writing and serving her community as a public servant. Pete's love of writing and positive attitude throughout her life serves as an inspiration to all, and it is my special honor to thank her for her service to her community before this body of Congress and this nation today.

GOP FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss how President Bush and this Republican Congress have fought to honor America's veterans.

After 18 years, that's nine legislative sessions, I am proud to say under the leadership of Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS the Republicans are the only ones who can claim credit for allowing disabled military retirees to concurrently receive their full disability compensation and retirement benefits. We corrected the flaw in a 100-year-old law.

For the first time, because of Republicans, our country's wounded warriors, those who were injured in combat, while training for combat, or who are 50 percent or more disabled as a result of service-connected causes, will receive both the disability compensation and retirement pay they have earned.

According to the most recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates, full concurrent receipt would cost approximately $41 billion over the 10-year period between 2004 and 2013. Almost 700,000 retirees will be eligible in FY 2004 alone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that our Republican colleagues in the House and Senate have fought to ensure that America's veterans get what they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO RADNOR GIRL SCOUTS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the Radnor Girl Scouts during their visit to our Nation's capital today. The girls and teens, ages 8 to 16, representing 10 girl scout troops and 11 schools, will participate in a program called Tomorrow's Leaders. In addition, the Radnor Girl Scouts have worked with the White House Project, Ms. President Patch for Girl Scouts, an organization that is changing the way people think about women in leadership roles. Girl Scouts of the USA started this new program, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing women's leadership in government at all levels.

Girl Scouting was introduced in 1912 as a way to introduce new experiences and adventure to young girls, while helping them develop a positive self-image and important leadership skills. More than ever before, our country needs the support of organizations like the Girl Scouts of America to help build stronger families, neighborhoods, and communities. Those of us in the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania are proud of the example and dedication of the Radnor Girl Scouts and congratulate them on the outstanding work they are doing. During their visit to our Nation's capital, they will learn vital lessons of leadership and service to prepare them to make significant contributions in all aspects of the life of our Nation.

Our great Nation will continue to grow and prosper as we uphold and encourage young people, such as the Radnor Girl Scouts, as symbols of hope, possibility, and personal excellence.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Radnor Girl Scouts for their excellent work.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the numerous achievements of the Peace Corps during National Peace Corps Week from March 1–7, 2004.

I commend the Peace Corps for its 43 years of attentive humanitarian service and contributions around the world. Since its inception in 1961, the Peace Corps has served to promote a mission of world peace throughout the 137 countries where its volunteers have diligently served. The work of these volunteers has become more vital today than ever before, with many Americans interested in humanitarian service, and a multitude of host countries eagerly awaiting their arrival.

Currently, more than 75,000 volunteers are serving in 71 countries around the world. This number includes five volunteers from California's 13th District: Julie Chang (Mali), Sarah Knueven Brett (Haiti), Rosalind Lwin (Kenya), Brian Stanke (Romania), and Judy Wong (Ukraine). These volunteers share their time and talents as teachers, advisers, agriculture and youth workers, and health educators in the countries where they serve.

During National Peace Corps Week, I am proud to honor the American men and women who are selflessly eager to serve our Nation by fulfilling the mission of the Peace Corps. The noble actions of these volunteers have empowered people in developing countries through their grassroots development efforts.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the Peace Corps on its 43rd anniversary for its continuing humanitarian efforts throughout the world.

FCC COURT RULING ON PRICING OF PHONE LINES

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on ''UNE–P'' pricing of wholesale phone lines.

Mr. Speaker, telecommunications companies are set to invest billions of dollars in network infrastructure—investment that will help the weak economy and create and preserve jobs—but the current regulatory environment restricts growth and investment in the telecom sector.

With this decision, the FCC should play a major role, as envisioned by Congress in passing the 1996 Telecom Act, of stimulating technological innovation, preserving quality universal service, and creating new jobs in a vital, growing, competitive industry.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NEIL McDONALD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Neil McDonald for the extraordinary patriotism and valor that he demonstrated in the service of his nation. Neil was a gunner in a Navy helicopter crew in Vietnam and in recognition of his actions, was recently inducted into the Navy Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor. This incredible honor is a testament to Neil's courage, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize him before this body of Congress and this nation today.

This amazing honor is the manifestation of his many selfless and brave actions during the time he spent flying in combat overseas. The distinction of being inducted in to the Navy Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed for those enlisted Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard aircrewmen who flew in combat in all wars and served with distinction. Neil McDonald now joins only six hundred and fifty fellow patriots that have been selected for this honor. During the eighteen months he spent abroad, Neil flew in over five hundred combat missions and earned many combat decorations which include the Purple Heart, single action Air Medal, the Silver Star, and many personal and unit citations.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Neil McDonald is a man who possesses unparalleled dedication and commitment to serving his country. His life is the very embodiment of what makes this country great, and it is my distinct pleasure to honor Neil before this body of Congress. Thanks for your service to this country.

HONORING WILLIAM McGEE OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William McGee of Santa Rosa, California, who died Sunday at the age of 79 of injuries suffered in a bicycle accident. Bill was an experienced and avid bicyclist as well as long-distance runner, bread baker, counselor, poet, photographer, philosopher, and retired junior college instructor.

This list does not begin to describe the warm, wise, and caring person that Bill was to