States as we know it today. Under terms of the treaty, 1.2 million square miles were added to the United States, and the United States government paid $15 million to the government of Mexico. Included in these new territories were the Mexican states of Upper California and New Mexico, which today comprise the entire state of California, plus most of New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada, as well as portions of Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado.

The treaty also confirmed the Rio Grande River as the boundary between the State of Texas and Mexico. Texas had become an independent Republic in 1836, and, at the request of the majority Anglo American population, it was annexed to the United States in 1845. Questions regarding the boundary between Texas and Mexico were among the principle causes of the United States' war with Mexico.

My home state of California has become the most populous state in our Union, with some 32 million residents—12 percent of the entire population of our country, considerably ahead of Texas (19 million) and New York (18 million). Furthermore, California has made significant contributions to the history, character, and culture of the United States. It has provided a number of prominent national leaders in science, medicine, education, entertainment, and many other fields, and our state has been the home state of two presidents of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this Sesquicentennial of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is also an occasion for us to reflect thoughtfully upon the cultural heritage of Hispanic Americans in the United States. Under terms of the treaty, residents of the land that was ceded to the United States who were Mexican citizens were permitted to chose American or Mexican citizenship, and it guaranteed the property rights of new Hispanic Americans by reaffirming land grants that had been made by Spain and Mexico before 1846. The treaty, however, did not define or affirm the language or cultural rights of these new American citizens of Hispanic background. In the half century after the approval of the Treaty, most states in the new territories that were added to the United States enacted laws limiting the participation of Hispanic participation in voting, the judicial process, and education. Other laws resulted in dispossessing many Hispanic Americans of their lands.

Throughout most of the 150 years since the historic approval by the Senate of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Hispanic Americans have been subject to exclusion and marginalization. In recent times, however, this treaty has become a potent symbol as Hispanic Americans have affirmed their right to participate fully in American life. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is California that is a harbinger of the America of the twenty-first century. Hispanic Americans play an important role in the economic, political and social life of the State of California, and they bring a vitality and a healthy diversity to our state and to our nation. As California moves toward becoming a ''majority minority'' state, with Hispanic Americans the largest of our state's minority populations, it is my hope that Americans of all ethnic backgrounds can work together in contributing to the greatness that the rich diversity of our nation can produce.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the Sesquicentennial of the Senate's approval of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, it is my sincere wish that all of us as Americans will take this occasion to recommit ourselves to understanding, appreciating, and celebrating the depth and meaning of our historical past. It is also my hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will also recommit ourselves to the ideals of equality and diversity which have contributed so much to the richness and culture of our nation and of which this anniversary should remind us.

HONORING ELBA IRIS ROJAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Elba Iris Rojas. Elba was born in Puerto Rico and she and her family moved to the United States when she was just a child. Her family has allowed her to become the success that she is today.

As a result of her dedication to education, Ms. Rojas was awarded a scholarship to Kings County Hospital of Nursing in 1968. During her tenure in the nursing program, Elba knew that she could best serve her community as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. For over twenty years she has managed to provide invaluable services in this capacity through a joint program of Kings County Hospital Center and Down State Medical Center. While working at the Hospital, Ms. Rojas has participated in numerous health fairs and career days in community high schools. She also serves as a mentor to nursing students. I have no doubt that Mrs. Rojas has guided many young people to make their own contributions to the field of health.

When one speaks to Ms. Rojas, one gets a sense that she is truly excited about her life. As a wife, mother of three, and a professional, it is clear that the demands of these roles do not exhaust her, but strengthen her commitment to her work and family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Elba Iris Rojas for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and for showing young women everywhere that they can do and accomplish anything.

CARING AND SHARING, INC.

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization in my district that's doing amazing work for veterans in Western Pennsylvania, Sharing and Caring, Inc.

Sharing and Caring is an all volunteer organization dedicated to helping our nation's most important heroes, our veterans. Each year, Sharing and Caring organizes a cruise on Pittsburgh's rivers for hospitalized veterans. The event gives these veterans an opportunity to spend a day outside the hospital, but it's also an opportunity for our entire community to honor the service of our veterans by sponsoring, or ''adopting'', a veteran for the boat ride.

In 1985, the first year of this event, Sharing and Caring's river boat cruise benefitted over 500 veterans. Today, that number has doubled, allowing more than 1,000 veterans to take part in the day's events. This effort to give veterans a ''holiday'' outside of their normal hospital environments deserves acknowledgment and commendation.

The people who started this event, however, deserve just as much praise. As a hospital volunteer, Bernard Pack, who himself is a veteran of World War II and Korea, was dismayed by the sight of so many veterans spending their days watching television inside hospital wards. His desire to bring something special to the lives of his comrades propelled him and fellow volunteers Robert Riethmiller and David Gool to organize the first river boat cruise. Out of this event, Sharing and Caring, Inc. was formed, and the organization has gone on to help numerous hospitalized veterans.

I want to extend my personal thanks and best wishes to Bernie, Robert and David for the time, energy and effort they put into creating Caring and Sharing. And I also want to thank all the volunteers that keep the organization going. Your efforts to help our veterans is an inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCTION OF DUTY SUSPENSION BILLS

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the attached four bills at the request of a chemical manufacturer in my Congressional District. Enactment will increase this company's ability to compete in a highly competitive U.S. agricultural market. These bills will also improve the health of our environment, because the products involved are used in lower concentrations than chemicals used today, and they break down quicker in the environment than the older generation of products. Suspension of the duty on these products will have a positive effect on U.S. companies, because they are not currently manufactured in the United States.

A BILL To provide for reductions in duty for the chemical DPX–E9260

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN DUTIES FOR DPX–E9260

(a) REDUCTION IN DUTIES.–Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the general column rate of duty for the article described in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) 6.0% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 1999; and

(2) 5.3% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 2000.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE.—The article which subsection (a) applies is DPX–E9260, 3-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-pyridinesulfonamide (CAS No. 117671–01–9), provided for in subheading 2935.00.75 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

A BILL To provide for reductions in duty for carbamic acid (U–9069)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN DUTIES FOR CARBAMIC ACID (U–9069).

(a) REDUCTION IN DUTIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the general column rate of duty for the article described in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) 9.0% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during the period beginning on the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending December 31, 1998;

(2) 8.3% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 1999; and

(3) 7.6% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 2000.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE.—The article to which subsection (a) applies is Carbamic Acid, [3-((dimethylamino)carbonyl)-2-pyridinyl sulfonyl]-, phenyl ester (CAS No. 112006–94–7), provided for in subheading 2935.00.75 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

A BILL To provide for reductions in duty for the chemical Rimsulfuron Technical

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDUCTION IN DUTIES FOR RIMSULFURON TECHNICAL.

(a) REDUCTION IN DUTIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the general column rate of duty for the article described in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) 8.0% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during the period beginning on the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending December 31, 1998;

(2) 7.3% for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 1999; and

(3) free for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, during calendar year 2000.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE.—The article to which subsection (a) applies is Rimsulfuron Technical N-[(4.6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl) aminocarbonyl]-3-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-pyridine-sulfonamide (CAS No. 122931–48–0), provided for in subheading 2933.59.10.

A BILL To suspend temporarily the duty on the chemical DPX–E6758

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON DPX–E6758.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

''9902.33.59	(4.6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl) carbamic acid, phenyl ester (provided for in subheading 2933.59.70).	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2000''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

HONORING BARBARA ELK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Barbara Elk. Her contribution to education, particularly William H. Maxwell Vocational High School, is incomparable.

Barbara has served as principal of William H. Maxwell Vocational High School since 1991. Before becoming principal, she was District Manager of Clinical Services for the Brooklyn Superintendency for five and one half years. She served as an assistant principal of Special Education at John Dewey High School and teacher at James Madison High School. Altogether, she has served the New York City Board of Education as an educator, administrator, and supervisor for twenty-six years.

Barbara has always known that her mission is to educate and challenge the student and staff by nurturing and encouraging their growth, to ensure a positive impact upon home, school, and community. She believes that when children are prepared mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically for today and the future, we all gain strength, success and deep satisfaction. This holistic view of education makes me proud to know that she is involved in preparing our children for the next century.

Ms. Elk has received tremendous support from her husband, Barry, two sons, Adam and Benjamin, a daughter-in-law, Tari, her sister Deborah and her family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Barbara Elk for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and for showing young women everywhere that they can do and accomplish anything.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON THE WORLDWIDE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, A VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a resolution condemning the global increase in the trafficking of persons and urging increased efforts to combat this violation of fundamental human rights.

Trafficking involves the use of deception, coercion, abuse of authority, debt bondage, or fraud to exploit persons through forced prostitution, sexual slavery, sweatshop labor, or exploitative domestic service. Trafficked women are often subject to battering, cruelty, rape, and other forms of physical and mental abuse.

The resolution I am introducing today, builds on my efforts over the past several years to bring attention to the problem of the trafficking of Burmese women and children into brothels in Thailand. As we learn more information, it is becoming tragically clear that trafficking knows no national or regional boundaries. Worldwide, four million women and children are trafficked each year, most by criminal syndicates that turn $7 billion in profits annually.

Trafficking is particularly aggravated in areas of the world in economic and social upheaval. An unhappy side effect of the breakup of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact is the vast increase in trafficking from Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States. Criminal organizations are capitalizing on the poverty, rising unemployment, and the disintegration of social networks to exploit and abuse women and children.

In addition to bringing attention to this troubling situation, the resolution lauds the anti-trafficking efforts of the President, First Lady, Secretary of State and the President's Interagency Council on Women. Working with key non-governmental organizations, they have focused on trafficking as a significant problem and are working to mobilize a comprehensive response.

The resolution particularly directs the Departments of Justice and State to continue and increase their efforts to address the trafficking of women into the United States. We must ensure that our legal system can effectively prosecute traffickers and the crimes associated with trafficking, while ensuring the dignity and human rights of trafficking victims. The State Department should continue its trafficking prevention efforts, and its partnership with nations around the globe to combat these heinous crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Senator WELLSTONE, who is introducing the Senate companion resolution, in supporting this resolution. We must put Congress squarely on record in opposition to the abhorrent practice of trafficking.

H. CON. RES. —

Whereas one of the fastest growing international trafficking businesses is the trade in women, whereby women and girls seeking a better life, a good marriage, or a lucrative job abroad, unexpectedly find themselves in situations of forced prostitution, sweatshop labor, exploitative domestic servitude, or battering and extreme cruelty.

Whereas trafficked women are often subjected to rape and other forms of sexual abuse by their traffickers and often held as virtual prisoners by their exploiters, made to work in slavery-like conditions, in debt bondage without pay and against their will;

Whereas the President, the First Lady, the Secretary of State, and the President's Interagency Council on Women have all identified trafficking in women as a significant problem and are working to mobilize a response;

Whereas the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing Conference) called on all governments to take measures, including legislative measures, to provide better protection of the rights of women and girls in trafficking, to address the root factors that put women at risk to traffickers, and to take measures to dismantle the national, regional, and international networks in trafficking;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly, noting its concern about the increasing number of women and girls who are being victimized by traffickers, passed a resolution