

State veterans nursing homes. Many States have been desperately trying to get a grant under this program to assist in the construction of State veterans nursing homes. However, despite documented need, they have been unable to get the Federal funding necessary to move forward.

Because of the overall inequity of the system that the VA uses to rank State applications, I have decided to introduce legislation that will ensure that States with the greatest veteran need receive priority funding.

The current system that the VA uses to rank State applications gives priority to States that have never received a similar grant in the past. While on the surface this may seem logical, the practical effect is that States with the highest veteran's need are often neglected because they received a grant sometime in the past. As a matter of fairness, I believe applications should be ranked solely on the needs of veterans.

The legislation I am introducing will correct this inequity by ensuring that States with the highest need receive priority. The Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that there should be four nursing home beds for every 1000 veterans in a State. Using this determination, my bill would have applications based on a formula where veteran need is defined as the number of veterans in the State multiplied by four and divided by 1000—need = veterans population \* 4 / 1000.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation for our Nation's veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in working for its enactment.

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#### THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 1996*

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the event which led to our honoring June 16 as the Day of the African Child. On this day in 1976, approximately 600 young people were massacred in Soweto, South Africa. We honor June 16, 1976, as a day marking our sorrow and our pledge to these murdered children, their families, and their cause, that such horrors should not happen again. This year's commemoration focuses on the issue of war and its effects on children across the African continent.

We bow our heads in memory of the tragic occurrence of June 16, 1976. We celebrate the victory of the effort, the dedication, the enormous drive, and the energy whereby the people of the African National Congress, and their leader, President Nelson Mandela, were able to overcome the race hatred of the Afrikaners, to emerge victorious without a major war, to create a nation committed to equality, and to end official racial hatred and violence.

The Republic of South Africa is a beacon, a reality, which many of us hold as the embodiment of a government dedicated to peace and racial equality, created out of social violence and repeated acts of violence by an armed government against an unarmed people. We hold, with the new republic in mind, that the children of besieged countries in Africa deserve a similar stake in the future as the children of the Republic of South Africa are now able to hold.

The killings of children and adults—in Rwanda, Burundi, and now Liberia—go beyond our worst imaginings. The killing fields of Cambodia and Bosnia are now joined by these in Africa. Whether massive killings are the result of tribal or national war, these events are inconceivable to most of us.

In a war, people are displaced from their normal daily lives and are forced to face the unimaginable horrors of death and destruction. War creates a generation of angered individuals forced to deal with a country in ruins, homes in shambles, and families in anguish. In the midst of all this tragic adversity, the children of a warring nation undergo the greatest ordeal of all. These children, who are caught in the turmoil and chaos of armed conflict, face the emotional and physical wounds of war as well as the instability of their country's future.

Rwanda provides evidence of the devastating impact that war has on children. The genocidal massacres in Rwanda have claimed a million lives, 300,000 of which have been children. According to a UNICEF survey of children in one part of the country, 47 percent of those interviewed saw children killing or injuring other children, 66 percent of the children saw massacres, 20 percent witnessed rape and sexual abuse, and 56 percent saw family members being killed. The destruction of homes, health centers, and educational facilities has also left children with little hope of leading future normal lives.

Burundi is another example of how violent conflicts can have a devastating impact on young children. Years of fighting fed by deep political and ethnic animosities have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and have left numerous others maimed. A whole generation of children have been made orphans. Hostilities have caused famine and turned children into beggars. The armed conflict has also resulted in collapse of the legal and social systems, creating a lack of law enforcement, lack of medical care, and lack of education.

The calls of the children—and the adults upon whom they depend—of Burundi, Rwanda, Liberia, and other warring countries in Africa, reach out to us, but we are mostly silent. The United States, a wealthy nation, has turned away from the people of war torn nations. Where it once was a leader in aiding other countries out of poverty and ruin, today, the United States spends less than 1 percent of its national budget on foreign aid programs. This is a very disappointing figure compared to those countries such as Japan and Denmark, which contribute 2.8 and 4.7 percent of their budget to foreign aid. We need to have our hearts touched and consider responses which will support efforts to stop hostilities and help these countries move towards recovery. It is only when these nations have fully recovered that the children of the future can lead better and more secure lives.

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#### BOMBING AT KING ABDUL AZIZ AIR BASE IN DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 1996*

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise both in great anger and in deep sorrow. Yesterday a

truck bomb was exploded at a military compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia where United States troops belonging to the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia were housed.

Twenty-three American service personnel were killed and more than 100 were seriously injured. Twenty-two service personnel from McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, WA, currently stationed at the base in Dhahran, mercifully survived.

The terrorist bomb was so powerful that the front of an apartment tower 35 yards away was decimated and a crater 85 feet wide and 35 feet deep was left in its wake. Inside the apartment tower were 2,500 U.S. troops.

Everyday in this country, mothers and fathers take great pride in the dedication of their sons and daughters serving in the U.S. military. Years of nurturing, love, sacrifice, and commitment have gone into producing men and women possessed of such a love for their country that they would volunteer to protect it.

These brave men and women are not forced to serve—they ask to serve. They are not forced to stand guard against enemy forces—they ask to stand guard. They risk their lives in order to ensure that those of us here, in the comfort and safety of our own beloved country, may live free.

Mr. Speaker, the greatness of our Nation is magnificently reflected in the greatness of our servicemen and women. Today, we stand firm with the families who have suffered an immeasurable loss and our Nation mourns with them.

Let there be no doubt—the great and mighty force of the United States will descend upon those terrorists who dared to target our American service personnel. We will answer the families that cry out for justice and we will deliver to them those responsible for this vulgar act of cowardice.

Let the terrorists who committed this cowardly act of murder tremble in fear for they will be hunted, they will be found, and they will be punished.

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#### ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 1996*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to support women in our changing economy, I am introducing the Commission on the Advancement of Women in the Science and Engineering Workforce Act.

Although the percentage of women earning science and engineering degrees has risen in recent years, women Ph.D.'s are still grossly underrepresented in many technical fields. One reason for this is that less than 24 percent of those people receiving doctorates in the physical sciences, earth sciences, and mathematics and computer sciences are women. In engineering, the lion's share of advanced degrees going to women are in environmental health and biomedical engineering. This is, however, merely one-quarter of all doctorate degrees conferred. In petroleum engineering, women receive only 2 percent of the awarded doctorates.

Another reason for the scarcity of women in technical fields is the continued barriers they