''American Youth Day.'' This legislation, which I introduced with strong bipartisan support, recognizes the importance of America's youth and supports the ideas and goals of an American Youth Day. The bill encourages such organizations as General Colin Powell's group, America's Promise.

American Youth Day is about recognizing our youth and providing them with the role models and skills they need to be successful. By investing in our nation's most valuable resource—our children—we help create a better future for all of us. H. Con. Res. 375 recognizes and supports a nationwide Youth Day to be observed annually on a Saturday near the beginning of the school year, with the date to be specifically determined by the local community.

The concept of this legislation was inspired by one of my constituents, retired Navy Captain George Marshall Bates, who has advocated the establishment of an American Youth Day since the 1960's. While Captain Bates' proposal is broader and more encompassing in specificity than this Resolution, the ideals and principle objectives are the same and I am very fortunate to have had his assistance in producing this legislation. Captain Bates is a distinguished retired Navy JAG officer, and the youth of this nation are the beneficiaries of his persistence and effective advocacy of this cause.

The resolution acknowledges that today's oppressive influences on youth include violence, drugs, abuse and even stress. Regardless of economic status, ethnic or cultural background, or location, our youth feel the pressures of contemporary society.

The resolution also acknowledges the wonderful efforts of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, led by General Colin L. Powell, United States Army (retired). America's Promise is one of the Nation's most comprehensive nonprofit organizations dedicated to building and strengthening the character and competence of youth by mobilizing communities around the nation to fulfill the organization's ''Five Promises'' for America's young people. American Youth Day seeks to promote local and national activities that fulfill the five promises of America's Promise, which are as follows:

1. Ongoing relationships with caring adults;
2. Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours;
3. A healthy start and future;
4. Marketable skills through effective education; and
5. Opportunities to give back through community service.

In order to secure a future for our youth, Americans must spend time, share traditions, and communicate values to children. Often it is even more important to make a special effort to do this during teen years. Many youth live in single parent homes and seldom get the nurturing and guidance of a complete family; for them the time mentors take to spend with them in immensely important. This bill encourages local schools and communities across the nation to highlight our children and share their successes and give them the attention and encouragement so many miss by participating in an American Youth Day. I hope my colleagues will join in me in supporting this important and worthwhile endeavor.

IN HONOR OF DOUGLAS FLATT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional citizen of Tyler, Texas. The Texas Section of the American Society of Engineers recently honored Douglas E. Flatt, P.E. with its Service to People Award, a distinguished award that recognizes those who have made significant contributions to their community.

Mr. Flatt has served as both president and director of the East Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and Northeast Branch of the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is a life member of the National Society of Professional Engineers as well as the American Society of Civil Engineers. Additionally, he has served on the Board of Directors for the Texas Section of the ASCE. In 1985, he received TSPE's East Texas Engineer of the Year Award and in 1988 he received ASCE's Professional Services Award.

He has also served as Chairman of the Southern Division of the Association of Independent Scientific, Engineering and Testing Firm as well as President of the Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories in 1982 and 1983. Currently he serves on both the Legislative Committee and the Membership Committee of the Consulting Engineers Council of Texas and is a member of the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee E–50 for Environmental Site Assessments.

Mr. Flatt formed ETTL Engineers and Consultants in 1965 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Prior to forming his successful corporation, he was employed by the Texas Department of Transportation, first as senior laboratory engineer and later as senior resident engineer.

Mr. Flatt's recent award, however, is a testament to the time and effort that he has devoted to his community. He has served on the City of Tyler's Airport Advisory Board and the Board of Adjustment of Planning and Zoning. He has been Chair of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce Highway Transportation Committee, President of the Smith County Youth Foundation, Chairman of the Board of the Tyler YMCA, and the advisory board of the East Texas Crisis Center, and on the board of the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness. He is also a member of the Tyler Rotary Club where he is a Paul Harris fellow, and actively serves the First Presbyterian Church of Tyler as deacon, elder and trustee.

Mr. Flatt graduated from Terrell High School in 1949 and earned B.S. Degrees in Agricultural and Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1953 and 1955. He received a Master of Science Degree in 1957 from Texas A&M University following his discharge from active duty as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery. He maintains close ties with his alma mater, serving as vice-president and board member of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students. He is an endowed Century Club member, member of the 12th Man Foundation as well as the Pillars of A&M. He is also a contributor and participant in A&M's Spencer J. Buchanan Chair in Civil Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Douglas Flatt has upheld high standards in all that he has done. He has achieved success in his profession—and he has also dedicated much of his life in services to others. I join his wife, Maxine; his son, Darrell, and daughter-in-law, Donna; and his grandchildren, John and Madeline, all of whom are residents of Tyler, in congratulating him on his Service to People Award.

2000 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the fifth annual Excellence in Business Award for their high ethical standards, corporate success and growth, employee and customer service, and concern for the environment.

Award winners include businesses across the spectrum of the valley economy: agriculture; charities; finance; banking and insurance; health care; manufacturing; professional services; real estate and construction; nonprofit organizations; small businesses; retail and wholesale.

The 2000 Excellence in Business Award winners are:

Agriculture—Zacky Farms
Charitable—Hope Now for Youth, Inc.
Financial/Banking/Insurance—U.S. Small Business Administration
Healthcare—Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
Manufacturing—Netafim Irrigation, Inc.
Nonprofit—The Bulldog Foundation
Professional Service—Deloitte & Touche
Real Estate/Construction—Webb & Son
Retial/Wholesale—Richard Caglia Electric Motor Shop
Small Business—BennettFrost Personnel Services, Inc.
Hall of Fame—James and Coke Hallowell

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate each of the 2000 Excellence in Business Award winners for their leadership and contributions to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing all of the recipients many more years of continued success.

COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND NEW MARKETS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that one very important American community will receive little or no help from this legislation; the American citizens of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico cannot benefit from this legislation because of its unique tax relationship with the mainland. Along with Mr. CRANE, I am a sponsor of H.R. 2138 to extend job creation incentives for new activities in Puerto Rico. Despite significant efforts at the local level, unemployment in Puerto Rico remains stubbornly high

and incomes are not catching up. H.R. 2138 would encourage U.S. companies to preserve or expand current operations in Puerto Rico, rather than taking these U.S. jobs to foreign countries with much lower wage bases and no U.S. labor and environmental protections.

We owe our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico some continuing help toward economic growth and opportunity. I hope we can work together this year to ensure that these opportunities are inclusive, not exclusive, by considering section 30A incentives for the U.S. companies operating in Puerto Rico. We should not leave these 4 million Americans behind.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMAN PAPPAS, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE ENTERPRISE GROUP

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, one of our most revered institutions, the family-owned business, is under assault from the federal estate tax (death tax).

According to the Center for the Study of Taxation, 70 percent of family-owned businesses fail to make it to the second generation and 87 percent don't make it to the third. The death tax is one of the major contributors to this disturbing statistic. To pay this unfair tax, which can reach as high as 55 percent of the value of an estate, many family-owned businesses must be liquidated or sold off entirely after the owner dies.

For several years, a bipartisan coalition in Congress has worked to provide relief from the death tax. In fact, on June 9, 2000, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 8, The Death Tax Elimination Act. This much-needed bill would strengthen family-owned businesses and encourage savings and investment by repealing the death tax over a ten-year period.

Unfortunately, it appears as though business owners will have to continue waiting for significant relief from the death tax, as President Clinton has indicated that he will veto H.R. 8 if it reaches his desk.

That being said, there are still many steps that business owners can take to minimize the negative impact of the death tax. Norman Pappas, founder and president of The Enterprise Group, a company located in Southfield, MI, has recent written an important book that I enthusiastically recommend to every business owner who want to ensure that his company remains strong and is kept in the family after he dies.

Mr. Pappas' book, ''Passing the Bucks—Protecting Your Wealth from One Generation to the Next,'' reveals the secrets of effective business succession and estate tax planning that can help reduce or even eliminate the risk of losing most of the assets a business owner worked so hard to accumulate.

For the last 30 years, The Enterprise Group and other financial and estate planners have helped business owners protect what is rightfully theirs. For example, Mr. Pappas has assisted over 1,500 businessmen and women to traverse the complicated practice of business succession and estate planning as they wrestle with the federal tax burden. Mr. Pappers' expertise experience in solving the complicated financial problems of family-owned businesses is evident throughout ''Passing the Bucks.'' One of the primary lessons we have learned is that we must eliminate the death tax and I am proud that we have done just that in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Pappas and his colleagues in the practice of estate planning and to commend his efforts to protect family-owned businesses from the onerous provisions of the death tax.

A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA L. DORIS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring attention to the work of Virginia L. Doris of Warwick RI. As a Rhode Island historian for over 40 years, Ms. Doris has put great effort into her quest to bring proper honor and recognition to America's ''poet and patriot,'' Francis Scott Key, author of our National Anthem. As we near the 221 year anniversary of the birth of this American legend, I would like to submit this poem by Ms. Doris into the RECORD, so that we might renew the call for an official day honoring Francis Scott Key's contribution to our national heritage.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY—AMERICA'S ULTIMATE POET AND PATRIOT

Anthem, Mighty Anthem! our voices resound,
Poem by God's blessing, unsceptered, uncrowned
Anthem, Sacred Anthem! our pulses repeat,
Warm with life-blood, as long as they beat!
Listen! The reverence of his soul imbued doth thrill us still,
In the old familiar places beneath their emerald hill.
Here at this altar our vows we renew,
Still in thy cause be loyal and true—
True to thy flag on the field, and the wave,
Living to honor it, dying to save!
Wake in our breast the living fires,
The Holy faith warmed our sires,
Thy spirit shed through every heart,
To every arm thy strength impart!
Our lips should fill the air with praises, and pay the debt we owe,
So high above this hymn we raise, the floods of garlands flow.
Harken! The reverence of his soul imbued doth thrill us still,
In the old familiar places beneath their emerald hill.
Anthem, Mighty Anthem! our voices resound.
Poem by God's blessing unsceptered uncrowned!
Anthem, Sacred Anthem! our pulses repeat,
Warm with the life-blood, as long as they beat!

Composed by: Virginia Louise Doris

HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege today to remember and pay tribute to a great American and a good friend, Allen Gordon Smith Sr., of Diana, TX, who died on April 21 of this year. Mr. Smith was an American war hero, a prisoner of war, and an outstanding citizen of East Texas. His influence on his community and his friends and family will be felt for many years to come, and his dignity shall not be diminished by time.

In October 1939, Mr. Smith voluntarily joined the U.S. Army Air Corps at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana—a decision that would change his life. He became a member of the 27th Bomb Group of the 16th Squadron. The group was sent to the Philippines, landing in November 1941. Mr. Smith was captured by the Japanese on April 9, 1942, at the fall of Bataan. He survived the infamous Bataan Death March and spent 42 months in Japanese prisoner of war camps. No words could adequately tell his story about this experience—so suffice it to say that he emerged from the war as a true American hero and a strong advocate for veterans.

Mr. Smith was a leader and a life-time member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War as well as the Disabled American Veterans. He served two terms as national director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and one term as commander of the Department of Texas Ex-Prisoners of War. He also was a Veterans Administration Service officer, in which capacity he worked on behalf of fellow veterans. His distinguished service in defense of our Nation and in support of veterans will be long remembered.

Following his service in the war, Mr. Smith returned to Longview and married Helen Florence Jones on November 22, 1946. He attended the University of Houston. In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved to Diana, where they devoted much of their time working with the youth in their community. They served on a governor-appointed committee to work with youth in Upshur, Camp, and Wood Counties, and Mr. Smith served on the board of directors for Baseball for Boys in East Texas. Mr. Smith also worked with youth through the Cub Scouts and the 4–H Club.

After 24 years of service, Mr. Smith retired from Lone Star Steel. He was a member of the Judson Road Church of Christ in Longview.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Helen; his son and daughter-in-law, Allen Jr. and Elayne Smith; his daughter and son-in-law; Daneila Smith Woods and John Woods; four granddaughters and grandsons-in-law; one grandson and granddaughter-in-law; two great-granddaughters; four step-great-grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Julia and Robert Crowder; a brother and sister-in-law, Alvin and Patsy Smith; and a number of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Allen Gordon Smith was a man of dignity and honor who lived a distinguished life in service to his country, his community, and to his family and fellow citizens. He was a wonderful role model to many children in East Texas, and his influence will be