

public school districts in the county and the Delaware County School Boards' Legislative Council.

The issue of unfunded mandates has received much attention lately. I want to commend County Council for the leadership you have shown in bringing this issue to the attention of the general public. We can also look at Governor-elect Tom Ridge's campaign pledge in which he states: "I will fight to give our communities greater control over their schools and tax dollars, free from state micromanagement. I want to provide districts with relief from existing state mandates and stop the flow of new ones to encourage greater local control and help ease the pressure on local property taxes." Likewise, the new leadership in Congress has also expressed their intent to focus on this issue. It appears that the issue of unfunded mandates is approaching front-burner status on the political agenda.

Focusing public attention on unfunded mandates and the impact they have on local school district budgets has also been a priority of Delaware County school districts for the past five years. In the 1991-92 school year, a committee of superintendents and school board members started a process to identify some of the high cost mandates affecting schools. A survey was developed and completed by all school districts that identified and placed a dollar cost on some critical areas. A presentation of the results was made to the Delaware County legislative delegation at the School Boards' Annual Legislative Breakfast held on May 15, 1992. The following is a partial list of the information shared at that time. Although the cost data will have changed since that time, what hasn't changed is the economic impact these mandates have on local school budgets.

Certification restrictions and staff ratios as applied to Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Librarians (\$3,014,750)

Sabbatical leaves for purposes of study and travel (\$4,508,317 over previous five years)

State requirement to transport nonpublic school students up to ten miles outside local school district boundaries (\$6,072,374)

Use of prevailing wage rate on school construction projects in excess of \$25 thousand (\$12,329,800 over previous five years and projected for immediate future)

Asbestos abatement (\$17,650,107)

Underground storage tank inspection and removal (\$5,901,000)

Transportation of Early Intervention students (\$302,600)

The development of Act 178 Professional Development Plans (\$668,000)

Implementation of a Teacher Induction Program (\$173,730)

Special education costs have consistently exceeded the funds available from both state and federal sources. Because of the many due process requirements and the strict limitations on class size along with additional supportive services needed, this is an expensive mandate. In addition, while not required to do so under federal law, Pennsylvania has chosen to include the education of the gifted under state special education rules and regulations. The federal government originally promised to fund 40% of the cost of this law but in actuality the federal share has never exceeded 12%. It must be said that in and of themselves each of the mandates may be considered to serve a noble purpose. However, the cumulative effects of these and all the other mandates imposed on local districts impose a fiscal and human resource cost on schools. Meeting the demands of some of these mandates may take away resources from other areas of the school program deemed important by the local community.

As a next step in this process, the fifteen Delaware County school districts and the In-

termediate Unit have contracted with the Pennsylvania Economy League to identify existing mandates that impact upon the operation of the schools and to assess their economic impact. In addition, the other three suburban intermediate units in Bucks, Chester and Montgomery Counties have likewise expressed an interest in participating and supporting this study.

In 1982 the Pennsylvania Local Government Commission, after an exhaustive study, identified 6,979 state imposed mandates upon local government units in Pennsylvania. Moreover, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, representing all 501 school districts in the Commonwealth has identified burdensome mandates the Association has targeted for legislative remedy including the following:

Prohibiting the furlough of staff for economic reasons;

The requirement to transport nonpublic students up to 10 miles outside the district;

The awarding of tenure after two years of successful teaching;

The requirement to hire certificated school nurses, dental hygienists and home and school visitors according to a state-established pupil ratio;

Providing full year and split year sabbaticals for travel;

Permanent certification for teachers and administrators.

It is clear that now is the time for concerted action by all agencies of local government to ease the financial burden caused by unfunded or partially funded state and federal mandates. On behalf of Mr. Walter Senkow, President of the Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, Mr. James Fahey, Chairman of the School Boards' Legislative Council, and Dr. Roger Place, Chairman of the Superintendents' Advisory Council, I commend County Council and our legislative delegation for sponsoring today's hearing. We stand ready to work cooperatively with you to address these important concerns.

TRIBUTE TO JESS SOLTESS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jess Soltes as he retires from the position of Ferndale city manager after 24 years of distinguished service to Ferndale, MI, and the surrounding community. In 1971, Jess began his distinguished career serving Ferndale as community development services director. In 1978, he was elevated to his current position of city manager.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure to represent the city of Ferndale for 13 years. It is a dynamic community growing and changing to better serve its citizens. Jess has truly played a key role in Ferndale's development and success.

On the occasion of his retirement, I would like to congratulate and thank Jess Soltes for his commitment and dedication to the city of Ferndale. I would like to extend my best wishes to Jess and his wife Sue for many years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF SLAIN
SAN ANTONIO POLICE OFFICER
FABIAN DOMINGUEZ

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a grim duty, to report to you and the House the senseless murder of Fabian Dominguez, a patrolman who served valiantly on the San Antonio Police Force. In an act of selfless duty, he lost his life at the hands of young thugs.

The details are poignant: On his way home from his shift, Patrolman Dominguez stopped to investigate a suspicious situation at his neighbor's home. He surprised some would-be burglars and was shot to death. Three teenagers have been charged with his murder.

At his funeral, the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, the Reverend Buckner Fanning, is reported to have said: "Fabian was off-duty. Duty didn't require he stop. But love did. Commitment did. Love for God. Love for his neighbor. Love always stops where there's trouble. Love never takes a vacation. Love is never off-duty." These words ring true.

We in this Congress must continue to strive to convince our youth, our children, that life is precious, not something to be thrown away casually. We hear about a lack of values in our society, and it stems from the failure to recognize the special unique spirit of each human. It stems from a lack of self-respect. Our challenge is to create incentives to put that ultimate value, the value of human life, into the hearts of all of us.

Each day, in San Antonio and in other cities, towns, and counties across this country, law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect us from those who would do us harm. Some walk the beat, some patrol in cars, on horseback or bicycles, and yet others serve from behind the desk. Brave men and women, dedicated to public safety, give us their all, and it is appropriate for us in this House of Representatives to pay tribute to each of them.

Patrolman Dominguez was laid to rest with full honors yesterday. In recognition of his service, Police Chief William Gibson retired badge No. 0399, worn proudly by Mr. Dominguez. Our hearts go out to his family, and particularly to his wife and twin 8-month-old daughters, who will look at the American flag given to them, first draped over their husband's and father's coffin, with pride and sadness.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROHIBIT PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO INCARCERATED MILITARY PERSONNEL

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that would prohibit pay and allowances to military personnel who are under a sentence that includes dismissal or a dishonorable or bad-conduct discharge. In this

day of heightened fiscal responsibility, it is outrageous that this Government continues to keep military personnel on its payrolls after they have been convicted of crimes. My constituents and I feel that such irresponsible practices must be stopped. This policy was originally adopted to finance the costs of shipping families of convicted criminals back to civilization during the development of the Old West. However, times have changed and such an outdated policy should be rectified. This Government should not be paying out funds designed to solve problems that existed 120 years ago.

Certainly today no civilian firm would continue to keep on its payrolls convicted rapists and murderers. In summary, I urge my colleagues to sponsor and support this worthwhile bill to correct an existing anomaly in our Government's policy.

TRIBUTE TO MALCOLM BENNETT

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Malcolm N. Bennett, outgoing president of the Southwest Los Angeles Board of Realtors, the only African-American board of realtors in Los Angeles. His contributions to the business community have been matched by his commitment to bettering the lives of the less fortunate in Los Angeles.

In addition to being president and founder of International Realty & Investments, one of the largest minority-owned property management firms in the city, Mr. Bennett is also co-owner of one of the largest minority-owned glass installation companies, International Glass Co. Mr. Bennett's knowledge in the real estate field has allowed him to serve as State court receiver for several of the largest banks in California and his activities in the community have received recognition at the State and local level.

Mr. Bennett has also been active in efforts to better the lives of those with special needs. He has taken an active role as a member of the board of directors of the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center for the Disabled, working on special projects and programs designed for individuals with special needs. Mr. Bennett has also served as board member for the Cripple Children's Society, devoting his time and energy to organizing their annual walk-a-thon. Mr. Bennett is president and founder of the Minority Apartment Owners Association, and has led the organization's efforts to reach out to elderly and confined residents in the community.

Malcolm Bennett's success as a leader in the real estate industry in Los Angeles, and his willingness to lend his efforts on behalf of community members in need, deserve our recognition and praise. I am pleased to call attention to Malcolm's accomplishments and his tenure as president of the Southwest Los Angeles Board of Realtors, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his contributions to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LEE ECHOLS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, Lee Echols, who served our country in a number of hazardous positions, died recently at age 87 at a hospital near his home in Bonita, CA. His life proved that truth is indeed stranger than fiction, since no fiction has ever emerged that combined Lee's true life adventures which included service in the OSS; the CIA; special Customs agent for undercover narcotics work; a Navy officer in New York City and special State Department operative in Guatemala, Bolivia, Uruguay, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

Along the way, Lee became a member of the U.S. Treasury Pistol Team and won the National Pistol Championship in 1941 at the Camp Perry Shoot. He served as western field director for the National Rifle Association for several years. After retirement from 38 years of government service, Lee helped organize the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, which had been started by his old friend, Dave Phillips, who had been Chief of the western hemisphere section of the CIA. Lee became California State chairman of AFIO.

"Hilarious High Jinks & Dangerous Assignments," the autobiography of Lee Echols, was published in 1990, and recounts his amazing career as well as outlining some of the many practical jokes he and his associates played on each other. In addition to the autobiography, Lee wrote a book, "Dead Aim" about the various shooting matches in which he participated over the years, a book of fiction, and numerous magazines articles.

In his adventuresome career, Lee encountered various smugglers, dealers in narcotics, Communists, revolutionaries, corrupt officials of Latin American countries and Mexico, and others who would have killed him had they discovered his true identity. The amazing thing is that he could operate undercover for our Government for many years and still survive. One factor that sustained him was his great sense of humor, which led him to organize and take part in various hoaxes of his fellow workers, and for that matter, anyone who came along. It was this facet of Lee's life that attracted men of action to him, including the famous Marine general, Hollands M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith. At one of the international pistol shoots, Lee staged a scene where he appeared to have been accidentally shot and killed by another contestant.

In the Dominican Republic, where he worked undercover for our State Department, he obtained information from the revolutionaries that was of great help in protecting American dependents until the United States Government could send in the 82d Airborne and the Marines to evacuate them to United States ships. He also later ran a school for Spanish-speaking countries interested in training efficient national security forces.

His life story, "Hilarious High Jinks & Dangerous Assignments" not only tells an incredible true story of his life, but also gives an idea of the efficiency of our undercover operations, of the CIA, the OSS, Customs, and other Government agencies. Having grown up in

Calexico, in Imperial County, and worked 10 years for Customs along the border, Lee spoke Spanish fluently and also understood how to get along with our neighbors to the south.

His work lives on in the lives of the young men, Americans and those from Latin America, whom he trained in law enforcement and respect for democracy. Like many others who have helped build America, Lee was a product of his times and his environment, and an inspiration to all who knew him.

U.S. CONGRESS AND GERMAN PARLIAMENT CONDUCT ANNUAL EXCHANGE

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the United States Congress and the German Parliament, the Bundestag, have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about the working of each other's political institutions and convey Members' views on issues of mutual concern.

This year marks the fifth exchange with a reunified Germany and a parliament consisting of members from all 16 German States. A delegation of staff members from the United States Congress will be chosen to visit Germany from May 7 to May 20. During the 2-week exchange, most time will be spent at meetings conducted by Bundestag Members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives from political, business, academic, and media groups. Cultural activities and a weekend visit in a Bundestag Member's district will round out the exchange.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States in July for a 3-week period. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Congressional Members over the Fourth of July recess.

The Congress-Bundestag Exchange is highly regarded in Germany, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff members who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag sends senior staff professionals to the United States. The United States endeavors to reciprocate.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite United States delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern in Germany and the United States such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, health care, and other social policy issues.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag staff members when they visit the