National POW/MIA Recognition Day provides us with a limited comprehension of the terror that these great Americans endured in service of their country. While we can never fully comprehend the suffering they experienced, we must respect their unwavering dedication to life.

Despite the suffering inflicted upon them, American POW's have demonstrated an unfailing devotion to duty, honor and country. Their service helped preserve our freedom through two World Wars, regional conflicts of the cold war era and since. They have given more than most Americans will be called upon to give for their country.

An inscription of a World War II cemetery reads:

When You Go Home
Tell Them of Us and Say
For Your Tomorrow
We Gave Our Today.

In the Revolutionary War, more than 20,000 Americans were taken prisoner and 8,500 of them died in captivity.

During the Civil War, an estimated 194,000 Union soldiers and 214,000 Confederates became prisoners of war. Between the North and the South, 56,194 Americans died in captivity, mostly from disease.

In World War I, 4,120 Americans were taken prisoner—147 of them died in captivity forcing a third Geneva Convention covering the humane treatment for prisoners of war.

No one could ever perceive or comprehend the absolute barbaric treatment American prisoners experienced in World War II, especially at the hands of the Japanese. In the Pacific, 11,107 Americans, or 40 percent of those taken prisoners died in captivity. In contrast, of the 93,941 taken prisoner in Europe, all but 1,121, or 1 percent, were released.

Once again, outrage prompted the world community to pass four new Geneva Conventions. In August 1949, the new treaty strengthened the former ones by codifying the general principles of international law governing the treatment of civilians in wartime. Included in that treaty was a pledge ''to treat prisoners humanely, feed them adequately, and deliver relief supplies to them.'' Additionally, prisoners of war would not be forced to disclose more than minimal information to their captors.

These new provisions were soon tested during the Korean war where 8,177 Americans were classified as missing in action, and another 7,140 were identified as prisoners of war. Between April and September 1953, a total of 4,418 POW's were released by the Communist Chinese, leaving 2,722 Americans unaccounted for. Five months later, in February 1954, the United States declared the remaining 8,177 Americans missing and presumed dead.

Perhaps more than any war, Vietnam continues to illustrate the complexity of the POW/MIA issue. In 1973, the Pentagon listed almost 3,100 Americans as POW/MIA's. In April 1973, 591 Americans were released by the North Vietnamese. Currently, 2,146 Americans are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam war.

For more than 20 years, the families of those men classified as missing in action have suffered the anguish of now knowing whether their sons, their fathers or husbands are alive or dead.

Throughout my congressional career, I have cosponsored numerous pieces of legislation designed to resolve this issue once and for all. The 1996 National Defense Authorization Act codified and made more rigorous the policies and procedures for the accounting of military personnel who are missing.

As a cosponsor of the Missing Service Personnel Act, I was pleased that the provisions of this bill were finally enacted into law with passage of the Defense Authorization Act. Unfortunately, the gains that were made just a few months ago, have been mitigated in the 1997 Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 3230, which was recently approved by Congress. This bill includes provisions that make the statutes enacted earlier this year substantially less rigorous and restrictive.

As a long-time activist on the POW/MIA issue, I am extremely disappointed by this latest turn of events. Therefore, I became an original cosponsor of H.R. 4000, legislation which was introduced by Representative Dornan on August 2, 1996. This bill restores the provisions of the Missing Service Personnel Act which will be repealed upon the enactment of H.R. 3230.

H.R. 4000 is supported by all major veterans organizations and POW/MIA family organizations including, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, the Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America, the Korean and Cold War Families Association and the National Alliance of POW/MIA Families.

The bill has 255 cosponsors and was recently approved by the National Security Committee by a vote of forty-five to zero. You can be certain that I will work with my colleagues to secure the passage of this important legislation.

Recently, the board of commissioners for Pasco County passed a proclamation recognizing and expressing its gratitude to those who have sacrificed their freedom in service of our country. The commission pledged to do all it could to ascertain information regarding the well-being of any Pasco County resident who has been declared missing in action or taken prisoner and to act to ensure their safe return. I understand there is an effort under way to have similar proclamations approved by other counties across Florida and the Nation.

We have a responsibility to determine to the fullest extent possible the fate of our missing personnel and to share that information with next of kin. A service member deserves to know that we will do everything in our power to account for their whereabouts if he or she is reported missing. Therefore, I want to commend the members of Florida VETPAC who initiated the proclamation and the Pasco County board of commissioners for their actions.

Recently, we lost a great American and a patriot, Jimmy Young, who was committed to resolving the fate of our missing service members. He played an important role in the passage of this POW/MIA proclamation. With his wife Maria, his family and fellow veterans, I mourn the passing of a fine military veteran, and I salute his memory.

I also want to commend those of you here who have also made the fate of our missing service members a matter of personal concern. Gaining the fullest possible accounting for our MIA's must be a high national priority, not just in word, but also in deed. Your efforts have brought America's missing to the forefront of the Nation's conscience—which is just where they should be.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day allows us to keep the memories of our missing service members alive and it serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifice and commitment of all the American men and women whose patriotism has been tested by the chains of enemy captivity.

Their experiences underscore our debt to those who place their lives in harm's way and stand willing to trade their liberty for ours. As a nation, we must always remember the sacrifices made by Americans who were captured and returned home as well as those still listed as missing in action.

HONORING MARY JANE HAASE

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, from the Dubuque Telegraph Herald, I place in the RECORD the obituary of the distinguished Mary Jane Haase whose son, David Haase, in turn, is among the most distinguished of American Journalists:

MARY JANE HAASE

Services for Mrs. C.L. ''Larry'' (Mary Jane) Haase, 73, 1495 University Ave., formerly of 1275 Atlantic St., will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Nativity Catholic Church.

Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Behr Funeral Home, 1491 Main St., where the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court 1287, will recite the rosary at 4 p.m. and there will be a parish wake service at 8 p.m.

Mary Jane was born on May 1, 1923, in Louisburg, Wis., daughter of Phillip and Gertrude (Brandt) Larkin. She died of leukemia at 4:25 p.m. Saturday, July 13, 1996, at home.

She married C.L. ''Larry Haase on Dec. 27, 1945, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Sininawa, Wis.

She was a graduate of St. Clara Academy, Sinsinawa. She was an active member of Nativity Parish and its rosary society. She was a daily attendee at Mass, a sacristan, money counter and funeral dinner provider as well as a worker at many parish functions. She was an active volunteer at Nativity School and was a Mercy Health Center volunteer. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Dubuque 1287, the St. Francis of Rome Mothers' Club; American Legion Auxiliary; and the Linn County Cabane Unit of the 40 & 8 Society. Mary Jane knew the true meaning of hospitality—her heart and her home were open to everyone.

Surviving are her husband, C.L. ''Larry'' Haase; three daughters, Yvone H. ''Bonnie'' (Edward) Ciszczon, of Phoenix; Kathy A. Scremin, of Dubuque, and Michelle M. (Gary) Becker, of Asbury Iowa; two sons, David L. (Elizabeth) Haase, of Springfield, Va., and Mark P. (Barbara) Haase, of Ridgecrest, Calif. 12 grandchildren, Brian, Heather and Anne Ciszczon, Richard and Alexandra Haase, Gretchen, Marc and Sara Scremin, Adam and Jacob Haase and Abby and Andrew Becker; a sister, Shirley A. (Donald) Feldman, of Dubuque; and five brothers, Kenneth P. (Mary) Larkin, of Las Vegas, Norman P. (Eunice) Larkin of Cuba City, Wis., Eugene L. (Delma) Larkin, of Kankakee, Ill., Ronald V. (Jackie) Larkin, of East Durbuque, Ill., and Patrick H. (Treasure) Larkin, of Freeport, Ill.

She was preceded in death by three sisters, Kathleen and Bernice Larkin and Mrs. Vincent (Geraldine) Vosberg; and a brother, Leonard Larkin.

A Mary Jane Haase Memorial Fund has been established.

FEDERAL AVIATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 1996

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Airport Privatization Pilot Program, which was included as part of H.R. 3539, the FAA Authorization Act of 1996.

I would first like to thank our Chairman, Mr. SHUSTER, and the Aviation Subcommittee Chairman, JIMMY DUNCAN, for their foresight and strong leadership on the issue of airport privatization. Because of Chairman DUNCAN's hard work, the legislation which we are considering today includes an airport privatization pilot program which provides for a limited test of airport privatization.

I believe that local and State governments should have the discretion to consider airport privatization. I also understand, however, that some airport users are skeptical about the private ownership of airports. This airport privatization pilot program has been carefully crafted to address these concerns by permitting the privatization—by sale or long-term lease—of up to six airports, while explicitly protecting the interests of the airport users and the Federal Government at each privatized facility. The pilot program protects the airlines and general aviation from undue price increases at a privatized airport by capping rates and charges at the rate of inflation. It explicitly prohibits discriminatory access policies, safeguarding general aviation users. And, I must emphasize, it does not create any new opportunities for airport revenue diversion.

Cities and counties should have the discretion to consider airport privatization as a means to fund needed capital improvements and promote economic development. It is clear that federal airport development resources will be limited. And, many cities need to create new capacity at their existing airports to meet surging demand for air services, creating pressure on cities and counties to consider alternative sources of capital.

At the same time, there are well-capitalized, experienced American companies looking for opportunities to invest in domestic airport facilities. But, as is the case far too often, the Federal Government is standing in the way. Cities and counties do not have the discretion, because of outdated Federal policies, to even consider private sector solutions to fund otherwise unaffordable airport capital improvements and bring market-driven management efficiencies to their facilities.

State and local governments should have the discretion to consider airport privatization as a means for promoting economic development. First, airport privatization can help attract new businesses to a community. The quality of an area's airport is a key factor for companies looking to relocate or build new facilities. Airport privatization can be a tool for State and local governments to make capital and operating improvements at an airport without further burdening the taxpayers.

Second, airport privatization can increase property, sales, and income tax revenues. The sale of an airport facility adds a valuable piece of realty to the local property tax base. And, the new jobs and retail sales created at a privately-operated airport will increase income and sales tax receipts.

Third, cities and counties may recover their capital and operating investments in an airport facility from the proceeds of an airport sale or long-term lease transaction.

For all of these reasons, I believe that the airport privatization pilot program will provide for a meaningful test of airport privatization, permitting a limited number of State and local governments the discretion to employ innovative management solutions to help meet their infrastructure needs. Again, I commend Chairmen SHUSTER and DUNCAN for their hard work on this measure.