so. At the same time, the District is unable to get value from this strategically located land in the city. Achieving maximum use of available sites located in the nation's capital, where the federal government owns and occupies the most valuable land, is essential to maintaining the financial stability of the District of Columbia.

This bill would compensate the District for some of the costs responsible of the structural imbalance which include the federal removal

from the tax rolls of more than 40 percent of District's land for federal and other purposes; services provided by the District to 200,000 federal employees, notwithstanding a ban on taxation of commuters, most of whom are federal employees; and the District's responsibility for several state costs, although the city is not a state and lacks the broad tax base of a state.

The costs to the District to cover this structural deficit are unsustainable. Among the most serious are the city's debt service, the highest in the country; its taxes, among the highest; and deferral of major capital improvements for vital facilities such as schools and for roads, a major factor inhibiting economic and population stability and growth.

The existence, source and danger of the structural deficit imposed by federal mandates have been fully acknowledged and are no longer debatable. In addition to the definitive GAO report and the findings of the District's Chief Financial Officer, the details are reported in two other studies (McKinsey, March 2002, requested by the Federal City Council consisting of regional business representatives; and Brookings, October 2002, led by Alice Rivlin, former director of the CBO and of the OMB).

According to the GAO, the only available options to eliminate the federally imposed deficit are "to expand the District's tax base or to provide additional financial support." The bill I introduce today will "expand the District's tax base," creating a continuing revenue stream because ownership will allow the District to get the highest and best use of valuable land through its own development initiative. I ask that the House begin the process of compensating the District for the federal deficit carried by the city by enacting the Fair Land Transfer Compensation Act.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI LEONARD AND MRS. CAROLYNNE GUTTMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Council of Young Israel Shofar Award recipient Rabbi Leonard Guttman and his wife, Carolynne, and pay tribute to their involvement and commitment to the Young Israel movement and to worldwide Jewry.

Rabbi Leonard B. Guttman Esq. is an Assistant Vice President for Intergovernmental Relations at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the largest public health system in the United States. His prime responsibility is to serve as an advocate in Washington for New York's publicly funded hospitals and its over 1.3 million patients. While new to the Young Israel Ohel Zedek of North Riverdale-Yonkers, in 1988-1989 he worked at the National Council of Young Israel where one of his responsibilities was serving as editor of the Young Israel Viewpoint. He has also been an adjunct Professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and Touro College and an Assistant Commissioner of the New York City Department for the Aging. From 1994-1996, he served as First Deputy Commissioner/General Counsel at the New York