personnel in a number of peacekeeping operations worldwide, including the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, displays Croatia's credibility as a future NATO member state. Furthermore, Croatia has a track record of cooperation with NATO allies through the PfP.

Mr. Speaker, it is clearly in our national interest to encourage peace and stability in the region of Southeastern Europe. To this end, the role of the Croatian American community and their representatives in the nation's capital, as an inherent component of the U.S.-Croatia partnership, cannot be overlooked. They represent a vital bridge between our two countries in order to strengthen deep historical and cultural links between the United States and Croatia since 1783. Special recognition should be given to the current Croatian government under the leadership of Dr. Ivo Sanader to solidify Croatia's place within the community of democratic nations and to move the country forward to becoming a model of stability, peace and cooperation throughout Southeastern Europe.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORT WORTH METROPOLITAN BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor that I rise today to recognize the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (FWMBCC)'s 25 years of devoted service to the enhancement of the economic development in the African American community in my district. Since its founding in 1979, the FWMBCC's tireless efforts, on behalf of the black community of Fort Worth, have accomplished a great deal. I would like to mention a few of their accomplishments.

The FWMBCC has done much to improve minority involvement in the Fort Worth economy. In 1985, the FWMBCC contracted with the Fort Worth Convention and Visitor's Bureau for sales, and marketing initiatives to attract minority association conventions. Three years later, it established two enterprise zones in a partnership effort with the City of Fort Worth. It initiated the development of a comprehensive plan for redevelopment of Southeast Fort Worth in 1991.

The FWMBCC strives to get others involved as well. In 1989, it signed a Community Reinvestment Act Agreement with Bank One (Chase Bank) to benefit low to moderate income families. It also recruited the OmniAmerican Federal Credit Union to build a branch location in Southeast Fort Worth on Rosedale in the Poly neighborhood. It also lobbied to pursue development of workforce support for the Alliance Corridor, including public transportation to the growing Alliance business community from Southeast Fort Worth.

The FWMBCC is about more then just money, as shown by the way it adopted Como Elementary School under the Fort Worth Independent School District's Adopt-a-School program. Showing further concern for education, it collaborated with Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. on a strategic plan resulting in the refurbishing of the F.W. Carver School for use by the Fort Worth Housing Authority and the I.M. Terrell School.

The FWMBCC believes strongly in integration of both race and gender. It established the Women's Business Issues Division as a part of the FWMBCC—the first women's division in the nation affiliated with a Black Chamber in recognition of the business assistance needs of women of color to much acclaim. It also served as an advocate on behalf of people of color for business opportunities in Sundance Square and other business areas in and around the City of Fort Worth as well as integration of the Colonial Country Club.

I would like to applaud the FWMBCC on its first 25 years, and encourage it to keep up its impressive work.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH SHACK, PRESIDENT OF DADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, rise to honor a true leader in our South Florida Community, Ruth Shack.

After she became the President of the Dade Community Foundation in 1985, Ruth spearheaded a campaign to encourage philanthropy and charitable giving by developing a permanent endowment to meet Greater Miami's emerging charitable needs. The Foundation protects and manages the assets of philanthropic funds and provides grant-making expertise to donors with various interests at all levels of giving. By bringing together diverse groups in Miami-Dade County, the Foundation helps improve the quality of life and build a more cohesive community by supporting local nonprofit organizations with grants and technical assistance.

Spurred by her leadership, the Foundation made a radical change in its mission by diversifying its Board of Governors, its staff and its grant-making focus to better respond to the needs of Miami's greatest asset and our most intractable challenge: the incredible ethnic diversity of our community. They review the grants they award from the standpoint of their impact on the issue of cultural alienation and the need to help people work successfully across ethnic barriers. Empowerment and seed funding for emerging groups, based in the diverse multicultural communities of Miami-Dade, are the hallmarks of their grant-making program.

In addition to her two decades of leadership at the Dade Community Foundation, Ruth Shack has also served three very productive terms on the Dade County Commission and in leadership capacities in numerous other organizations, both locally and across the country. Throughout her career she has demonstrated a profound commitment to making Miami a community where opportunity is available to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for our entire community in congratulating and thanking Ruth Shack for her 20 years at the helm of the Dade Community Foundation.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Hinchey Amendment which will ban the U.S. Justice Department from spending taxpayer money to arrest or prosecute medical marijuana patients in the ten states where medical marijuana is legal: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

In 1996, my home-state of California passed Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act, which gave seriously ill Californians the right to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes. The medical use of the drug must be deemed appropriate and prescribed by a physician.

Since then, the U.S. Justice Department has initiated actions against individuals who are following State law and making marijuana available to individuals with a physician's prescription. Federal law enforcement officials should not be deployed to override State law in this regard.

Although the Supreme Court recently ruled that Federal drug law supercedes State medical marijuana statutes, there is no reason to imprison patients who are seeking relief from chronic pain or the doctors trying to help them.

The use of prescriptive medical marijuana is supported by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Public Health Association. This is a matter of medicine not self indulgence. The use of marijuana for medical treatment should not be criminalized.

I urge all my colleagues to support this Amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Chairman, for the past few years, I have voted to redirect funding in support of smart bombs and other weapons that are actually usable against hardened, deeply buried targets. I'm pleased to see that this appropriations bill provides funding for conventional studies to defeat hard and deeply

buried targets. I also understand that the funding provided within this bill for B2 bomber integration efforts is also intended for non-nuclear earth penetrators.

Last month, the National Academy of Sciences concluded that the use of a nuclear ''bunker buster'' would cause massive civilian causalities if used. That's assuming we can overcome serious design problems and assuming we can live with the consequences of putting U.S. troops in danger from radioactive fallout if we ever used an RNEP or a similar weapon.

In the past, Utahns suffering from cancer as a result of radioactive fallout exposure had to wait to receive compensation because federal funds ran out. It's wrong to spend precious dollars on unusable fantasy weapons that our military doesn't seem to need or want.

We live in an era when terrorism and national security concerns dominate the political landscape, as well they should. We should focus limited funding dollars on usable warheads that can actually make a difference in combating our enemies.

I have always been a strong supporter of the military and I'm well aware of the unconventional war we face against terrorists. However, the threats we face as a nation provide the best reason for Congress to fund only the best usable weaponry to support American soldiers.

Many of my colleagues in the House recognize the importance of this issue and they share my concerns about competing efforts in the Senate to fund RNEP. I hope that during conference negotiations on this bill, the conferees maintain this language.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO SUSPEND THE DUTY ON CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL TOYS AND DEVICES

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to suspend the duty on electronic educational toys for children. This duty is, in fact, an educational tax on the consumer.

At a time when we as policymakers are focusing on ways to enhance education for our children, it is important to aggressively promote tools that are valuable in teaching fundamental skills. Penalizing the consumer for buying educational toys is contrary to the country's educational goals.

Currently, computers and toys enter the United States duty free. But electronic educational toys have a duty. This duty is inevitably passed on to the consumer. We do not want to create a situation where a consumer may be less inclined to buy an educational toy versus a regular toy, which has not had to absorb the cost of the duty.

The company leading the fight to eliminate the tax on electronic educational toys is a California company, LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc. LeapFrog is an innovative company and a leading developer of educational products, currently employing 1,000 people in my state.

I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort to end an unwise tax on education.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America, the leading training program for students seeking instruction in personal development in leadership and character. Their training program gives students the necessary tools to lead the next generation of young Americans in the traditions, principles and wisdom imparted to us by our founding fathers. The quality of this training assures me of America's bright future as the leader of the world.

The Leadership Training Institute of America is a cultural think tank providing training and opportunity in leadership development and cultural dynamics. This organization encourages youth to apply and excel in leadership and critical thinking skills, study world view conflicts and strategies, network with outstanding leaders, and pursue careers in influential sectors of society.

The Leadership Training Institute of America trains and equips young men and women to be leaders with high standards of personal morality and integrity. The participants are exposed to the major philosophies, views, and issues of our world today and are encouraged to become leaders with convictions built on scientific knowledge, historical record, and Biblical wisdom.

Our Nation is in great need of young men and women of character to lead in every arena of our society. The Leadership Training Institute of America encourages students to use their talents and abilities to set a standard of excellence in their homes, schools, businesses, or whatever profession they might pursue to establish a new standard of excellence and integrity for the next generation.

It is with great appreciation that I rise today to commend the vision and accomplishments of this outstanding organization. I salute the dedicated staff of the Leadership Training Institute of America and encourage its increased influence among our Nation's youth.

USA PATRIOT ACT

HON. C.L. ''BUTCH'' OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, please allow me to express my great respect and support for the manner in which Chairman SENSENBRENNER managed the recent hearings of the House Committee on the Judiciary regarding the USA PATRIOT Act. His resolve in following the rules while providing as much flexibility as possible in the face of often partisan and inflammatory rhetoric was a credit to his leadership, and was precisely what was needed in this deliberative process.

There are legitimate criticisms to be made of the PATRIOT Act, and I have been among those maintaining that ensuring a greater balance of judicial oversight and adherence to the spirit as well as the letter of our constitutional protections would enhance its usefulness. However, associating the PATRIOT Act with what may occur in a prisoner of war camp or other well intentioned but illegal or inhumane action—as some members and witnesses have done—is a disservice to the process and to those who wish to keep the debate focused on improving the law, not destroying it.

As the House continues deliberating reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act, it is my goal to restore balance to the branches of our Federal government, secure the people in their homes and personal affects, and renew the promise of our Founders. That will not be accomplished by blaming the law for the real or alleged behavior of individual acting outside this or any other law. I will not stand idly by while some who wish not to rein in but rather to eviscerate the PATRIOT Act, or to use it as a political cudgel, use some of the very tactics we have professed to fear in the law itself in order to bring public ridicule and professional discredit to either Chairman SENSENBRENNER or the Judiciary Committee.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind us all of the words of George Washington, uttered as a promise of the faith he had in our political system, this great Republic and those who govern:

> If, to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disprove, how can we afterwards defend our work? Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair. The event is in the hand of God.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP FARMING ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Industrial Hemp Farming Act. The Industrial Hemp Farming Act requires the Federal government to respect State laws allowing the growing of industrial hemp.

Six states—Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, and West Virginia allow the growing of industrial hemp in accord with State laws. However, Federal law is standing in the way of farmers in these States growing what may be a very profitable crop. Because of current Federal law, all hemp included in products sold in the United States must be imported instead of being grown by American farmers.

Since 1970, the Federal Controlled Substances Act's inclusion of industrial hemp in the schedule one definition of marijuana has prohibited American farmers from growing industrial hemp despite the fact that industrial hemp has such a low content of THC (the psychoactive chemical in the related marijuana plant) that nobody can be psychologically affected by consuming hemp. Federal law concedes the safety of industrial hemp by allowing it to be legally imported for uses including as food.

The United States is the only industrialized Nation that prohibits industrial hemp cultivation. The Congressional Research Service has noted that hemp is grown as an established agricultural commodity in over 30 nations in Europe, Asia, and North America. My Industrial Hemp Farming Act will relieve this unique