

also acknowledged by the Electrical Industry Division of the State of Israel Bonds, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of the Electrical Sign Division, and the United Jewish Appeal and the Bronx Council of Scouting.

The dedication of this man to better his community continued even after his retirement on March 1, 1967. He was instrumental in organizing the thirteen chapters of the Retirees Association of Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He served as their first treasurer in 1969, and has served as president since 1975, while continuing to remain a board member on the National Council of Senior Citizens. He still remains active in his community, always putting others before himself. There is no doubt in my mind that this country would benefit by having more people like Joseph Jacobson.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost sincerity and gratitude, that I pay tribute to this man, and thank him for the generosity he has proffered on others throughout his life. He is an outstanding citizen and an inspiration to us all. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to rise with me, and the people of the Fifth Congressional District, as we extend to Joseph Jacobson our sincere appreciation for his life's work and dedication to others.

SERVING NEW JERSEY'S  
VETERANS BETTER

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 1996*

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3376, a bill which authorizes major medical construction projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs in fiscal year 1997. Among these projects, there is one which is special importance to me and to my constituents: an allocation of \$21.1 million for a new building on the grounds of the Veterans Medical Center at Lyons, NJ.

Lyons Medical Center has served New Jersey's veterans since 1930. The Center started life as a long-term care facility with 400 beds for the mentally ill. With over 1,000 nursing home and hospital beds and outpatient visits totaling over 90,000 a year, Lyons is now the largest medical center in the VA's health care system.

H.R. 3376 will provide Lyons with the funds for a two-story building that will replace an aging building currently on site. This new building will enable the Center to provide better service in a more cost-effective manner. The Center will be able to consolidate the hospital's emergency department, diagnostic and treatment services, and ambulatory care clinic.

I regard this work at Lyons as one small part of our country's ongoing commitment to its veterans. My father served during World War II as a fighter pilot. He and his generation successfully met the challenge of defending democracy against the fascist threat.

I think our generation now is confronted with another kind of threat, one from within—that is, our every-growing national debt. In light of this problem, we must review our Nation's spending priorities. The 1997 budget resolution reaches a balanced budget in 2002 while increasing spending for Veterans Affairs from \$37.8 billion in 1996 to \$39.9 billion in 2002.

This Congress stands firm in honoring our obligation to veterans, while also honoring our commitment to future generations of Americans by passing a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, with H.R. 3376 and its proposed spending to upgrade the Lyons Medical Center, the House continues to honor its obligation to New Jersey's veterans. I commend Chairman STUMP for this excellent bill, and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3376.

NATO ENLARGEMENT  
FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 1996*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as an outspoken supporter of NATO expansion, I am pleased to join Chairman GILMAN and others in introducing legislation designed to move this important process ahead in a timely manner. Regrettably, the Clinton administration's professed commitment to expansion of NATO has not been adequately matched by concrete deeds. The Partnership for Peace program, meant to deepen and strengthen the links between the Alliance and the emerging democracies of East Central Europe, appears stalled. The legislation we introduce today is designed to move the program forward, making much-needed resources available to Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and others, helping them to meet the obligations which NATO membership would entail.

The United States must provide the determined leadership necessary to advance NATO enlargement and check those bent on blocking the inclusion of new states in the Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, the peoples of East Central Europe have made tremendous strides in working to overcome the legacy of communism. Many of the countries have undertaken significant steps to consolidate democracy, to protect human rights, and to rebuild economies based on market principles.

At the same time, my endorsement of an expanded NATO is tempered by a recognition of the fact that progress in the region has not been even. There is room for further improvement in each and every one of the states concerned. I would note that all 27 states which have joined the Partnership for Peace to date are participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE]. That membership has committed each to act in accordance with all OSCE documents, including the Helsinki Final Act.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am convinced of the fundamental role of human rights in advancing genuine security and stability, and, as such, must be an integral aspect of the expansion process. The human rights record of prospective candidates for NATO membership deserves close scrutiny. In fact, I would argue that a country's record should be subjected to more—not less—scrutiny the closer that country comes to being admitted into full membership in NATO. I would emphasize that none of the countries seeking NATO membership, including those considered to be leading contenders, is without problems.

The Government of Poland, for example, still has an arcane defamation law that pro-

vides criminal penalties against those who allegedly "slander" the state, similar to the laws previously used by Communist regimes to silence their opponents. In response to a letter from members of the Helsinki Commission on this issue, authorities in Warsaw have recently indicated their intention to repeal this provision as part of a general overhaul of the penal code. This step will, in my view, remove one of the last remaining vestiges of the Communist system from Poland's generally outstanding human rights record.

In the case of Hungary, there is continued concern over the use of excessive force by police, including harassment and physical abuse of Roma, Hungary's largest minority group. Some human rights organizations have suggested that Roma are also kept in pretrial detention more often and for longer periods than non-Roma.

The Czech Republic, although a human rights leader in many respects, passed a citizenship law after the dissolution of the Czechoslovak Federation that leaves thousands of people without citizenship. Regrettably, a recently passed amendment to the law failed to resolve this problem. Also, the Czech Republic has used a criminal defamation law to restrict free speech.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the tremendous progress which each of these states has made since the revolutions of the late 1980's and early 1990's which toppled the dictators of East Central Europe and the former Soviet Empire. I urge the leaders of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to take concrete steps to address the remaining human rights concerns in a manner consistent with OSCE principles as they pursue their goal of full NATO membership.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress has sought to play an active and constructive role in moving the NATO expansion process forward. The NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act, which we introduce today, demonstrates our firm commitment to the people of East Central Europe, including those from the Baltic States and Ukraine, as they strive to overcome the legacy of Communism and pursue democracy rooted in respect for the rights and freedoms of the individual.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3562,  
WISCONSIN WORKS

HON. MARK W. NEUMANN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 1996*

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of H.R. 3562, a bill to authorize the State of Wisconsin to implement the "Wisconsin Works" welfare reform plan. I am also submitting a list of the 88 Federal waivers requested by the Governor of Wisconsin, plus a summary of the Wisconsin Works plan, for the benefit of Members of Congress.

The Wisconsin Works plan was researched, written, debated, and passed into law by the citizens of Wisconsin through their elected representatives. The plan underwent the scrutiny of numerous public hearings and 18 months of public debate. The plan passed the Wisconsin state legislature with bipartisan support—both the State Assembly and State Senate passed the plan with at least a two-thirds