work each day confident they could put their lives in Colonel Swart's hands. Through Colonel Swart's leadership, four separate multifunctional organizations housed in four separate buildings were consolidated under one roof, therefore increasing effectiveness, productivity and communications.

Colonel Swart's guidance has also been instrumental in providing community service to North Alabama. Over 40 community and family service organizations that enhance the overall quality of life of soldiers, civilians, retirees and their families have benefited from Swart's leadership. The beneficiaries range from a bowling center that received a $750,000 renovation, to a significant upgrading of the Child Development Center, to drastic assistance given to the neighborhood child rearing center.

Colonel Stewart also took strides during his tenure at AMCOM to advance an environmental program. Swart improved relationships with surrounding communities affected by the Redstone Arsenal Environmental Restoration Program. Additionally, he spearheaded a ground breaking water treatment program which eliminated large quantities of hazardous substances from the water.

Colonel Swart's family is from Clay County, Alabama, the same county in which my family has resided for several generations. During his 26 years of service to the Army, Colonel Swart has made Clay County and all of Alabama proud. We thank him for serving our Nation during his career in the Army and wish him well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. AHRENS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Lt. Col. James Ahrens has retired as Director of Institutional Research from Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College in Lexington, MO.

Lt. Col. Ahrens has led a life of serving his family, community and country. In 1962, he graduated from Grinnell College, Iowa, with a history degree and entered the United States Air Force as a radar controller and public affairs officer. While in the United States Air Force, James received a master's degree in Public Relations from the School of Public Communications at Boston University. He retired from all military service in 1995.

Lt. Col. Ahrens arrived at Wentworth in January of 1982 to teach social science courses in the junior college division. While at Wentworth, he joined the 418th Civil Affairs Company in Grandview, MO, after receiving a direct commission in the United States Army Reserve as a Civil Affairs Officer. Lt. Col. Ahrens mobilized and commanded this unit as it served in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Turkey during Operations Desert Storm and Provide Comfort in 1991. He served as a detachment commander, company executive officer and commander before the end of his tour.

During his years at Wentworth, he served as Assistant/Associate Dean, managing the Junior College from 1989 through academic year 1994. He served as acting Dean of Continuing Education until January 1995. He was also assigned as Director of Institutional Research from 1995 through May 2001. Lt. Col. Ahrens also coached soccer, track, was a sponsor of the Civil War Living History Club and assisted with academic competition for high school students for a number of years.

Lt. Col. Ahrens is an accomplished historian who has completed a history of Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College from 1947 through 2000. He is also published in Vertical World magazine, which is a history of the United States Air Force Helicopter School.

Lt. Col. Ahrens has distinguished himself as a husband, father, grandfather, teacher and soldier. He has and continues to make his friends and family proud. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Lt. Col. Ahrens and his family all the best.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT NEWDOW V. U.S. CONGRESS WAS ERRONEOUSLY DECIDED

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 459, a resolution condemning the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for ruling that the phrase ''under God'' in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional.

The ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals flies directly in the face of Thomas Jefferson's reasoning for the formation of our Nation. In writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson reasoned that all men have been endowed with inalienable rights by God and to defend these rights governments are instituted among men.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Goodwin and Judge Reinhardt do not understand the irony of their decision: without God, according to Thomas Jefferson, there is no American government and thus no 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judges are supposed to interpret the Constitution and laws passed by Congress: not revise the wisdom of our founding fathers to their own liking. If this harmful judicial attitude is not soon corrected, we may find ourselves condemning judicial decisions to delete text from the Declaration of Independence.

I would like to assure my colleagues and the American people that, although the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals exercises appellate jurisdiction over the State of California, this decision is not indicative of the sentiment of the people of California. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is notorious for the fact that its decisions are overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court more often than any other circuit. I am confident that this decision will, like many others this court has made, be overturned.

The Senate has acted swiftly to condemn this decision. I urge them to back up their rhetoric with action and expedite their approval of the President's Judicial nominations for the five existing vacancies on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals so that similar decisions may be avoided in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to speak and I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

ON NAMING THE DEER PARK, NEW YORK POST OFFICE FOR RAY DOWNEY, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, I was honored to attend a ceremony where the Post Office in Deer Park, New York was renamed for New York Fire Department Chief of Operations Ray Downey, one of the many firefighters lost in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2002. In fact, Chief Downey was the most senior member of the Fire Department killed that day. As you may recall, Mr. Speaker, this House voted in December to rename the Post Office. I wanted to share my remarks from that day with the House:

Our country has been reunited with the tragedy of September 11th. And we should be. But I want to tell you about something that I experienced on September 12th. Something that has stood out in my mind, above everything else that occurred that week.

It was a unique week in American history—unprecedented tragedy, unprecedented heroism. For me, one moment stands out even more than the evening of September 11th, when I stood with my colleagues on the steps of the Capitol, that we were told was a target of terrorists only hours before, holding hands and singing God Bless America as the sun descended over the dome and over one of America's most horrific days.

A moment stands out even more than September 13th, when I sat with President Bush in the White House Cabinet room and we talked about the battle to come. More than September 15th, when I went with the President to the site of the World Trade Center, where we lost Ray Downey and 3000 innocent victims of terror.

It stands above that evening, when I cast the proudest vote of my career: the vote authorizing the President to do what had to be done for the protection of our children and survival of our values and our way of life.

Of all those extraordinary experiences, one really stands out . . . from September 12th.

I was on the Floor of the House. And we had just heard from CNN or AP that Ray Downey didn't make it. I went to a phone, and I called Ray's daughter, Marie Tortorici. It would be the very first of what turned out to be over 100 condolence calls I would make as a Member of Congress to the families of my constituents who died from terror on September 11th.

''I'm sorry,''I told Marie.

And here's what she said: 'We still have hope. We still have faith. We are praying and we want you to pray also.

And so, I went back to the floor of the House, and addressed the Congress, and asked them to say a prayer for the Downey family.

In their darkest hour, the Downey family still had hope, still had faith, still had prayer. And this is what Osama bin Laden and those who live in the darkness of nature don't understand about our country, who we are, what are our values, and where we summon our strength.

When I visited with the President on September 14th I saw the destruction the terrorists caused: the twisted metal and the shattered glass and the smoky, acrid ruins. But I also saw the signs of the true America. Rescue workers who had planted tiny American

flags in their battered helmets. Their arms were weary from digging for three straight days and three straight nights, but not so weary that they couldn't pump their arms into the air and chant USA, USA, USA when the President arrived.

I spoke to two workers: one from Huntington Station and the other from Islip. I said, how long have you been here? They said, since the building went down. I said, how long will you stay, they said, we're not leaving. This is something al Qaeda could never understand or appreciate. When Americans saw bloodshed, we lined up for hours to give blood back. When we feel fear, we turn to our faith. We unfurl our flags. When Ray Downey's family was in trouble, they responded with hope and with faith.

Because that's what Ray was all about. When Ray Downey saw a building come down, he headed for it. When Ray Downey saw a building collapse in Oklahoma City, half a country away, he headed for it. That's what made him special. Not a hero looking for accolades. Just an American doing his job in the best way he could with a courage forged by hope and faith. That will inspire generations of Americans yet unborn.

When I went to the floor weeks later and asked my colleagues to cosponsor the bill that named this post office, they lined up to sign it. Republicans. Democrats. From New York. From Oklahoma. From California. When I asked Senator Clinton to introduce it in the Senate, she rushed it. And when I asked the President to sign it, he said, ''how soon.''

Ray Downey had a way of bringing us together. In sports . . . in the Fire Department . . . in Deer Park. We could really use him in Washington right now. We may not have him physically. But we will always have his spirit of hope, and faith and strength to guide us.

And when generations to come visit this post office and say, ''who was Ray Downey?'' The answer will be clear. He was a kind, gentle and loving man who died so that others would live.

He was one of those guys who gave his life to make us the home of the brave . . . and the land of the free. And when I think of him, as I do often, I recall the words from Romeo and Juliet:

And, when he shall die,
Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun.

God bless the Downey family. God bless America.

CITY OF SANTA CLARA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the City of Santa Clara, California, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary as an incorporated city. The sesquicentennial celebration for this ''All-America City'' gives us the chance to honor the past, enjoy the present, and look towards a bright future.

Santa Clara is a city where tourists love to explore, students love to learn, and locals love to live. What was once a land of wide-open spaces and orchards is now the home of over 100,000 people and several globally-recognized technology companies. Santa Clara's evolution has been an exciting one, but even as the community has become fertile ground where the high tech industry can flourish, it has continued to embrace the human touch.

The region's history started long before the city's incorporation, dating back 6000 years to the time of the Ohlone Indians. Thousands of years passed before the next settlers arrived, drawn to the area by the scenic landscape and the abundant water resources. These settlers, mostly missionaries and military explorers, chose the area that is now the City of Santa Clara to build a new mission, and in 1777 the Mission Santa Clara de Asis was established. This Franciscan mission, the eighth-oldest of California's 21 original missions, still stands on the campus of Santa Clara University, and is a living tribute to the legacy of Father Junipero Serra and to the work of Father Francisco Palou, founder of the mission.

After Santa Clara's incorporation in 1852, the allure of the region's natural resources attracted ranchers and farmers from the Eastern United States, Mexico, and Europe. Stores were opened and soil was cultivated, and by 1900 Santa Clara boasted a population of 3,650. The city suffered through and survived the historic San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, and later sent many brave women and men to serve in the World Wars.

Following World War II, Santa Clara experienced another population boom thanks to a growing number of manufacturing concerns such as the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation. The growing population of almost 60,000 began to fill the suburbs developing around the city, a precursor to the population boom that would accompany a skyrocketing new industry arriving just a few decades later.

The arrival and rapid expansion of the technology industry would quickly bring Santa Clara and the whole of Silicon Valley to worldwide prominence. The technology industry has seen incredible growth in the past twenty years, and the City of Santa Clara has permanently established itself at the forefront of this phenomenon. Some of the most powerful names in the industry, names like Sun Microsystems, Applied Materials, and Intel are all headquartered here. Santa Clara's entire history is full of originality and opportunity, recent history being no exception.

The most important aspect of the relationship between the technology sector and the City of Santa Clara is that it is built on a foundation of reciprocity and mutual respect. The city's two major challenges—providing affordable housing and reusing state surplus land—are being addressed in a collaborative effort by the city and leading high-tech firms. The Intel Teacher Housing Fund, for example, will provide $500 a month for eligible teachers' mortgage payments, and Sun Microsystems set aside part of the land occupied by their headquarters for the preservation of historic buildings and for use by the public. The city, of course, provides a willing and able workforce, and has done a tremendous job of accommodating the large inflow of tech-savvy job hunters and entrepreneurs.

The mutually beneficial relationship between the city and the tech industry is just one of the many reasons why Santa Clara is a special place, and those of us who live in the area aren't the only ones noticing. Last year, the City of Santa Clara won an All-America City award from the National Civic League, one of only 10 cities to receive the award. We who know the city have always believed that Santa Clara is a special place, but the 54-member delegation representing Santa Clara at the competition last June did an exceptional job of ensuring that the panel of judges understood Santa Clara as well. The delegation, consisting of community groups, government officials, business leaders, and private citizens outlined the ways in which Santa Clara goes above and beyond meeting the requirements for the award, from the symbiotic relationship between the city and industry, to the contributions of Santa Clara's volunteer work force, to the city's commitment towards improving the lives of local youths. These factors, combined with the intangible qualities that only a native can describe, helped the City of Santa Clara bring home this prestigious award.

I believe that the words of the All-America City delegation put it best: ''Santa Clara blends the best of a modern, urban metropolis with the comfortable charm of Small Town, USA.'' Santa Clara is a perfect place to raise a family, pursue a career, and fulfill lifelong dreams. It is the home of California's oldest institution of higher learning—Santa Clara University—and other fine schools like Mission College and the Santa Clara, Wilcox, and Wilson High Schools. The weather is beautiful, and the best that California has to offer is right around every corner. I am proud to represent this city as a Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the history and celebrating the achievements of Santa Clara, California, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The city is an example for all others, and I look forward to being a part of its bright future.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment with H.R. 4954, the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002. 1 am very concerned about the burden many seniors bear in paying for their prescription drugs, and I support adding prescription drug coverage as part of the Medicare benefit. However, this sham bill will not help seniors, and it particularly fails senior women in Michigan.

Too many seniors have to choose between paying for food or medicine. Medicare made a promise of better health to America's seniors. It's time to make good on that promise and provide prescription drugs as part of the entitlement. I know what it's like to go without health insurance—I did it when my children were small and our jobs didn't provide it. It's terrifying and it forces families to make excruciating choices.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4954 is no answer to the problem of seniors' lack of drug coverage. The bill relies on private insurance companies to supply the drug benefit rather than the Medicare program itself, despite the fact that the insurance industry has already explained that such policies are not viable and that it is