

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY RESOLUTION

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. McGovern and I introduced a resolution to help draw attention to the 33 million hungry Americans. The resolution recognizes organizations such as America's Second Harvest that provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States, and encourages all Americans to provide volunteer services and other support for local anti-hunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters.

On National Hunger Awareness Day I have mixed emotions. I am proud of the armies of compassion that are represented by organizations such as America's Second Harvest. But I'm also sad because its been nearly 40 years since President Johnson declared war on poverty and hunger and yet, today, 13 million kids STILL live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food. (USDA)

In 2001, there were 33.6 million Americans—20 million adults and 13 million children—who were hungry or at risk of hunger. (USDA) In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about the obligation to feed the hungry. In a world, and especially a nation, as plentiful as ours, it is tragic that even one child is hungry.

My state of Virginia is better off than many states. We are below the national average poverty rate of 11.6 percent. We have fewer people who don't have food—7.6 percent versus the national average of 10.4 percent.

Yet, hunger is still rampant here. 294,434 children, or 43.4 percent, received free or reduced-price meals.

Substantial progress has been made to feed the hungry in the United States, yet too many Americans still go to bed hungry and feel the effects of food deprivation. Federal programs like the Food Stamp Program, child nutrition programs, and food donation programs, provide essential nutritional support to millions of low-income people, but the need remains. Thankfully, community- and faith-based institutions are providing assistance to hungry people across the country.

The armies of compassion are working hard, but we each must do our part to join in and support them. Barriers need to be eliminated to allow businesses to do the morally conscionable thing and donate their surplus food. It's outrageous that it is more "cost effective" for a business to throw out or destroy surplus food rather than donate it to a local soup kitchen. A White House conference on hunger, like the one my colleague Senator DOLE called for just this morning, would be an ideal venue to discuss these important issues.

I hope that in the midst of the facts and statistics, no one misses the REAL point of Na-

tional Hunger Awareness Day—that in a land of plenty, 13 million children still go to bed hungry. A country which is as blessed as ours needs to do better.

### RECOGNIZING DIARIO LAS AMERICAS

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I wish to recognize the extraordinary achievements of a newspaper that will commemorate the 50th anniversary of its founding on July 4th, the day this Nation celebrates its independence.

Diario Las Americas is a nationally and internationally distributed newspaper that has always served its community, its Nation and the principles of freedom and democracy that we all embrace.

Dr. Horacio Aguirre, its founder and director, was born in New Orleans of Nicaraguan parents. He commenced his career in journalism early in life after having graduated from the University of Panama with a degree in Law and Political Sciences.

Since 1984, he has presided over the International Affairs Committee of the Inter-American Press Association, Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa, SIP, an organization that groups some 1,300 newspapers from this hemisphere. He is also a member of the World Association of Newspapers, WAN, whose headquarters is in Paris, and of the World Press Freedom Committee, of Washington, DC.

Dr. Aguirre has received, among many distinctions and honors, the Gran Cruz del Mérito Civil de España, bestowed in 1991 by His Majesty, King Juan Carlos I; the Orden de Caballero de San Gregorio bestowed by the Vatican in 1984; the Presidential Award of the Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa, SIP in 1999; and degrees honoris causa from Barry University, Miami-Dade Community College and Florida International University.

As the 50th anniversary of its founding approaches, I wish to acknowledge Diario Las Americas, Dr. Horacio Aguirre, his family and collaborators in their abiding stand in defense of moral and democratic values.

### CONDEMNING THE CRACKDOWN OF THE OPPOSITION IN BURMA AND THE DETENTION OF DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to deplore in the strongest possible terms this past weekend's nationwide crackdown in

Burma. The attack by armed goons supported by Burma's military regime on 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi is an insult and an offense to all freedom loving peoples around the world. Even worse, it is reported that several of her supporters have been brutally killed.

When I traveled to Burma to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, I was immediately impressed by her staunch commitment to freedom and her refusal to yield to unrelenting government pressure.

I was proud to hear that Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a man I know and admire, has called for the international community to immediately impose sanctions on Burma's regime. I urge that the United States cooperate promptly in this regard; failure to act decisively would be to miss an opportunity to reaffirm our support for liberty and justice in Burma.

### TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN GIOMI

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an outstanding young woman with a desire to serve her country. Kathryn Giomi planned to spend her life in the service of her nation, but her life was tragically taken in an auto accident before she could live her dream. As her loved ones mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory.

Kathryn, who enjoyed cooking, listening to big band music, and dancing, was born in San Jose, California where she graduated from high school three years ago. Last year, Kathryn moved to Colorado where she worked in a restaurant and theater while she waited for her chance to serve in the United States Air Force as a military police officer. Kathryn was proficient in Spanish, spoke some Italian and Farsi, and hoped for an assignment at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy, where she could improve the Italian language skills she learned from her family. Kathryn was slated to leave for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio in June.

Kathryn is survived by her mother Marguerite Ellen Rose, her father Ron Giomi, her sister Heather Giomi-Beck, her brothers Ryan and Vincent Giomi, two nephews and a niece. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Kathryn, who understand the price of freedom and have answered the call to service, who have helped to make America what it is today. Kathryn would have made a fantastic member of our armed forces, and our nation is appreciative of her willingness to serve. She will be missed by her family, friends, and her country.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE COMMENDING NATION'S BUSINESSES AND BUSINESS OWNERS FOR SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I rise today in support of H. Res. 201, which commends American business for its support of U.S. Reservists and National Guardsmen called to active duty.

Nationwide, Reservists are averaging far more number of days either deployed or away from home than at the height of the Gulf War in 1991. They are being called up more often, are serving for longer periods of time, and are absolutely vital to our national military strategy. The U.S. military does not undertake any sustained operations anywhere in the world without using the National Guard and Reserve.

Over 216,900 reservists have been called to active duty since 9/11, with most having to temporarily leave their civilian jobs to serve. Although their jobs are assured when they return, for their employers, war means having to continue business without key employees. Small firms in particular must make extraordinary sacrifices when they lose one of their most productive workers. Yet, despite these hardships, many companies continue to support these employees and their families while they serve their nation. H. Res. 201 expresses the sense of the House that our nation's businesses and business owners should be commended for their support of our troops and their families as they serve our country.

It is important to acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions made by American business in support of the Reservists and Guardsmen they employ. Many of these companies, without legal obligation to do so, continue to pay reservists the difference between their military pay and what they earn on their civilian jobs. Many also continue to pay health and insurance benefits for those employees and their families.

Members of the guard and reserve can't do their job without the support of their family and employers. It is fitting that we take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution that American business, both corporate and family-owned, is making to the defense of our nation and to our national military objectives.

ALL SPOUSES OF MILITARY RETIREES DESERVE OUR HELP

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. FILNER Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to call attention to my bill, H.R. 2393, "Continued Benefits for Injured Spouses Act".

Under current law, enacted in 1982, former spouses of military members or retirees are eligible for military medical benefits and exchange and commissary privileges if the military member had performed at least 20 years

of military service, had been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, and 20 years of marriage and service were overlapping. This is known as the 20/20/20 restriction. Further legislation was enacted two years later to include additional former spouses under a 20/20/15 restriction.

While this law recognizes the contribution and sacrifice of many military spouses who later divorced, there is a group who are completely left out through no fault of their own. Spouses who must leave a marriage through divorce due to documented abuse are often left with none of these benefits. Domestic violence and physical or sexual endangerment to the spouse or the children, proven by medical or counseling records, should be taken into account. Divorced because of this situation, the injured spouse should continue to receive all benefits.

H.R. 2393 will change the law to 20/20/10—only for these special circumstances, meaning that the military member would have been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, would have performed at least 20 years of military service, with 10 years of service and marriage overlapping. This change would allow an abused spouse to escape from a potentially dangerous marriage and still keep benefits.

Teresa, a woman in my Congressional District, has found herself in these circumstances. She told me, "I didn't begin this marriage looking for a way to divorce. I believe in commitment, and there were some good years. But had I known when I married him how he would hurt me and endanger my life, I would have backed away. I have done all I can to keep this marriage together. His response to legal separation was to come over and throw our 15 year old around until I called the police. I will never allow him to hurt our children again."

Most of our military members are honorable and good people. But, in the few cases where spousal or child abuse is involved, we must protect the families. I invite my colleagues to join with me in supporting military spouses who have found themselves in dangerous marriages. Please co-sponsor H.R. 2393.

TRIBUTE TO HILDA VAUGHAN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Hilda Vaughan, an exceptional individual who has selflessly devoted her time and energy to the betterment of this nation. I applaud her outstanding character, and her desire to support and educate her community. Hilda demonstrates impressive qualities worthy of such praise, and today we honor her retirement as a salute to a job well done.

Hilda was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, and spent her adolescent years thirsting for knowledge. After graduating from Rustburg High School in Rustburg, Virginia, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lynchburg College, and married her beloved husband, Ted Vaughan. Hilda moved to Silt, Colorado, and served her community well, by holding a number of clerical, secretarial, and accounting po-

sitions. Additionally, Hilda achieved her EMT-B certification and assisted the Grand Valley Fire Protection District. Hilda's attention to detail, together with her unwavering determination, led her to become and perform as an outstanding substitute teacher and librarian for 23 years. As a student teacher in Lynchburg, she educated herself to become a mentor as well as a teacher. Her first substitute teaching position was in the RE-2 School District, in Rifle, Colorado. Through her experiences in different geographic areas and districts, Hilda expanded her vast knowledge and wisdom, and became an excellent asset to every school district she served. Today we admire a woman who selflessly donated her time and efforts to upholding the structure of her community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I honor such an outstanding individual before this body of Congress and this nation. Hilda contributed so much, and she was so thoughtful, words will never express our appreciation to her. Hilda, thank you for your hard work in our country, and I anticipate great achievements from you in the future.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA HARPER GARRETT

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patricia Harper Garrett, of whom it can be said, "Teaching was in her genes." Her grandmother was the Principal at Belle Glades Jr. High School and later Principal of Roosevelt Jenkins High School in Starke, Florida, where her parents were both students. At the end of this school year, Mrs. Garrett will be retiring from the teaching profession after 35 years.

Patricia Garrett is a graduate of George Washington Carver High School and Bethune Cookman College. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and an Associate Member of Jack and Jill of America.

Throughout her teaching career, her title has changed several times, including Work Experience Coordinator at Booker T. Washington and Richmond Heights Junior High Schools and Cooperative Education Coordinator/Department Chairperson at Miami Sunset Senior High School. However, her goal has always been the same: to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of young people.

Ms. Garrett realized at an early age, from years of watching her grandmother and mother who were both teachers, that education was crucially important. After college, she came to realize that her skills could best be utilized helping to educate young people.

Ms. Garrett has received numerous honors over the years in recognition of her skill, commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm for educating young people. In 1997, she received perhaps her greatest honor: the selection of her daughter, Jessica Garrett—a fourth-generation teacher in her family as Miami-Dade Public Schools Region Beginning Teacher of the Year. The legacy of educators continues with her youngest daughter, April Garrett, who is in her first year of teaching.

Congratulations, Patricia Harper Garrett. Thank you for your service, and enjoy your retirement.

# TRIBUTE TO GEORGE RYAN

## HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of pride that I stand before this Congress and this Nation to pay tribute to an outstanding educator, coach and leader from my district. George Ryan of Grand Junction, Colorado spends most of his time with the student-athletes of the area, providing them with leadership, and direction. I am honored to recognize his accomplishments here today.

George grew up interested in sports, and worked hard to receive a football scholarship to Youngstown College but enlisted in the armed forces to dutifully serve our country. One of the greatest things to happen to George was being stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado, where he met a young nursing trainee who would soon become his wife, Mary Ann. The couple soon wound up in Grand Junction, where George became a teacher and coach.

George's interest in our Nation's youth led him to serve on the District 51 school board. After some time there, he shifted his volunteer time to athletics and began to officiate at track meets. He worked as an insurance claims adjuster during the day, so he could provide some financial stability for his family. His hard work on the track garnered George quite a reputation as a track official, where he worked 15 State Track Championships. George was so good at his job that he received an invitation to the NCAA Track Championships in 1982, working the hammer throw, discus, and the javelin. He enjoys officiating track meets and working with young people so much that it has become his number one hobby.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this Nation to praise George Ryan. George has provided the city of Grand Junction with an exemplary model of community service. He has spent countless hours helping children engage in sports, while providing them with a role model they can look up to and admire. Thank you, George, for your years of service.

# RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN AND SUPPORTED OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 177. This resolution acknowledges the accomplishments of the U.S. armed forces and expresses the deep gratitude of the nation to the 21 steadfast allies and coalition members in Afghani-

stan and Iraq. It also commends Defense Department civilians and contractors for their work and support.

It is a privilege to take a few minutes to pay tribute to the men and women who distinguish themselves daily in selfless service to this nation. More than 1.4 million men and women make up America's active and reserve forces, and over 300,000 of them are deployed for military action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In addition to their duties as soldiers, members of the armed forces also serve as our nation's unofficial ambassadors. They represent the very best of what this nation stands for—honor, loyalty, and a commitment to enhancing freedom and democracy throughout the world. The men and women now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have the unique opportunity to demonstrate to the world that the United States cannot only win wars, it can help emerging nations become self-governing as well. Maintaining the peace and nation building in these two countries promises to be a lengthy and time-consuming process. I am pleased to offer my support to this resolution and call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reaffirm our commitment to our nation's goals in these two countries.

H. Con. Res. 177 also conveys the deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of service members killed or wounded during these operations, and calls on communities across the country to prepare appropriate ceremonies to commemorate with tributes and days of remembrance their service and sacrifice.

Sixty-seven United States military and civilians lost their lives in Afghanistan and 140 died in Iraq so far. By any measure, their contributions, in terms of human sacrifice, are immense. As a nation we share the sense of loss that their families are experiencing. We must never forget that the peace and prosperity that we enjoy are founded on the ultimate sacrifices made by those who have lost their lives in war throughout our nation's history.

# EDUCATION, JOBS, BENEFITS, AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

## HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support for four bills that I have introduced to address several needs of our veterans and to ensure their well-being.

The first bill (H.R. 1924) deals with education benefits. Last year, one very important piece of the Fiscal Year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act that Congress passed was a provision that extends the time limit for members of the Selected Reserve to use their Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) education benefits from 10 years to 14 years. Prior to the passage of this law, these MGIB participants had only 10 years from their release from military service to use these earned education benefits.

Many times, veterans with families, work commitments, and economic difficulties are unable to fulfill all their requirements to receive a degree or certification within this 10 year pe-

riod. In passing last year's Defense Authorization Act, Congress recognized this difficulty for members of the Selected Reserve. Also recognizing that 10 years may not be long enough for certain individuals, the VA Secretary has limited discretion to grant time extensions to those who are unable to use their benefits due to mental or physical handicaps.

It is clear that life in 2003 can make it difficult to finish an education in the allotted time frame. I believe it is time to extend the time period for all the participants of the MGIB. Therefore, I have introduced H.R. 1924, "The Montgomery GI Bill Flexibility Act", which will allow all participants up to 14 years to complete their education. This bill will ensure that more of our veterans are able to avail themselves of the educational opportunity that the MGIB affords them—the educational opportunity that they earned.

A second bill, H.R. 1920, "Let U.S. Veterans Rebuild Iraq Act", does just what the title says. It would guarantee jobs to veterans with companies that are awarded government contracts to rebuild Iraq. We have all rallied to support our troops as they waged Operation: Iraqi Freedom. But often, after the troops come home, our veterans are not treated with the respect that they deserve. It is most important to ensure that there are jobs for our nation's veterans, both new veterans and older. We are still fighting homelessness among veterans, a national disgrace. One way to better the lives of many veterans is to include them in the job of rebuilding Iraq. They fought for freedom for Iraq. Let's get them involved with helping to secure the future for Iraq.

My third bill, H.R. 1347, "The Former Prisoners of War Equitable Dental Benefits Act", is legislation that I introduced in the 107th Congress and that passed the House of Representatives, but not the Senate. This bill is supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It would eliminate the "time of internment" requirement for former prisoners-of-war (POWs) in order to be eligible for outpatient dental care benefits at the VA.

No one can deny that former POWs have sacrificed greatly in defense of their country. Unfortunately, their sacrifices continue. Reports have shown that POWs are at higher risk for a number of disabling conditions associated with exposure to infectious disease, inclement weather, and malnutrition.

Currently, the law states that eligibility for outpatient dental care benefits only applies to former POWs with 90 days or more of internment. As you can imagine, this time requirement has been difficult for the VA to administer and to justify to the veterans seeking dental care. Former POWs are often confused about this time requirement. Who could say that our POWs in Iraq did not suffer because they were not imprisoned for 90 days? H.R. 1347 eliminates the arbitrary distinction between former POWs who have all paid dearly for their service.

Fourthly, I have learned that VA doctors are not allowed to prescribe more than a 1 month prescription for controlled drugs, such as pain killers used for chronic conditions. But many veterans who have these prescriptions have been treated with the same medications for years and show no signs of abuse. H.R. 1921, the "Continuity of Care for Veterans with Chronic Conditions Act", would allow VA doctors to write a three-months prescription for these veterans who demonstrate no sign of

abuse of their medication. This bill would make it more convenient for sick veterans to get their medication and would ensure that no lag time exists when veterans are without their medication.

Education, jobs, benefits, and prescriptions for our nation's veterans. I urge your support for this legislation!

#### TRIBUTE TO LEE M. ANCELL SR.

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of a veteran from my state, Lee M. Ancell, Sr. Lee passed away recently at the age of 88. As his family mourns their loss, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to his life and accomplishments here today.

Lee was a part of what many call the "greatest generation," and when the United States entered World War II, he dutifully answered his nation's call by enlisting in the Army Air Corp. After his discharge, Lee returned to marry Margaret Galloway. Lee and Margaret lived a long life together, as their marriage spanned 53 years. After moving to Cortez, Colorado, Lee became involved in a number of groups and organizations. He enjoyed membership in groups like the National Rifle Association, the VFW, and the National Water Well Drillers Association. He was also a respected leader of the 4-H Club. Lee spent his free time engaging in a variety of activities, including welding, hunting, fishing, and playing the guitar. A family man, Lee is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Lee Ancell, Sr. Lee was a solid contributor to his community and his nation, and I am grateful for his service. My thoughts and prayers go out to Lee's family and friends.

#### TRIBUTE TO JERLEAN BARRON

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Jerlean Barron, who will be retiring from the Dade County Public Schools at the end of this school year. Mrs. Barron is the very definition of a strong person. She dedicated her life to serving her family and her community, and she did both with distinction.

Mrs. Barron was born and raised in Baxley, Georgia and is a product of the Appling County Public School System. She attended Appling Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Mrs. Barron is a role model who demonstrated daily how to overcome obstacles. After raising six of her biological children, she took on the responsibility of raising four of her grandchildren. Mrs. Barron was always there to support her grandchildren morally, emotionally, spiritually, and even financially in their pursuits.

Mrs. Barron has had to deal with hard decisions in her life. Her husband and daughter became terribly ill, and she was responsible for their care. During this difficult time, and despite the tremendous effort it took, she nonetheless continued to give great help and service to the Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School.

Mrs. Barron's dedication, loyalty, compassion, and involvement will be greatly missed. She showed students and faculty alike, by her example, how to make lemonade from the lemons life gives them, and in doing so she contributed greatly to the Miami-Dade community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Jerlean Barron for her work, in thanking her for her service and in wishing her much happiness in her retirement.

#### HONORING ROBERT KREAMELMEYER

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before this body of Congress to pay tribute to Robert Kraemelmeyer, who recently passed away after many years of public service. Robert devoted his life to serving his community and this devotion will not be forgotten.

Robert began his life of public service when he left college to join the Air Force and serve in World War II, stationed with the 423rd squadron—306 Bomb Group in England. After the war, Robert returned to the United States and moved to Golden, Colorado. While in Golden, Robert began a career as plumber, and dedicated much of his time to his community. He spent a lot of time as the Scout Master of Troop 48. Robert knew that he could make a difference in the lives of America's youth, so he purchased some property in the Williams Fork area, which he turned into a summer ranch for boys. He ran the ranch until his move to Montrose, Colorado in 1972. While in Montrose, Robert got involved in politics, and continued to serve his community as a city councilman and town mayor. While serving as the Mayor of Montrose, Robert worked hard to serve his community to the best of his ability.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Robert Kraemelmeyer. Robert was an outstanding role model. I am saddened by the loss of such a good man, but am happy knowing he had such a positive impact on so many young people in his community. My thoughts and prayers go out to Robert's family and friends.

#### ARMED FORCES NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Armed Forces Naturalization Act of 2003.

As of February 2003, there were 37,000 non-citizens serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. Moreover, almost 12,000 foreign nationals were serving in the selected reserves, and another 8,000 were serving in the inactive National Guard and ready reserves.

Their red, white, and blue patriotism has contributed extraordinarily to national security. Every single one of these heroes, courageous defenders of lady liberty—from the Philippines, Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, among many other source countries—deserves an expedited procedure for citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, as of February 2003, there were 1,663 non-citizen members of the U.S. military whose unit was stationed in Florida. Every single one of them has made the commitment to risk his or her life to defend the United States of America.

Volunteering to serve in the U.S. armed forces exemplifies one of the important roles of a citizen. On April 14, 2003, Captain Armando Ariel Gonzalez, a Florida non-citizen resident, was killed in a non-hostile accident when a commercial refueler collapsed at a supply area in Southern Iraq.

Once more, I wish to express my deepest condolences to the Gonzalez family, and at the same time offer all my support and prayers. This tragedy only crystallizes the great risk and danger the brave members of the all-volunteer military experience in the name of the people of the United States.

We must never forget that the peace and prosperity that we enjoy are founded on the ultimate sacrifice made by all those who have lost their lives in war throughout our nation's history.

We have witnessed the commitment of non-citizen soldiers to the United States during the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. They have earned our gratitude and admiration. We must now accord them our appreciation and respect.

I support The Armed Forces Naturalization Act of 2003 because it,

(a) Ensures the ability of lawful permanent resident spouses, unmarried children, and parents of soldiers killed as a result of service in the U.S. military to apply for citizenship;

(b) Speeds up the naturalization process by allowing military members to naturalize after serving one year in the military, waive naturalization fees, and allow naturalization interviews and oath ceremonies to take place abroad, and

(c) Waives posthumous citizenship fees.

I am pleased with the bill proposed today, but urge my colleagues to further facilitate the naturalization process to these heroes and their loved ones.

#### RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JO ANN PISEL, EX- ECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CALL FOR HELP

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career and retirement of Jo Ann Pisel, Executive Director of Call for Help Incorporated from 1976 to 2003.

Jo Ann Pisel has been with Call for Help for the past 27 years, 26 of which as the Executive Director. Call For Help is a not-for-profit multiple social service agency in St. Clair County, Illinois. Under her guidance, the organization, which started in the basements of volunteers, has grown and continued to offer critical services to the communities in Illinois that they have served for the past 33 years.

Starting with a Suicide and Crisis Hotline, the Call for Help agency includes a Victim Sexual Assault Care Unit, now with three satellite offices (Mt. Vernon, East St. Louis and Madison County). It also includes an Information and Referral Program, giving links to resources in the community and assisting with rental, utility and prescription assistance when available. Also, there is a domestic violence program that has evolved and has become an entity on its own now celebrating 25 years of service. Furthermore, Call for Help has an Adult Residential Program serving those who find themselves in a mental crisis, Crisis and MISA Counseling Services and a Transitional Living Center, housing homeless young women and their dependent children.

Serving people of all ages has been Jo Ann's stock in trade. In addition to her duties at Call for Help, Jo Ann also serves as a Home Health Social Worker for a variety of Home Health Agencies, currently BJC and Nurses and Company. From 1980–1992, Jo Ann was the Social Service and Activity consultant for Dammert Geriatrics, Parkview Manor and the St. Paul's Home for the Aged. She was a Medical Psychiatric Social Worker at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Granite City and also served as a private consultant. She served as a caseworker for female ex-prisoners in the late 60's and was a caseworker for foster families from 1968–1969. From 1966–1969, she served as a childcare worker at Villa Maria Maternity home in St. Louis, working with single, young pregnant women. From 1959–1966, Jo Ann taught the elementary grades first through sixth.

Jo Ann was recognized in 2001 as one of the Top Ladies of Distinction and in 1997 she received the St. Louis University-School of Social Service, Alumni Distinguished Service Award. That same year she was named a Hardees Hometown Hero and in 1995, was honored as being recognized as both the State of Illinois and Metro East Social Worker of the Year.

Jo Ann has worked tirelessly all of her life in the service of people and has given much of herself to filling the needs of the community, both the young and old.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Jo Ann Pisel and wish her the best in the future.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN GIRON

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a lifelong educator from my district. John Giron has devoted his life to the students of Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colorado for 33 years. As he embarks on his retirement, it gives me great joy to inform this body about John's ex-

emplary service to his community and this nation.

John's family has deep roots in Trinidad, going back four generations to his great-grandfather who homesteaded in the area. His father worked as a miner, and John attended Trinidad High School where he excelled as a runner, becoming state champion in the half mile. Following graduation in 1957, John attended the University of Colorado on an athletic scholarship, but within weeks of starting school, his nation came calling. John received a draft notice in the mail and immediately gave up his scholarship to enlist in the Navy. The Navy trained John as an electrician and stationed him on two aircraft carriers before John returned to school, this time at Trinidad State Junior College and Adams State College.

John earned a BA in education and later an MA in counseling, which led to a job as a guidance counselor and launched his career with Trinidad State Junior College. He later worked as the Director of Upward Bound, a program designed to help students successfully complete high school and college. John also served as the Director of Student Life before spending the last 15 years as the Dean of Students. John is deeply connected to the school. His entire family, including his wife, three children, and daughter-in-law, has graduated from Trinidad State Junior College.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body today to recognize John Giron, a man who has clearly demonstrated his commitment to our nation's youth. His counsel and leadership helped guide the academic careers of numerous young people, and I thank him for his outstanding service and wish John all the best in his retirement.

#### JANICE PEREZ ATOIGUE

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ms. Janice Perez Atoigue for completing her Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Anthropology at the University of Maryland on May 22, 2003.

Janice was always an outstanding student both in high school and at the University of Maryland. She was born on Guam and her family resided in the village of Yigo during her early years. Her family later moved to Maryland where she attended the Talented and Gifted School and Suitland High School. At Suitland she was an honors student in both the Dance and French Programs.

While attending at the University of Maryland, she concentrated her studies in Biological Anthropology and was on the Dean's List. The Anthropology Department at the University of Maryland is a respected program, and she took advantage of educational opportunities available on campus and overseas. During the summer of 2002 she studied in Belgium and Germany, where she visited many archeological sites and museums. Just before graduating she completed a senior honor thesis on prehistoric Pacific migration, which reflects her quest for knowledge about the origins of the Pacific, Guam, and her Chamorro heritage.

This degree will now open many doors of opportunity for her to continue her education and to pursue a career in the field of anthropology. She plans to do some anthropology work in the Pacific in the future and has accepted an internship at Counterpart International. We all look forward to hearing of Janice's contributions in her profession and we hope she continues to pursue her interest in the cultural roots of our people and our region.

I am proud of Janice for her dedication and hard work in completing her undergraduate degree. I also want to take the time to commend Janice's parents, Jacinta and Lawrence Atoigue, who encourage her to do her best. They have every reason to be proud of her achievement.

Today I join the Atoigue family and friends in congratulating Janice for her accomplishment and in wishing her the very best in the future.

TO HONOR THE HEROIC ACTS OF  
UNITED STATES ARMY PVT.  
JASON KLEINMAN

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private Jason Kleinman, of the United States Army, whose courage and valor in the face of tremendous danger saved the lives of three fellow United States soldiers during an enemy ambush outside of Baghdad on Memorial Day. Pvt. Kleinman, along with two fellow soldiers, ignored flames and exploding ammunition to pull three wounded comrades from a burning Humvee.

Pvt. Kleinman, a member of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division's Task Force 270, was traveling in a convoy of Humvees when an Iraqi man tossed a home-made bomb under the wheels of the vehicle in front of his. The bomb blew the Humvee back 80 feet, igniting the gas tank as well as machine gun and anti-tank rounds inside. Without hesitation, Pvt. Kleinman, along with Pvt. Dustin Meeks and Pvt. Enrique Alvarado, dragged three soldiers from the burning Humvee despite at least 50 secondary explosions as ammunition continued to discharge inside the vehicle. Though the Humvee's gunner succumbed to his injuries, the other two soldiers have Pvs. Kleinman, Meeks and Alvarado to thank for their lives.

I am proud to represent Pvt. Jason Kleinman, a nineteen year-old native of Roslyn Heights, Long Island who joined the Army last September, after graduating from Herricks High School in New Hyde Park. Jason had dreamed of joining the Army since he was a child. Now he will return home as a hero.

I commend Jason Kleinman for his tremendous display of bravery in the face of mortal peril and I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in praise of this young man's heroic acts.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIKE  
OVERTURF

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep admiration that I stand before this body of Congress to recognize the determination of fifteen year-old Mike Overturf of Olathe, Colorado, who is recovering from a recent stroke. The fortitude he has shown in the face of hardship, and the spirited manner with which he lives his life, are an inspiration to us all.

Although having suffered a stroke just a few short months ago, Mike has remained active. He has been riding his dirt bike, playing drums, making plans to go fishing, and even completing a major project in school in order to catch up on his studies. Mike's teachers note his remarkable performance and the extraordinary attention he has devoted to his schoolwork.

Throughout his ordeal, Mike has been a positive influence in the lives of his friends, family, and in his community. He has supported the performances of his school's band, even following them to Grand Junction for the Colorado West Band Festival. Mike plans to play with the band this spring and not only knows how to play the drums, but also the trombone, trumpet, saxophone, guitar, clarinet and flute.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Overturf is an inspiration to us all. His determination to overcome adversity and his commitment to recovery says volumes about his character and desire to succeed. Mike, I join your friends, family and all of Olathe in wishing you a speedy recovery and success in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MITCHELL A.  
SMITH

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this nation's most dedicated citizens, Captain Mitchell A. Smith, of the Santa Rosa Sheriffs Office. This past Thursday, June 5, 2003, Mitch was taken from us. He tirelessly served Santa Rosa County for the past 25 years, leaving a lasting impact on the Northwest Florida Community that he came to know so well. We will forever miss Mitch, but his memory will never be forgotten.

Mitch began his adult life by dedicating himself to the United States Army. He chose to serve his country, defending the freedoms and liberties that we as Americans have come to hold so dear. It was this passion to serve and help others that would continuously be shown throughout his life.

In May of 1978, Mitch retired from the U.S. Army and came to the Santa Rosa Sheriffs Office. He began his career in law enforcement as a Deputy, but quickly showed his dedication and commitment to serving and protecting the people of Northwest Florida, resulting in his subsequent promotions to the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. Just two weeks ago, Mitch received the honor

and recognition of his final promotion to the rank of Captain.

Just two months shy of retirement, Mitch served everyday to the best of his abilities. Over the course of his career he received numerous letters of commendation for his service to the citizens of Santa Rosa County. He was an officer respected by his peers, admired by his community, and loved by his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Capt. Mitchell A. Smith for their loss. Although his time with us was cut short, we will be forever grateful for the time that Mitch did have with us in Santa Rosa County. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens, Capt. Mitchell A. Smith, whose legacy will live on long beyond his passing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was absent from the House on Wednesday, June 4 and Thursday, June 5. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall vote 236—yea, rollcall vote 237—yea, rollcall vote 238—yea, rollcall vote 239—yea, rollcall vote 240—nay, rollcall vote 241—nay, rollcall vote 24—yea, rollcall vote 243, H. Res. 256—yea, rollcall vote 244—yea, rollcall vote 245—yea, rollcall vote 246—yea, rollcall vote 247—yea, rollcall vote 248—yea.

In particular, I would like to specifically express my strong support for H.R. 760, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. This has been a bill that I have supported for many years and I am glad that it has again seen passage in the House. For nearly a decade Congress has attempted to see this legislation become law, and I am pleased that my colleagues have yet again affirmed the message that partial birth abortion is wrong by passing this bill.

There has been overwhelming support for a ban on partial birth abortions. The partial birth abortion ban has been passed in various forms by the House eight times, including multiple veto overrides. Having been first considered during the 104th Congress, we have seen numerous state legislatures take action and vote to end partial birth abortions in their states.

I am pleased that we have acted strongly and unmistakably by voting once again to preserve life and ban the heinous practice of partial birth abortions. The administration has stated their support of this bill and is willing to take positive action and sign this ban into law.

I understand that the issue of abortion is difficult for many. Well-intentioned people on both sides of this debate will continue to disagree. How long, though, can our society continue to justify its denial of the right to life to the defenseless unborn? The value of life has been consistently cheapened.

Partial birth abortion is a graphic example of the worst of abortion. Congress has taken a stand to uphold the value of life, especially in these instances in which life is so blatantly being destroyed. I am pleased that many have

acted in support of this legislation. My colleagues have continued to support of human life and have voted in favor of a ban on partial birth abortions. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this important bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERNA BARR

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize the many years of public service that Verna Barr of Austin, Colorado has given to the citizens of my state. I would like to take this time to pay tribute to Verna's selfless contributions to the well being of so many children, seniors, and others who have had the pleasure of her company and her kindness.

Verna started her life of volunteer service at the age of eight, helping to print and fold her church's bulletin. Verna's mother, Florence Petersen, instilled in Verna a philosophy of life in which helping others has central importance. Over the years, Verna has volunteered her services to a number of worthy causes and projects, including preserving the history of Surface Creek Valley and Pioneer Town through disseminating information and indexing it for future generations. Verna has also spent a great deal of time and effort assisting the American Cancer Society, as well as the Colorado Cancer Society, from whom she has twice received official recognition for her assistance with Relay for Life. Even in her professional life, Verna's work continues the spirit of service. For seventeen and a half years Verna has worked with seniors at Horizon Health Care and Retirement Community, helping to enrich the lives of many with books, plays, music, and creative activities. Throughout this time, Verna's example has inspired scores of others to volunteer as well. Colorado is truly thankful.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Verna Barr for her innumerable contributions to the quality of life for the citizens of Colorado. I am proud to represent Verna in this body of Congress, and wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for her life of public service. Colorado is now a more beautiful place. Good luck, Verna, and best wishes on all of your future endeavors.

TRIP REPORT ON VISIT TO IRAQ

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from spending two days in southern Iraq. I was there Sunday, May 25, and Monday, May 26. I also spent a day, Tuesday, May 27, in Kuwait, where I met with Kuwaiti government officials, members of the U.S. military, State Department officials and staff from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Today I want to share with our colleagues some details of my trip. On another day, I will

share a number of recommendations concerning the reconstruction of Iraq.

Let me begin by praising the efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and members of the Coast Guard who served—or are continuing to serve—in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are the best of the best. I cannot emphasize enough how good a job they have done and continue to do. They and their families all have made tremendous sacrifices.

I was particularly impressed with the soldiers and Marines I talked with who are reservists called to active duty. Many left good jobs and/or school to serve. Their professionalism and attitude were exceptional.

I also want to express my heartfelt sympathy to all the families who lost loved ones during the war. We will never forget—and will always be grateful for—their service to the cause of freedom.

All the soldiers and Marines I met in Iraq are doing an incredible job under extremely difficult conditions. The heat in Iraq and Kuwait is oppressive and will only get worse as summer approaches. It was over 100 degrees both days I was in Iraq. I was told that the temperature can sometimes reach 140 degrees in July and August. The living conditions for most of the soldiers that I saw were primitive.

#### REASON FOR TRIP

I believed it was important to go to Iraq to get a first-hand look at the reconstruction efforts that are under way and to assess the humanitarian assistance that is being provided. I crossed over the border into Iraq from Kuwait. I visited the towns of Nasiriyah, Al Kut and Al Amarah.

I spent the night in Nasiriyah—where some of the heaviest fighting during the war took place—then traveled northeast to Al Kut on Monday morning. From there I headed south to Al Amarah then passed through the outskirts of Basra on the way back to the Iraq-Kuwait border.

During the trip I talked with a number of Iraqis, visited two hospitals, including the one from which Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch was rescued, met with military officials, and spent a considerable amount of time with representatives from several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Iraq.

I saw what was left of one of Saddam Hussein's infamous torture chambers, heard ghastly stories about the brutality of Saddam's regime and was told of mass graves. I saw paintings, posters and statues of Saddam defaced or destroyed. His name was scratched off or punched out from signs on buildings bearing his name. I saw "No to Saddam Yes for Bush" spray painted in green letters on the side of a building just after crossing over the border from Kuwait.

I saw very sick children, many of whom are probably now dead, and was amazed by the bravery of a young boy I saw in the emergency room of a hospital. He had been brought in just minutes before I arrived. He had been playing outdoors and came in contact with either a land mine or unexploded ordnance. His face was severely burned and a piece of shrapnel was deeply embedded in his right eye. Blood was streaming down his face onto his chest. He looked to be about 10-years-old. He never cried.

I saw the results of precision-guided bombing. It is amazing. In Nasiriyah, I was taken by what was left of the former home of a Baath

Party leader. The house was sandwiched between several other homes. While it was reduced to rubble, none of the surrounding houses appeared to sustain any damage.

I was told that Radio Sawa, a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week Arabic-language network whose programming originates from the United States and is broadcast in the region, is very popular. The network plays a mix of the best Western and Arabic pop music and has balanced up-to-the-minute news and analysis. It also broadcasts features on a variety of political and social issues and does in-depth reports on the development of freedom and democracy in the Middle East.

Some were skeptical of the success of the broadcasts. But I was told by locals that since Radio Sawa went on the air in spring 2002, few listen to Arabic radio stations anymore.

#### TOUGH CONDITIONS

Life in southern Iraq is difficult. Poverty is widespread. Buildings are dilapidated. Trash and rubble litter the streets. Many of the trees have been cut down and used for firewood because propane was so scarce under Saddam's rule. The water is putrid.

Saddam Hussein did everything in his power over the last decade to make life in towns like Nasiriyah as miserable as possible because of the uprisings following the first Gulf war. It was their punishment for opposing his iron-fisted rule. Thousands of men who defied Saddam literally disappeared and have never been heard from since; they are presumed dead.

The conditions in the two hospitals I visited—while dramatically improved over the last month—are pitiful. At what was once the Saddam General Hospital in Nasiriyah—now just called the General Hospital—there are no screens on the doors. As a consequence, any time a door is opened, bugs—particularly flies—come streaming in. Flies were swarming over two of the empty beds in the emergency room.

There is no monitoring equipment for the beds in the emergency room. In fact, I saw very little monitoring equipment anywhere in the hospital. Imagine walking into your local hospital and not seeing a machine to monitor your pulse or take your blood pressure. Medicine also is in short supply. It was depressing.

Security in Iraq remains a real concern, not only for coalition forces but for the general public. Lives continue to be lost. Whether I was talking to military officials, NGOs or Iraqis, security was the first issue they always addressed. Looting is still a problem in some parts of the country and I heard several stories about robberies and carjackings. I was told MPs in Nasiriyah successfully stopped a car jacking the Sunday night I was there.

Many Iraqis are afraid to go back to work for fear their home may be looted or that they may be robbed. Several people told me that hearing random gun fire after sundown has become commonplace.

The NGOs that I talked with said that it was not unusual for their vehicles to be pelted with rocks in some parts of the country. Civilian convoys are threatened. No one travels after sunset.

One reason for the lawlessness is that before the war started, Saddam Hussein opened all the prisons, releasing both political prisoners and hardened criminals. Murderers. Rapists. Robbers. Getting these criminals back behind bars is critical.

#### BLUEPRINT FOR IRAQ

In order for the United States to win the peace in Iraq it is imperative that we restore law and order. We need to redouble our efforts to ensure that Iraq is safe.

In "Play to Win," the final report of the bipartisan Commission on Post-Conflict Reconstruction, security is one of the four "pillars" of post-conflict reconstruction. The other three are: justice and reconciliation; economic and social well being, and governance and participation.

This comprehensive report published in January 2003 by the Association of the United States Army and the Center for Strategic and International Studies should serve as the blueprint for the reconstruction efforts in Iraq. Members of the commission include retired military officers, representatives from the NGO community and international aid organizations, former high-ranking executive branch officials, and Members of Congress with expertise in foreign affairs.

Among those on the commission are: Dr. John Hamre, former deputy secretary of defense; Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; Gen. Gordon Sullivan, former chief of staff of the U.S. Army; Senator PAT ROBERTS, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Rep. DOUG BEREUTER, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy and National Security. (I, too, was a member of the commission, although I did not have a leading role.)

The report makes 17 recommendations "on what the United States will have to do to enable itself to help countries successfully rebuild themselves following conflict."

I have asked the commission to provide me with 535 copies of the report so I can share it with my colleagues. It also can be found on the Internet at <http://www.pcrproject.org>

Below is an excerpt from the report on the issue of security:

"Security is the sine qua non of post-conflict reconstruction. Though every case is different, there is one constant—if security needs are not met, both the peace in the given country and the intervention needed to promote it are doomed to fail. Unless comprehensive security needs are addressed up front, spoilers will find the weak areas and retain leverage to affect the political outcomes, vitiating the peace. While peace is essential, it never will be one hundred percent guaranteed and the perfect must not become the enemy of the good. In order to achieve acceptable levels of security, 'coalitions of the willing' and the UN peace-keeping operations need coherent military leadership and core troops from a lead nation that provide the backbone of the operation. The international community must also enhance its ability to deploy civilian police to address temporary needs. In addition, efforts to design and reconstruct local security institutions, including both military and police, must begin early in the process."

I believe the Bush Administration would be well served to have several members of the commission visit Iraq to measure how the reconstruction efforts match the recommendations in the report. Dr. Hamre and Gen. Sullivan, who served as the co-chairmen of the commission, could be charged with selecting which members should go. There should be no objection to this recommendation. Each of the commission members has a distinguished



and extensive background. Their insight and observations could prove to be invaluable.

In addition to members of the Commission on Post-Conflict Reconstruction visiting Iraq, members of Congress should visit as well. In my opinion, it would make sense for the chairman and ranking member—or their designees—of the following committees to travel to Iraq:

House and Senate Armed Services committees;

House International Relations Committee;

Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and

House and Senate Appropriations committees.

Members should spend time in all parts of Iraq. Obviously safety and security are issues that must be considered, but the trips could be made in small groups without publicity. The only way to get a feel for what is happening is by visiting the towns and cities and talking to the people living there.

In addition to meeting with military commanders, these members or their designees should meet with Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, the civilian administrator of Iraq, and other officials from the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA)—now called the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA)—USAID officials, and representatives from the NGO community and other international aid organizations. Meetings with Iraqi citizens also should be set up.

Congress needs to be involved in-and kept up-to-date on-the reconstruction of Iraq. Clearly, there is a great deal at stake for the United States in Iraq. The reconstruction effort is going to be long and arduous. No one is naive enough to believe it is going to happen overnight. Nor is anyone naive enough to think that it is not going to come without problems and challenges.

Yet, if Congress is not involved, the Bush Administration is going to be left without a partner in rebuilding Iraq. The Congress is the Bush Administration's greatest ally. There should be nothing to hide. And after my trip, I believe there is great deal to tell-much of it positive.

We must, however, be realistic. We have a long, long way to go in the reconstruction of Iraq. We have won the war, and we must be careful not to lose the peace. Failure cannot be an option. A well developed plan for reconstruction is imperative and congressional involvement will help the Bush Administration from steering off course as it works to rebuild Iraq.

#### ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER ABUSE PREVENTION RESOLUTION OF 2003

##### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker today I am introducing the Taxpayer Abuse Prevention Resolution of 2003, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that private sector debt collection agencies should not be paid on a commission basis or as a percent of the amount of federal taxes they collect.

The Internal Revenue Service has proposed paying private debt collectors a 25 percent

commission to collect unpaid tax debt. That proposal will jeopardize the rights and privacy of American taxpayers. The following organizations oppose the IRS proposal and have expressed their strong support for this important consumer protection legislation I am introducing today: Citizens for Tax Justice, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, National Consumer Law Center, National Consumers League.

Two pilot projects were authorized by Congress to test private collection of tax debt for 1996 and 1997. The 1996 pilot was such a failure that the 1997 project was cancelled. Contractors violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and did not protect the security of personal taxpayer information. An IRS Internal Audit Report found that contractors made hundreds of calls to taxpayers during times prohibited by the FDCPA, and that calls were even placed as early as 4:19 a.m.

The Administration's proposal to privatize tax collection services flies in the face of Section 1204 of the IRS Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, which specifically prevents IRS employees from being evaluated on the basis of the amount of taxes they collect in order to eliminate incentives to use overly aggressive tax collection techniques. Despite concerns about aggressive collection techniques, the Administration now wants to pay private debt collectors \$3.25 billion in commissions to collect taxes that IRS employees could collect for roughly one-tenth of that amount.

Paying private debt collectors on a commission basis will be costly and will threaten the rights and privacy of the American taxpayers. We must ensure, as this resolution seeks to do, that federal tax collection functions will not be handed over to private sector bounty hunters. Our constituents deserve that assurance.

Mr. Speaker, American taxpayers need to know that their government works for them, not against them. I urge this Congress to pass the Taxpayer Abuse Prevention Resolution of 2003.

HONORING PAUL LINN, SR., EARL CANTOR, SARAH CRISPIN, DON CANTOR, ANNA MAE PORTER, AND JAMES DAUGHERTY

##### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to have the chance to come before this body with a story of great hope and inspiration. I am proud to stand before this body today to update you on the remarkable story of a family that I first brought to your attention back in October. Paul Linn Sr., Earl Cantor, Sarah Crispin, Don Cantor, Anna Mae Porter, and James Daugherty have traveled great distances and overcome many obstacles to reunite for the first time in 67 years. On Saturday, these fine individuals will meet face-to-face, reuniting as a family. Though they were separated from a young age, the dedication and love that they have shown in searching each other out is truly inspirational. I pay tribute to them again today for the dedication and resilience that has brought them together for this weekend of celebration.

Eight months ago, I relayed to you the remarkable story of this family. It is a story of a

family whose beginning was filled with pain, loss, and confusion. A story about a family suffering the ills of abandonment and tragedy. However, today I share with you a new story of a family reunited through the strength and persistence of the bonds of blood. What began as a random search for a replacement birth certificate ended in the reunification of brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers and countless grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to once again recognize Paul, Earl, Sarah, Don, Anna, and James as they celebrate family and enjoy the rewards of faith and persistence. As I said eight months ago before this body, their story is one of great satisfaction and inspiration. I wish them all the best as an old family is reunited in Colorado.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for legislative business last week from June 2, 2003 through June 5, 2003 due to the birth of my son, Charles Wilson Ryan on Friday, May 30, 2003. As a result, I missed roll-call votes 227 through 248.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes:

227, H. Res. 159, Expressing the Profound Sorrow on the Occasion of the Death of Irma Rangel;

228, H. Res. 195, Congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for hitting 500 Major League Home Runs;

229, H.R. 1465, Designating the facility of the United State Postal Service in Iron Station, North Carolina as the "General Charles Gabriel Post Office";

230, S. 222, the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act;

231, S. 273, the Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act;

234, H.J. Res. 4, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States Authorizing the Congress to Prohibit the Physical Desecration of the Flag of the United States;

235, H. Res. 231, Supporting the Goals of Peace Officers Memorial Day;

236, H. Res. 257, Providing for Consideration of H.R. 760, The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act;

237, H. Con. Res. 177, Recognizing and commending the members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and the allies of the United States and their armed forces, who participate in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and the dedication of military families and countless others for their support;

238, H. Res. 201, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that our Nation's businesses and business owners should be commended for their support of our troops and their families as they serve our country in many ways, especially in these days of increased engagement of our military around the world;

239, H.R. 1954, Armed Forces Naturalization Act;

242, H.R. 760, The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act;



243, H. Res. 256, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1474, Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act;

244, H. Res. 258, On Ordering the Previous Question for the consideration of S. 222, Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights and Settlement Act and S. 273, Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act;

245, H. Res. 258, On Agreeing to the Resolution for the consideration of S. 222, Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act and S. 273, Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act;

246, H.R. 1474, Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act;

247, S. 222, Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act;

248, S. 273, Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the following rollcall votes:

232, S. 763, Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act;

233, Substitute Amendment offered by Mr. WATT to H.J. Res. 4, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States Authorizing the Congress to Prohibit the Physical Desecration of the Flag of the United States;

240, Substitute Amendment offered by Mr. GREENWOOD to H.R. 760, Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act;

241, Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 760, Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

#### ZUNI INDIAN TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2003

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I support S. 222, the Zuni Indian Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2003, and S. 273, the Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act. Unfortunately, House Republican leaders continue to refuse to schedule debate on legislation that would include all low-income Americans in last month's tax bill. The only way to get their attention is to vote against these measures. Although I don't want to oppose these bills today, it is the only way to show House leaders that we must extend child tax credits to all families now.

It is an outrage that the House would consider legislation under suspension of the rules while millions of families continue to be left out of the \$350 billion tax cut. The tax bill that passed last month failed to extend child tax relief to all low-income children and families. Fixing this omission must be our first priority.

This House lacks the leadership to ensure that the working parents of 19 million children

receive the increased child tax credit they were denied. This House lacks the right priorities. I will continue to use my vote to speak out until we finally include all Americans, not just the well off, in the tax bill.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HOTEL COLORADO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise before this body of Congress today to honor a historic landmark in my district. The incomparable Hotel Colorado celebrates its 110th birthday this weekend, and I am honored to inform my colleagues here today of some of the history behind this amazing facility.

The Hotel Colorado was completed in 1893 at a cost of \$850,000, an enormous sum of money in those days. It was one of the first hotels in the country to be completely outfitted with, what was at the time, an amazing new technology—electricity. The hotel included a great courtyard fountain modeled after the one at the 1889 World's Fair, shooting water 185 feet in the air, along with a grand staircase.

Many famous figures stayed at the Hotel Colorado, including Teddy Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, and William Howard Taft. A few infamous characters such as Al Capone, Diamond Jack Alterie, and Doc Holliday overnighted there too, as did singer Dinah Shore and legendary Titanic survivor Molly Brown.

On a couple of occasions the revered hotel didn't function as a hotel at all. During World War II, the U.S. Navy used the hotel as a convalescent hospital. In 1961, when a local school was condemned, the school district converted the hotel into a junior high school.

Mr. Speaker, the Hotel Colorado has a spot in both the national Register of Historic Places and the hearts of thousands of people worldwide who experienced its beauty and splendor. The hotel has a special place in my heart since I have an office located there. I am truly honored to recognize the Hotel Colorado and to offer my congratulations on 110 years of outstanding service.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION RESOLUTION

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2003, I, along with Mr. RANGEL and

cosponsors Messrs. COBLE and CONYERS, all Korean War veterans, submitted a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of the Year of the Korean War Veteran. I am pleased today to introduce this bill and honor those who fought courageously and fearlessly for our country and our cause.

This year marks the final year of the United States' 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration and the 50th year of the Armistice. The commemoration period began on June 25, 2000, marking the 50th anniversary of the invasion of South Korea, and will continue through Veteran's Day 2003. Efforts are currently under way to designate 2003 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran.

Just a few years after the war to end all wars, Korea was, in many ways, the first reminder that America must remain the world's leading force for peace, prosperity and freedom.

Called to defend freedom and fight back forces of communism, 1,800,000 Americans gallantly participated in the Korean War. The United States suffered 36,577 dead and 103,284 wounded in some of the most horrific conditions in the history of warfare. The service and sacrifices of our Korean War veterans 50 years ago saved a nation from communist enslavement and gave South Korea the opportunity to develop and flourish under freedom and democracy.

This resolution: declares to the Nation and the world that the American people will never forget our veterans or those who served our Nation on the home front during the Korean War; recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of 2003 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran; requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the Year of the Korean War Veteran with appropriate ceremonies and activities to thank, honor, remember and welcome home our Korean War veterans; and urges the chief executive officers of the States, and the chief executive officers of the political subdivisions of the States, to each issue a proclamation calling upon their citizens to "Pause to Remember" our Korean War veterans, their families and next of kin with appropriate activities.

Sadly, the Korean War is sometimes referred to as the "Forgotten War." May this resolution, along with the Korean War commemoration activities taking place this year, send a clear message to the world that the United States will never forget. Freedom is not free . . . should this great country wish to preserve its freedom, we must remember those who have paid the ultimate price.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## JUNE 11

9 a.m.  
Governmental Affairs  
Investigations Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine patient safety, focusing on instilling hospitals with a culture of continuous improvement.  
SD-342

9:30 a.m.  
Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William H. Pryor, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and Diane M. Stuart, of Utah, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice.  
SD-266

Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine health care access and affordability, focusing on cost containment strategies.  
SD-124

Joint Economic Committee  
To hold joint hearings to examine issues relating to Iraq's economy.  
SD-628

10 a.m.  
Appropriations  
District of Columbia Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the District of Columbia's local budget request.  
SD-192

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Business meeting to consider S. 648, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions programs regarding the practice of pharmacy, proposed legislation entitled "Greater Access to Affordable Pharmaceuticals Act", and pending nominations.  
SD-430

Indian Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Grim, of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, to be followed by hearings on S. 1146, to implement the recommendations of the Garrison Unit Tribal Advisory Committee by providing

authorization for the construction of a rural health care facility on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, North Dakota.  
SR-485

2:30 p.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Competition, Foreign Commerce, and Infrastructure Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Federal Trade Commission.  
SR-253

## JUNE 12

9:30 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine global overfishing.  
SR-253

Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine repercussions of Iraq stabilization and reconstruction policies.  
SD-419

Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business, to be immediately followed by a Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 1, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.  
SD-226

10 a.m.  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Agriculture's implementation of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 and related crop insurance issues.  
SR-328A

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine expanding homeownership opportunities.  
SD-538

2 p.m.  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine certain issues relative to TWA/American Airline workforce integration.  
SD-430

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine S. 434, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State of Idaho and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes, S. 435, to provide for the conveyance by the Secretary of Agriculture of the Sandpoint Federal Building and adjacent land in Sandpoint, Idaho, S. 490, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California, H.R. 762, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Mineral Leasing Act to clarify the method by which the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture determine the fair market value of certain rights-of-way granted, issued, or renewed under these Acts, S. 1111, to provide suitable grazing arrangements on National Forest System land to persons that hold a grazing permit adversely affected by the standards and guidelines contained in the RECORD of Decision of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment and pertaining to the

Willow Flycatcher and the Yosemite Toad, and H.R. 622, to provide for the exchange of certain lands in the Coconino and Tonto National Forests in Arizona.  
SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to cloning.  
SR-253

## JUNE 13

10 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Nicholas Gregory Mankiw, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, Steven B. Nesmith, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Jose Teran, of Florida, Lane Carson, of Louisiana, and Paul Pate, of Iowa, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences.  
SD-538

## JUNE 17

9:30 a.m.  
Rules and Administration  
To hold hearings to examine Senate Resolution 151, requiring public disclosure of notices of objections (holds) to proceedings to motions or measures in the Senate.  
SR-301

10 a.m.  
Governmental Affairs  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar items.  
SD-342

## JUNE 18

9:30 a.m.  
Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Fern Flanagan Saddler, Judith Nan Macaluso, Joseph Michael Francis Ryan III, and Jerry Stewart Byrd, all of the District of Columbia, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.  
SD-342

10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine Native American sacred places.  
SR-485

## JUNE 19

10 a.m.  
Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to conduct an initial review of the ULLICO matter, focusing on self-dealing and breach of duty.  
SD-342

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee  
To hold oversight hearings to examine grazing programs of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, focusing on grazing permit renewal, BLM's potential changes to grazing regulations, range monitoring, drought, and other grazing issues.  
SD-366

## JUNE 21

10 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine a national export strategy.  
SD-538

	JUNE 24	on deteriorating buildings and wasted opportunities.		JUNE 12	
10 a.m.	Governmental Affairs		SD-342	10 a.m.	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
	To hold hearings to examine controlling the cost of Federal Health Programs by curing diabetes, focusing on a case study.	2 p.m.			To hold hearings to examine private sector lessons for Medicare.
	SH-216	Foreign Relations			SD-430
		To hold hearings to examine the Department of State's Office of Children's Issues, focusing on responding to international parental abduction.		JUNE 24	
	JUNE 25		SD-419	10 a.m.	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
10 a.m.	Energy and Natural Resources				To hold hearings to examine bus rapid transit and other bus service innovations.
	Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.	POSTPONEMENTS			SD-538
	SD-366		JUNE 11		
	JUNE 26	2 p.m.			
9:30 a.m.	Governmental Affairs	Judiciary			
	To hold hearings to examine the need for Federal real property reform, focusing	To hold hearings to examine P2P file-sharing networks, focusing on personal and national security risks.			
		SD-226			