at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister; as CEO of Taft Broadcasting; as commissioner of the Ladies Professional Golf Association; and in his own words, ''life after that''—which includes serving as Chairman of the Board at Convergys and as the personal business adviser to golf legend Arnold Palmer.

For more than 40 years, Mr. Mechem has focused on bringing entertainment opportunities to the Cincinnati area. As he puts it, he ''was motivated . . . to do things that made this community a fun place to live in.'' Mr. Mechem was instrumental in bringing the Cincinnati Bengals franchise to town; spearheading the vision and construction of Kings Island; and helping to provide the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra a new home at Riverbend by donating the site adjacent to Coney Island. Nationally, Mr. Mechem worked tireless for five years with the LPGA to lead a national resurgence of interest in the game.

In the business community, Mr. Mechem served Cincinnati as President of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce in 1977 and Co-Chaired the Chamber's Blue Chip Campaign from 1979–86. His other leadership roles include: National Chairman, Miami University Goals for Enrichment Campaign; President, Family Service; Co-Chair, Cincinnati Business Committee; and Founder/President of the Greater Cincinnati Sports & Events Commission. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board at Convergys, Mr. Mechem also serves on the Board of Directors at Mead Corp., Ohio National Life Insurance, Arnold Palmer Golf Co., The J.M. Smucker Co. and Myers Y. Cooper Company.

All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion and service to community.

REGARDING ALBERTO GALVAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the lifetime of service of Alberto Galvan, the district manager for the Brownsville-Harlingen area for the Social Security Administration (SSA). Alberto has served the Federal Government for 35 years, retiring just last month.

A son of South Texas, born in Harlingen, Alberto was in the United States Air Force (USAF) prior to his service to the Federal Government. In the Air Force, he attended USAF Russian Language School and served in electronic intelligence during his duty in Japan. That would have been impressive duty in those days, our forward listening post to spy on the communists in the Soviet Union.

This man who loves his country began working for the Social Security Administration in 1970, where he has worked ever since, winning the SSA Commissioner's Citation, the SSA Regional Commissioner's Citation (twice), and the Outstanding Officer Award (four times).

Aside from his many awards, Mr. Galvan has a great deal of contact with my Brownsville district office. As all of you know, the success of our district offices rises and falls on the relationship they have with individuals within the SSA. Thanks to Alberto Galvan, and the wonderful people in my district office, that relationship is strong indeed. The SSA manages the nation's social insurance program, consisting of retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs; so, the ties that bind our interests are quite strong.

I want to thank Alberto today for being a really nice man and always being responsive to our inquiries. He takes calls from my office himself and has been largely responsible for training my staff members who deal with Social Security issues. He oversees all of Cameron and Willacy counties in the lower Rio Grande Valley but is primarily responsible for the Brownsville area up to Rancho Viejo, Texas.

Since he left the Air Force, Alberto has found another way to put the Russian he learned there to good use. Today, he is the only Russian translator in the Dallas Region of the SSA and is often sent documents to translate, usually birth certificates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending this outstanding patriot who has made a career serving our great country, first in uniform, and for the last 30 years, administering the Federal social insurance program in South Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000. This legislation provides an additional $2 billion a year for ten years to reach full funding of IDEA by 2010.

In 1972, two landmark cases, PARC v. State of Pennsylvania and Mills v. Board of Education found that children with disabilities are guaranteed an equal opportunity to an education under the 14th amendment. In response to these cases, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, the predecessor of today's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to assist state and local governments in meeting their responsibility to these children by agreeing to pay up to 40 percent of the cost of educating children with disabilities. However, to date, the federal government has never contributed more than 12.6 percent. States and school districts make up the difference.

For instance, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) currently spends approximately $891 million to educate 81,000 disabled students. While the district receives approximately $500 million from the state and $42 million from the federal government for that purpose, it must tap into funds intended for other education programs to make up the $300 million shortfall. School districts all across the nation face similar dilemmas. Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to put us on a course for full funding by 2010.

As we move into the 21st Century, we must make critical decisions about the priorities of this nation. In countries like Japan and China, education is a top priority, above even defense. This year alone, the U.S. Department of Defense will ask for $11 billion in new spending and according to OMBs most recent estimates, we can expect an $80 billion budget surplus for FY 2000. Surely we can spare an additional $2 billion a year to ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REGULATORY INFORMATION ACT OF 2000

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000,'' a bill to aid Congress in analyzing Federal regulations and to ensure the public's understanding of the legal effect of agency guidance documents. To accomplish the former, the bill requires an analytic report to Congress by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on selected important agency proposed and final rules. To accomplish the latter, the bill requires the agencies to include a notice of nonbinding effect on each agency guidance document without any general applicability or future effect.

On May 22, 1997, Representative SUE KELLY introduced H.R. 1704, the ''Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis Creation Act.'' On March 11, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held a hearing on this bill. Rep. KELLY testified at the hearing that the analytic function will ''help Congress deal with an increasingly complex and burdensome regulatory system. It will give Congress the resources it needs to oversee the regulations that the Executive Branch issues on a regular basis and facilitate use of the Congressional Review Act.'' She also stated that it ''would provide a second opinion'' of the agency's analysis of the impact of a rule. On March 13, 1998, the House Committee on the Judiciary reported an amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part I). On June 3, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee reported a further amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part II). There was no further action on the bill during 1998 and 1999.

The ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' is introduced to respond to some criticisms of the earlier bill, especially about the creation of a new Congressional agency. Instead, the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' places the analytical function within GAO, which, since March 1996, has been charged with certain related functions under the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

Congress has delegated to the agencies the responsibility of writing regulations. However, regulations need to be carefully analyzed before they are issued. Under the CRA, Congress has the responsibility to review regulations and ensure that they achieve their goals in the most efficient and effective way. But, Congress has been unable to fully carry out its responsibility because it has neither all of the information it needs to carefully evaluate regulations nor sufficient staff for this function. Under my bill, GAO will be tasked with reviewing agency cost-benefit analyses and alternative approaches to the agencies' chosen regulatory alternatives.

The ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' has a companion bill on the Senate side, S. 1198, the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 1999.'' This bill was introduced by Senators SHELBY, BOND, and LOTT on June 9, 1999 and then renamed and reported by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee as the ''Truth in Regulating Act of 1999'' on December 7, 1999. The House and Senate bills are both intended to promote effective Congressional oversight of important regulatory decisions.

In addition, the House version includes a provision to ensure that public's understanding of the effect of agency guidance documents (such as guidance, guidelines, manuals, and handbooks). It require agencies to include a notice on the first page of each agency guidance document to make clear that, if the document has no general applicability or future effect, it is not legally binding. Under the CRA, ''rules'' subject to Congressional review are broadly defined to include not only regulatory actions subject to statutory notice and comment but also other agency actions that contain statements of general applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy. Unfortunately, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), despite a 1999 Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act directive to do so, has still not issued adequate guidance to the agencies on the requirement to submit to Congress any noncodified guidance document with any general applicability or future effect.

As a consequence, on October 8, 1999, the Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs began an investigation of the agencies' use of noncodified documents, including the specific explanations within each of these documents regarding their legal effect. I asked the General Counsels of the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Transportation (DOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to submit their noncodified documents issued since the March 1996 enactment of the CRA and to indicate which were submitted to Congress under the CRA. DOL and DOT asked that I narrow my request; as a consequence, I asked for only those documents issued by DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Both DOL and DOT admitted that none of their 1,641 and 1,225 guidance documents respectively, had any legal effect and none was submitted to Congress for review under the CRA. Now, nearly four months later, EPA has still not completely produced its guidance documents. The investigation also revealed that the absence of any legal effect was not clear to the public. In fact, only 11 percent of OSHA'S guidance documents included any discussion of legal effect and only 7 percent had this discussion at the beginning of the document. On February 15, 2000, I will be holding a hearing to examine DOL's use of guidance documents as a possible backdoor approach to regulating the public.

Let me conclude by thanking Representative SUE KELLY of New York, Chairwoman of the Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction, for her leadership in this area in 1997 and 1998.

TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP DANIEL E. PILARCZYK

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in tribute to Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop.

During his forty years in the priesthood, Archbishop Pilarczyk has compiled an impressive and distinguished history of service to the church and the community. After eight years of service as Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, he became Archbishop in 1982. He is the spiritual leader of 550,000 Catholics in more than 200 parishes, and he manages close to 7,500 workers in Ohio. In addition, he has served as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as chairman of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

Archbishop Pilarczyk is a strong believer in education and has made it one of his top priorities during his time at the helm of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which is the ninth largest Catholic school system in the country. He has served our community in so many other ways including serving on the boards of St. Rita's School for the Deaf, the Pontifical College Josephinum, Catholic University of America and the coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati.

He holds a masters degree from Xavier University and a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, as well as seven honorary degrees. In addition, he has authored 18 books as well as numerous articles.

Daniel Pilarczyk is a Southwest Ohio native and he has given so much back to our community. I've had the chance to work with him in his role as founding board member of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati where he made an important contribution as a thoughtful and dedicated board member and a person with a sincere interest in our youth and their future.

All of us in Southwest Ohio wish Archbishop Pilarczyk the very best on the 25th anniversary of his ordination as bishop. We are proud to count him as one of our true religious, spiritual, and community leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a private relief bill for Gui Di Chen which will allow her to adjust status to permanent resident as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. Ms. Chen's husband, Robert Lem, died before the immigration and naturalization service could approve his wife's petition to become a permanent resident.

Under our immigration law, the INS cannot adjudicate Gui Di Chen's petition because she was married less than two years to Robert Lem before he passed away. The fact that Ms. Chen lived with Mr. Lem for three years does not matter under the eyes of the law. Without the enactment of this private relief bill, Ms. Chen faces a dire and uncertain future in China, a country she hasn't been to in nearly ten years.

There is, moreover, ample precedent for such relief. For instance, the 105th Congress passed and the President signed into law at least two private relief bills, H.R. 1794 (Private Law 105–7) and H.R. 1834 (Private Law 105–8), that allowed the widowed alien spouses of Americans to adjust status to permanent resident. In both of these cases, the alien spouses were married less than two years to their U.S. citizen spouses.

Mr. Speaker, Gui Di Chen's case is compounded by a tale of woe and misfortune that rivals a greek tragedy. In less than eight years, Ms. Chen has lost two husbands who died suddenly and before her immigrant petitions could be processed. In 1990, Ms. Chen and her son joined her husband, Zheng-Ming Wu, in the United States. Mr. Wu was completing a graduate degree at the time. Mr. Wu was fortunate enough to find an employer who filed an employer-based immigrant petition on his behalf. However, on September 6, 1991, just five days before Gui Di Chen, her son and husband were scheduled for an INS immigrant interview, Mr. Wu was killed in a car accident.

According to the police report that was filed, Mr. Wu was driving on the San Bernardino Freeway and developed car trouble. His car was stopped in an H.O.V. lane when he was rear-ended by an 18-year-old who was driving on a suspended license and without insurance. Ms. Chen received no compensation for her husband's death. In addition, the INS told Ms. Chen and her son that their application for permanent resident status was denied due to the death of Mr. Wu.

After the tragic loss of her first husband, Gui Di Chen was fortunate enough to fall in love again. Mr. Lem and Ms. Chen were married on March 31, 1997. Tragedy would strike once again when Mr. Lem died of a heart attack on June 16, 1998. Not only did Ms. Chen lose her husband, she also lost the opportunity to become a permanent resident.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that Gui Di Chen is not victimized once again by the vagaries of fate and is allowed to finally adjust to permanent resident status. She deserves nothing less.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SPANGLER, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 1999, the Holy Cross Parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Holy Cross, Spangler, Pennsylvania.

Throughout our area and our Nation, we find such churches as the centers of our community, the fabric of our community spirit, and the strength of families. The Church of the Holy Cross has celebrated 2,735 baptisms, 622 weddings. It has held 1,332 funerals to send its faithful home. These events chronicle the history of the families in the region.