

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

END THE ARMS EMBARGO ON BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a bill which would terminate the United States arms embargo applicable to the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina today is dismal. After three winters of war, there is still no end in sight. The contact group plan of last summer, which had been offered with a 2-week deadline for an unconditional response, has been held open indefinitely to the Bosnian Serbs to accept. The Bosnians, who accepted the plan on time and without condition, have watched the international community subsequently ease sanctions on Serbia, despite the fact that it was Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that instigated this conflict and sustains the aggressors who rejected the plan. The Bosnians have heard our Secretary of State explain how the contact group formed to respond to the Bosnian conflict is somehow more important than the conflict itself, and that preserving NATO is more important than meeting the challenges Europe faces today.

Meanwhile, the Bosnians feel the human suffering and the injustice of continuing conflict. That is their reward for working with the international community, human suffering, and injustice.

The problem we now confront in Bosnia-Herzegovina is quite straightforward. The Serb militants occupy over 70 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while the contact group settlement grants the Serbs 49 percent of the country. Mr. Speaker, the international community has absolutely no plan for getting the Serbs to relinquish control of and return that one-third of the territory they seized by force.

Yes, the contact group countries meet with each other, with the Bosnians, with the Serb militants. They convene additional conferences to bring the sides together. We have seen this for nearly 3 years, a farcical display of resolve in contrast to the horrible tragedy on the ground. This approach has not worked, and there is no reason to believe it will now.

As many have said from the beginning, a unilateral lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina is a last option. Until now, the international community, including the United States, has not taken genuine action to enforce U.N. Security Council resolutions regarding Bosnia-Herzegovina, despite having the authority to do so. It has not intervened to stop Serb aggression with punitive air strikes or other measures, despite the fact that the genocidal nature of this aggression should have compelled us legally and morally to do so. And the United States has not sought—really and formally sought—a multilateral lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina, despite that U.N. member's inherent right to its own self-defense. Absent these other measures, Mr. Speaker, we have no other recourse

than at least to lift the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Of course, until such time that this bill is passed and its provisions go into effect, President Clinton can seek to make the lifting of the embargo a multilateral action at the United Nations. He can also take other decisive steps to compel the Bosnian Serb militants to accept the contact group plan. But time is running out. The present course is untenable, and to support its continuation—even implicitly by our own inaction—would be irresponsible.

It is therefore my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Clinton administration will take the time they are now using to defeat congressional efforts to lift the embargo, and use it instead to get others to agree to what we all would prefer, a multilateral lifting. After all, it was 2 years ago last Friday that Secretary of State Christopher, unveiling the administration's Bosnia policy, lamented the fact that the West had repeatedly missed earlier opportunities to effectively address the conflict and prevent it from deepening. The Secretary said: "Our conscience revolts at the idea of passively accepting such brutality. It tests our commitment to the nurturing of democracy." Recognizing the implications of the Bosnian crisis he warned, "The world's response to the violence in the former Yugoslavia is an early and crucial test of how it will address the concerns of ethnic and religious minorities in the post-cold-war world."

One year ago, in the aftermath of the market place massacre in Sarajevo, President Clinton himself echoed this view when he said, "This century teaches us that America cannot afford to ignore conflicts in Europe. And in this case, our Nation has distinct interests." He concluded, "While the cold war may be over, the world is still full of dangers and the world still looks to America for leadership." And let us not forget his inaugural address, when he vowed that, "When our vital interests are challenged or the will and conscience of the international community is defied, we will act, with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary."

Let the Congress be clearly understood, the issue of Bosnia's survival is important and must be addressed. It is a bipartisan issue, where the most conservative and the most liberal share a common outrage over the inhumanity that has been allowed to take place in that country.

This applies as well to the Senate, where Senators DOLE and LIEBERMAN have already introduced an identical bill. I hope, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to move on this legislation quickly, and today I am joined by the ranking minority member of the Helsinki Commission, Mr. HOYER, Commission members, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BONIOR, Ms. MOLINARI, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WYNN.

RESTORING ATTORNEY ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, our civil justice system is caught in a web of abuse. It is time to stop unscrupulous lawyers who rig the system to generate profits rather than justice. Excessive legal claims, frivolous lawsuits, and overzealous lawyers overburden our justice system. Republicans know this and are working to restore fairness to our legal system.

Our civil justice system is a lawyer's paradise. We sue each other too often and too easily. Excessive litigation and jury awards alone cost Americans \$130 billion.

Instead of a legal system that citizens trust and rely upon, ours remains dominated by savvy experts that grow rich from confusion, greed and fear. Republicans pledge to reverse this trend by passing meaningful civil justice reform. Our Attorney Accountability Act, H.R. 988, works to create a fair legal system that recognizes lawsuits with merit and rewards real victims rather than rewarding greedy lawyers.

This bill's "loser pays" provision curtails frivolous lawsuits, opening the system to legitimate grievances. It ensures that expert witnesses will be unbiased and reliable. Furthermore, this bill will sanction unethical attorneys who abuse the system for their benefit. H.R. 988 helps restore sensibility and efficiency to our litigation madness.

Mr. Speaker, the courts are supposed to protect the consumers and workers in our society, not the lawyers. Frivolous lawsuits and outlandish damage awards make a sham out of our civil court system. H.R. 988 injects common sense into our legal system by closing the door to people who use our courts in an abusive way.

HELP FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the First Time Homebuyers Assistance Act which will make the American Dream of owning a home a reality for thousands of renters. Today's renters often pay as much for rent as homeowners pay for a monthly mortgage payment. It is not surprising that the 1994 Fannie Mae National Housing Survey found 86 percent of renters believe they would be better off owning a home. And with interest rates on the rise again, buying a home isn't getting any easier.

To many Americans, homeownership means financial psychological, and familial security particularly for minorities, younger Americans,

• 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.

and those with lower incomes. It means a stronger economy, safer neighborhoods, and a better quality of life. Mr. Speaker, given such an optimistic view of homeownership, why do so many renters continue to rent? According to the Fannie Mae survey, an overwhelming 65 percent of renters rank the downpayment as their primary obstacle to owning a home.

Several years ago, I visited a home builder in York, PA, located in my congressional district, who developed a unique and innovative arrangement in which moderately priced single-family homes are constructed for purchase with no downpayment. A local financial institution finances 80 percent of the loan, while the remaining 20 percent, in the form of a second mortgage, is financed by the local builder. This creative financing plan makes the purchase of a home affordable for financially, hard-working people who want to buy a home, but cannot afford a downpayment.

However, the Tax Code penalizes builders who finance the downpayment on behalf of the purchasers. Currently, the Tax Code limits a builder's ability to finance second mortgages because it assumes that buyers are paying the entire balance of their tax obligations in the year the property is purchased. The law also requires builders to pay taxes on the entire amount of the income received from a mortgage in the year the purchase is made. For a builder, it becomes almost impossible to pay these taxes, not having cash on hand to do so until the balance of the mortgage payment is received at a future date. In other words, the Tax Code prohibits a builder from using the installment method to calculate his tax liability. This situation places a builder in a financial bind and jeopardizes the future of this and similar housing programs.

The First Time Homebuyers Assistance Act will enable a builder to use the installment method to calculate his tax liability under certain specific circumstances. The bill applies to any one family, owner-occupied unit. The purchaser must be a first-time homebuyer who qualifies for 100 percent of the loan. Further, the legislation directs that a second mortgage on the property be no more than 20 percent of the sale price and applies only to single-family homes costing no more than 75 percent of the median home price for newly constructed one-family residential real property in a given area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation which is specifically geared to helping those who need the most assistance in buying a home. With your support, the First Time Homebuyers Assistance Act can make the American Dream an American reality.

IN HONOR OF JOHN HUGHES 25
YEARS AS SCOUTMASTER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scoutmaster John Hughes of Bayonne for his 25 years of service to Boy Scout Troop 25. There will be a ceremony honoring Mr. Hughes on March 11, 1995, for his dedication and leadership.

Mr. Hughes has served the community in many different ways. There are not many peo-

ple who can juggle a successful career, and find time to work with our children on a regular basis. Yet, Mr. Hughes has made the time, because he realizes the importance of helping our youth. These children are our future leaders. Mr. Hughes' investment in them is a great service to our Nation, and the city of Bayonne.

In 1970, Mr. Hughes took control of Troop 25 as scoutmaster. He worked with each Scout individually helping to make them better Scouts and citizens. Mr. Hughes has taught them a priceless lesson in dealing with some of life's obstacles. He has acted as a guardian angel for each Scout by showing interest in their personal lives. His efforts show what an excellent role model he is for the community as well as for Boy Scout Troop 25. In 25 years, Mr. Hughes has taken the Scouts on camping trips, and excursions throughout the United States and Canada. During these trips Scouts have been exposed to various learning experiences, people, and their customs.

Mr. Hughes has established a successful partnership in the law firm of Hughes & Finnerty, located in Bayonne. In the past he has served the community in a wide variety of functions. He has served as president of the Bayonne Council, and has worked as an assistant prosecutor for Hudson County. Mr. Hughes has dedicated his time to raising money for the City Youth Fund, and currently serves as president of the Hudson United Soccer Club, which he founded in 1976. At the current time he is serving as public defender for the city of Bayonne.

Mr. Hughes has been a dedicated businessman and scoutmaster. He is a model citizen who embodies qualities of an outstanding community leader. I am proud to have Mr. Hughes as one of my constituents. I ask that you please join me in honoring Mr. Hughes for his great tasks as scoutmaster of Troop 25.

STATES RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD a substitute amendment that I, along with MARTY MEEHAN, JACK KINGSTON, DAVID MINGE, SCOTT KLUG, and others wish to offer to House Joint Resolution 2, the term limits legislation that the House will consider next week. This amendment will clearly resolve the issue of State preemption by explicitly providing that States may enact limits on the time a Federal legislator may serve that are shorter than the Federal limits in the amendment. Our amendment is based on House Joint Resolution 66, legislation which we introduced on January 27. This legislation has received bipartisan support.

As is the case on many issues, the States are moving ahead of the Federal Government on political reform. Twenty-two States have approved limits on the number of terms to which Members of Congress can be elected. Just as in the House, the States disagree among themselves as to the number of years a person should serve in Congress. Nineteen States have enacted limits of less than 12 years for Members of the House. Several other States are considering enacting term limits proposals on their own.

There is considerable doubt about whether the States have authority under the Constitution to enact term limits. Article I of the Constitution establishes three qualifications for Members of Congress: age, citizenship, and residency. In *Powell versus McCormack*, the Supreme Court held that the House's power was limited to judging a Member's compliance with the qualifications in Article I of the Constitution. The Court's holding in *Powell* was grounded upon its conclusion that the qualifications established in the Constitution are exclusive. Based on this precedent, I am concerned that the Court may not uphold the limits on terms established by the individual States.

The amendment we are offering would lay to rest these constitutional questions by explicitly stating that the States have the authority to enact more limited terms. Allowing the States to set limits on terms of Members of Congress would be a step toward restoring the federalism envisioned by the Framers of the Constitution. As a strong supporter of States' rights, I believe that the efforts in the States to enact term limits are healthy for our democracy. We should foster this development by explicitly granting the States authority to limit terms of Federal legislators.

Beyond the constitutional issues, the principal criticism of allowing individual States to set limits on terms for Members of Congress is that it could result in a disparity in power in Congress among States. For example, voters in Washington State rejected term limits in 1991 largely in response to concerns that limiting the terms of legislators from Washington would give California greater power in relation to Washington State.

Our amendment would address this concern by establishing a uniform Federal limit of no more than 12 years in Congress, while allowing States to set lower limits within this overall limit. By providing that no Member of Congress may serve more than 12 years, this proposal would prevent legislators in any State from amassing disproportionate power. Secure in the knowledge that no State would be able to send legislators to Congress for more than 12 years, any State would be able to decide whether its interests would be better served by more rapid turnover in its State delegation to Congress or by allowing its Members of Congress to build experience and effectiveness by serving for up to 12 years.

In addition to resolving the issue of State preemption, the amendment seeks to resolve the conflict among supporters of term limits in Congress regarding the appropriate length in terms. As you know, there is a disagreement between those who support a 12-year limit and those who prefer a limit of 6 or 8 years. Although there is stronger support for a 12-year limit, several Members and organizations have threatened to oppose legislation establishing term limits of more than 6 years. I believe it would be truly unfortunate if a difference over the ideal term limit proposal prevents us from enacting any term limits.

Our amendment would establish a Federal limit of 12 years in the House, 12 years in the Senate, and would explicitly give the States the authority to set lower limits if they choose to do so. The amendment seek to capitalize on the support in Congress for a 12-year limit,

while empowering States to enact shorter limits if they desire to do so.

I believe this compromise will improve the prospects for passage of the legislation in Congress as well as the chances for ratification by the States while, at the same time, accommodating the varied opinions on the exact length of limited terms. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this balanced approach to the issue of term limits.

SALUTE TO AMGEN AND TO THE
AMERICAN BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the American biotechnology industry, which continues to dominate the world market in producing breakthrough medicines based on cellular and molecular biology—bringing relief and cures to millions of patients around the world.

Although other nations, notably Germany, Great Britain and Japan have renewed their efforts to narrow the biotech gap, America's leadership in this vital field continues to be overwhelming.

Although it has existed for little more than a decade, the biotechnology industry has already made tremendous advances in science and research. Today, there are more than 1,000 biotech companies in the United States, most in the research stage of their development.

Many of these companies are located in my home state of California and one, Amgen Inc. of Thousand Oaks, is located in an area that was formerly part of my congressional district.

It is through Amgen that I first became aware of this burgeoning industry and that I continue to stay apprised of its development and progress. We in California are especially proud of this industry, which brings so much hope and promise to the economy of our state and nation. In fact, in the face of military and corporate cutbacks that have truly challenged the state of California and its residents, biotech represents one of the few industries to actually grow over the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, in a recent column in the Los Angeles Times, *An American Upbringing for Promising Industry*, February 12, 1995, James Flanigan detailed the dynamics of the biotechnology industry and explained some of the reasons why it holds so much potential for real gains in medicine and is expected to have such a positive influence on the nation's economic growth.

In his article, Mr. Flanigan singled out Amgen as an example of the awesome medical potential of biotechnology, both in the immediate and long-term future.

As someone who is acutely aware of the progress Amgen has made in this truly progressive field, I find this recognition quite appropriate. Just this past December, Vice President AL GORE presented Amgen with a Presidential National Medal of Technology for its pioneering role in this new industry and its success in bringing remarkable medicines to patients around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include Mr. Flanigan's article in the RECORD to share with

you and my colleagues information about an industry that will surely play a larger role in all of our lives in the coming years.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Feb. 12, 1995]

AN AMERICAN UPBRINGING FOR A PROMISING
INDUSTRY

(By James Flanigan)

With professional investors pumping billions of dollars into Amgen Inc. stock last week on rumors—later denied—of a takeover that would have cost at least \$12 billion, ordinary folks must wonder what connection there could be between mega-deal speculation and lower prices for prescription drugs and medical treatments.

But there is a connection, just as there is a more obvious link to fresh investor interest in biotechnology, an industry scarcely 20 years old that speaks volumes about U.S. methods of financing discoveries and innovations.

In fact, dozens of biotech companies are starting up these days, thanks to a new research technology.

And in a larger context, though there may be no single cure for cancer, the outlook for Amgen and the biotech industry says remedies to alleviate cancer symptoms and those of AIDS, Alzheimer's and other afflictions are in the works.

Amgen's stock shot up 21% in two days last week, from under \$63 a share to more than \$76, on rumors that Bristol-Myers Squibb, maker of Bufferin and other such products as well as prescription medicines, would offer \$90 a share for Amgen's stock.

Amgen's price fell back when Bristol denied the rumor—it closed at \$68.44 on Friday. But speculation about buyouts is sure to continue in an atmosphere in which Glaxo Holdings recently paid \$500 million for Affymax, a biotech company, and is offering \$14 billion for Wellcome, which makes a leading AIDS treatment.

The big companies' intent is to acquire research capabilities and the rights to promising drugs at a time when hard bargaining by corporate benefit managers are driving down drug prices and big company laboratories are becoming expensive luxuries.

"The big companies are well equipped to handle worldwide marketing and clinical trials for the Food and Drug Administration," says Viren Mehta, managing partner of Mehta & Isaly, an investment firm specializing in health issues. "But their research laboratories have been less productive of successful new drugs."

Thus Amgen is particularly attractive because it has two of the most successful new compounds: Epogen, which stimulates production of red blood cells to alleviate anemia in kidney patients on dialysis, and Neupogen, which stimulates white blood cell production to guard against infections in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

On growth and development of those two products alone, Amgen's earnings could rise 13% a year for the next five years, says Eric Hecht, a physician and a security analyst for Morgan Stanley.

The drugs are economically effective because they reduce the need for costly blood transfusions and medically effective because they bolster the immune systems of patients, thus reducing risk of often fatal infections.

And they are called biogenetic because they use synthesized genes to stimulate the body's own curative processes—blood cell production from the bone marrow, for example.

Biotechnology, though a young industry, already contains some 700 companies, most of them in the United States, and already has gone through several cycles of exagger-

ated hopes—and sky-high stock prices—followed by returns to realistic expectations.

Born in the wake of President Richard Nixon's War on Cancer, biotech's first aim was to find a single cure, a "silver bullet" to cure the dread disease. But through the years, a growing realization that cancer and AIDS and afflictions of the brain such as Alzheimer's are complex, changeable and unpredictable has humbled drug companies and investors.

Now efforts are undertaken one step at a time. For example, Amgen, in partnership with a small company named Regeneron, is in clinical trials with a genetic compound intended to slow the degenerative processes of Lou Gehrig's disease. Hopes of finding compounds to restore lost functions due to sclerosis or stroke are for the future.

The very fact that biotech research is at the frontier of science has made it difficult for big company laboratories with corporate budgets and procedures. So biotech has grown as a decentralized industry, encouraging university and medical center researchers to join business managers in entrepreneurial companies.

That's why major biotech centers are clustered near university complexes—in the San Francisco Bay Area and San Diego, in Cambridge and Boston, Mass., Princeton, N.J., and the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

Venture capital firms offer initial financing in such places and, when markets are receptive, bring companies public with new stock. But it's a tough field to predict. Even the renowned scientist Jonas Salk's company, Immune Response Corp., has been plagued by worsening losses and a sinking stock price.

Yet new companies are being formed at a furious pace in California and elsewhere. The reason is a technological mouthful called combinatorial chemistry. It uses the techniques of semiconductor manufacturing and super-computing to screen thousands of molecules for potential sources of new genetic drugs.

The effects could be dramatic. "Combinatorial chemistry will make it much quicker and cheaper to identify attractive new drugs," writes James McCamant, editor of Berkeley's Medical Technology Stock Letter. "Over the next 10 years it will change the nature of the pharmaceutical industry."

Drug companies are aware of that: Marion Merrell Dow has already acquired Selectide and Glaxo has bought Affymax, two pioneers in combinatorial chemistry.

There will be many more buy-outs and start-ups to come in the normal ferment of a new industry. The promise is that biotechnology will bring down the costs of prescription drugs and medical treatments as it brings entrepreneurs and investors opportunities in small companies as well as large ones like Amgen.

A good example of the ability of U.S. industry, academia and government to adapt to scientific discovery and changing circumstances, biotech is a field to watch.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD M. BOUR

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bernard M. Bour who is retiring after 20 years as the editorial page editor of the San Mateo Times in California.

Bernard Bour has been an opinion leader in the San Francisco Bay Area since joining the Times in 1975. His thoughtful editorials have raised the level of public discourse and have bettered both our community and our country. During his remarkable career, Mr. Bour has provided his readers with valuable insights on a vast array of subjects, from local to world affairs, and many topics in between. He has been a particularly persistent voice for better government and campaign reform, and I have come to cherish his reflections on these matters.

During the many years I have known Mr. Bour, I have been struck by his respectful manner and always appreciated his courteous disposition. He is both a gentleman and a gentle man whose unparalleled professionalism have made him a treasure to his loyal readers.

Prior to arriving at the Times, Mr. Bour worked for the Asia Foundation in San Francisco and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York. Now he is returning to these earlier interests by spending part of his retirement assisting with the noble effort to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard Bour has graced the pages of the San Mateo Times for two decades with flair and distinction. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding writer and wishing him the best of everything in his well earned retirement.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDED TO INCLUDE MONTGOMERY, ROANOKE, AND ROCKBRIDGE COUNTIES, VA

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, my fellow Virginian, Congressman RICK BOUCHER, and I join once again to introduce legislation which would include the counties of Roanoke, Rockbridge, Montgomery, and the contiguous, independent cities of Roanoke, Salem, Radford, Lexington, and Buena Vista as part of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Our bill amends the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 and is identical to legislation we introduced in the 103d Congress which passed the House but was not acted upon by the Senate in the end of the session rush.

The Appalachian Regional Commission [ARC] was established in 1965 as a Federal-State partnership in economic and social development. ARC's goals have been to encourage the economic development and growth of the Appalachian region.

ARC's mission has been to develop an infrastructure to help Appalachia become economically viable and competitive. It has done so by constructing some 2,100 miles of highways, implementing recycling programs, creating vocational education facilities, and building reliable waste disposal facilities, water, and sewer systems.

Already a part of the Appalachian region both geographically and culturally, Roanoke,

Rockbridge, and Montgomery Counties were asked to join ARC when it was created over 25 years ago. At that time the local officials decided not to become members.

In hindsight, this decision was a mistake, not only for the three counties, but also for the area counties which are members. Many economic development projects require the participation of adjoining counties. Yet, Roanoke, Rockbridge, and Montgomery Counties are excluded from any project funded by the ARC.

If the counties and the contiguous independent cities are designated as part of the ARC region there will be an enhanced opportunity to pursue joint programs. The potential for combined efforts in tourism, infrastructure projects, and strengthening competitiveness in attracting new businesses would be tremendous.

The three counties which we propose to add are all vital to the ultimate success of the ARC. One of them, Montgomery County, along with the independent city of Radford, is in Mr. BOUCHER'S district to the south of Roanoke County which is the southern most part of my district.

Montgomery County, which has a total population of 74,000 people, is geographically part of the Appalachian region. Although it is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and creative people, it is plagued with cyclical unemployment. Despite being home to Virginia Tech and possession the fourth highest concentration of Ph.D.'s per capita in the Nation, 26 percent of all Montgomery County residents aged 25 and over do not have a high school education. In some areas of the county, that figure exceeds 50 percent.

Rockbridge County, and the independent cities of Lexington and Buena Vista, which occupy the central portion of my congressional district, are bordered on the west by the counties of Allegheny, Bath, and Highland, and the cities of Clifton Forge and Covington. Lexington is home to the Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University. Despite benefiting from these universities and an impressive tourism industry, the area has been plagued by layoffs and plant closing. Rockbridge is surrounded by counties that are members of ARC and has been cooperating with its neighbors on a number of projects including a regional landfill. Rockbridge continues to explore the concept of regionalism and would like to become involved in the Appalachian Regional Recycling Consortium [ARRC]—an ARC project.

However, Rockbridge has been denied involvement in ARRC because it is not a member of ARC. As a result, the recycling effort has suffered because the participating counties are unable to supply a large enough volume of recyclable material to make the program cost-effective. The addition of Rockbridge County to the ARC could help the recycling effort become a reality.

Roanoke County and the independent cities of Roanoke and Salem could well be the lynch-pin between success of the ARC and its failure. With a population of approximately 200,000, the Roanoke Valley has a history of cooperative agreements and joint ventures with surrounding counties. Some of the joint opportunities the Roanoke area governments have pursued include, the further development

of tourism and industrial sites along the I-81 and I-581 corridors, educational/vocational training projects, and the enhancement of water and sewer infrastructure. If admitted to the ARC, Roanoke County could combine its resources and economic vitality with its less urban neighbors to help facilitate much-needed ARC regional projects.

In addition, for the ARC to ultimately succeed in its mission to provide Appalachia with the infrastructure it needs to develop into an economically viable region, it only makes sense that these three important counties be added to its membership.

Their addition will provide an essential sense of regionalism with the counties already within ARC, allowing them to work together to solve the many problems of the area. It's time to realize that city, county and even States lines are becoming less and less a barrier to cooperation.

Finally, by designating the Roanoke Valley, Rockbridge County, and Montgomery County as a part of ARC, Congress will be strengthening the partnership between western and southwestern Virginia.

I urge my colleagues to support this much needed legislation.

COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY AND LEGAL REFORM

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, our courts have become a lucrative feeding ground for unscrupulous lawyers and greedy plaintiffs who abuse the system. Litigation is spinning out of control when a woman can file suit over spilt coffee and walk away millions richer. Republicans will work to curb this lucrative feeding frenzy by passing a commonsense product liability and legal reform bill.

In our civil justice system the very laws which are supposed to protect American workers and consumers hurts them the most. Our current legal system imposes a "litigation tax" on every hardworking American. Higher prices, higher insurance premiums, and stifled productivity dampen job creation and deny consumers new, safer, and less expensive products. The American people should not be forced to pay the tab for baseless litigation and unsettling jury awards.

Our Commonsense Product Liability and Legal Reform Act, H.R. 956 takes a balanced approach to provide fairness to consumers, products sellers and manufacturers alike. Increased uniformity and certainty in civil law will encourage settlements before trial—reducing legal costs and helping to speed just compensation to victims.

The American people are fed up with a senseless civil justice system that works against them. They want a legal system that works to protect their rights as workers and consumers. H.R. 956 restores accountability and responsibility to a legal system currently mired in abuse.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BIPARTISAN DEFICIT REDUCTION LOCK-BOX

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative JANE HARMAN and 35 of our colleagues in favor of a critical budget process reform in the 103d Congress. As you know, the Nation finds itself saddled with ever more Federal debt. If the debt were to be paid off today, some estimate that each person's share would be over \$17,000. Addressing this debt, and exploring ways of cutting this debt through budget process reform, has been one of my primary goals as a Member of Congress.

Today, I would like to speak on a budget process reform that is included in a bill which I am pleased to have engineered with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle: The Deficit Reduction Lock-Box Act. In the 103d Congress, this legislation (H.R. 4057) garnered the support of over 150 cosponsors almost evenly divided between party affiliation.

Congress debates on numerous amendments that are designed to reduce spending for specific Federal programs or agencies. Unfortunately, passage of these amendments does not guarantee or mandate real spending cuts.

We need to begin the process of bringing truth to the budget process and make our cuts count. When Congress votes for cuts they should be just that—cuts. Only by finding a method to reduce the spending caps and the related subcommittee allocations will we be certain that spending cuts to appropriations bills will ever be realized. This is what the deficit reduction lock-box addresses. And these spending cuts would be self-initiating, unless otherwise specifically designated or transferred.

Endorsing this legislation since the 103d Congress are several national groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Against Government Waste, the National Taxpayers Union, and Citizens for a Sound Economy. It should be stressed that this bill is a truly bi-partisan product that would lead the way to making discretionary cuts count.

I have a strong interest in proposals to require appropriations bill cuts to be translated into actual budget reductions. The lock-box must be considered as a stand-alone budget process reform measure, and a first-step in passing other necessary budget process reforms. It is an independent effort that does not seek to block other worthy budget process reforms. If anything, this budget process reform would complement other necessary efforts in this arena. Based on its proven bi-partisan in Congress since its introduction early this year, I feel it deserves a vote this year on the House floor.

As I mentioned already, the House and Senate do not save money when they vote against approval of a specific program. What this means is that the whole Congress has no way to cut discretionary spending without the cooperation of the committees that appropriate Federal funds. Even when both Houses of Congress vote to defund a program, the committees that control appropriations are free to

design new ways to spend the Federal money that they control.

After repeated exhortations on the necessity for thrift in an age of deficit financing by, for example, the space station's political opponents, defenders like myself argued that its elimination is not going to give one penny of deficit reduction. The spending that has already been appropriated would merely be plowed back into other programs.

The lock-box bill is geared toward finally doing what we constantly tell the American people that we're supposedly doing. Many people think that when we vote to make cuts and when we have success, that cuts are actually going to take place. Under present law, these dollars are reallocated. This proposal would ensure that we an actually address the deficit, which the American people want us to do.

When Congress votes to cut Federal spending but the Treasury doesn't really save any money, it harms both American taxpayers and representative democracy. Congress should reform spending procedures to make its cuts count. When it votes against Federal spending, there should be a way to create opportunities for savings that are both substantial and mandatory. That way, money would in effect be deposited in the Federal treasury for deficit reduction, not just retreat a step back in the spending pipeline. Until Congress changes the way it approves Federal spending so cuts can really count, even if rank-and-file Members vote to cut every program in the world, conference committees can simply reallocate the money.

Ensuring real spending cuts through this lock-box bill is a necessary first step in this process of spending reform. Members of Congress must seriously consider listening to their constituents about spending cuts and place good government over the self-interest of specific projects by indicating their support for this lock-box bill. Only through budget process reforms like this will Members be able to vote for cuts and be able to communicate the authenticity of these cuts honestly to the public. I am proud to reintroduce this key legislation today.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE JOAQUIN V.E. MANIBUSAN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend and congratulate a distinguished public servant, Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, who is retiring from the superior court of Guam. Judge Manibusan is a loyal citizen who has dedicated over 50 years of service to the government, the island, and the people of Guam.

Judge Manibusan was born on March 23, 1921, in the city of Agana. He is the son of the late Judge and Mrs. Jose C. Manibusan. After his graduation from George Washington High School in 1940, he pursued legal studies through correspondence. This established his foothold on Guam's judicial institution.

His distinguished government career dates back to the days prior to World War II. He began working for the civil affairs department in the machine shop at the naval air station on

February 1941. He stayed there until the outbreak of the war the following December. Japanese occupation of the island put things on hold for him until 1944 when he was again hired by the civil affairs department to work at the Anguwa refugee camp.

Currently Guam's senior judge on the bench, his affiliation with the island's court system can be traced back to February 1945 when he was hired as a clerk typist for the island court. He was promoted to senior clerk in 1948 and, later that year, he was appointed as deputy clerk of the island court by Governor C.A. Pownhall. The Honorable Joaquin C. Perez, chief judge of the island court of Guam, reaffirmed this appointment in February 1952 and, in December 1963, appointed him to the post of clerk of the island court.

Gov. Manuel F.L. Guerrero, on June 24, 1969, submitted Judge Manibusan's appointment to the Guam Legislature for confirmation as judge of the police court of Guam. When the superior court of Guam was created, Judge Manibusan was sworn in as a judge in the court assigned exclusively to the traffic division. The following year, he was reappointed by Gov. Ricardo J. Bordallo as a judge in the superior court of Guam's traffic division. The people of Guam expressed their approval when he went before the voters and was retained as a judge of the superior court back in 1982.

Outside the courtroom, the good judge has played an active role in community organizations. This is something that he has done throughout his career. Judge Manibusan's participation as a delegate to the Guam Constitutional Convention of 1969 and his chairmanship of the grand opening of the Guam Judicial Center in 1991 are great indications of his civic mindedness. He has also been a member of the Holy Name Society as well as a charter member of the Sinajana Civic Improvement Club. This is all in addition to his participation in Christmas Seal drives and active involvement in Guam's sports, particularly in baseball.

The more than 50 years of service dedicated by Judge Joaquin Manibusan to the island of Guam and its people has truly earned him a place in our hearts. The judge's wife, Alejandrina, and his children, Marilyn, a former senator, Joaquin, Thomas, and Geraldine certainly have every right to celebrate and be proud of the man who has always been a father to the island. On behalf of the people of Guam, I say Si Yu'os Ma'ase to a distinguished public servant and community leader in the Territory of Guam.

HONOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BY STOPPING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, it is unusual for holidays originating in this country to be widely adopted and observed in other nations, including socialist countries. But that is the case with International Women's Day, which had its origins in an 1857 New York City march by female garment and textile

workers and went on to become an international event honoring women. But just as this holiday transcends national lines, so do human rights. And so does female genital mutilation, a painful ritual that involves cutting off of all or part of a female's genitalia. It is estimated that more than 100 million females of all ages in more than 30 countries have been subjected to female genital mutilation. About 10,000 of them migrate to this country annually, and some of them bring this practice with them. People ask me in disbelief if FGM happens in this country. Based on the calls I receive, the answer is "yes." But we need to know more about its practice here, as part of an effort to stop it and educate communities about its devastating effect on female health. I invite my colleagues to cosponsor my bill, H.R. 941, which would do just that. And I remind them of the declaration made by the United Nations conference on population last year in Cairo, which urged governments to prohibit FGM and vigorously support efforts to eliminate it.

SALUTE TO MABEL CLEMENTS

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mrs. Mabel Clements whose 75th birthday will be celebrated on March 18, 1995, at the St. Luke C.C. Church Center in Chester, PA. Born on March 20, 1920, Mrs. Clements, a resident of Chester, has contributed a great deal to her church and her community throughout her lifetime.

Mrs. Clements has given endless support, love, dedication, and spiritual commitment to her family, friends, and church throughout her lifetime. Her steadfast dedication and commitment, combined with her gentle and delightful sense of humor has earned her the respect and admiration of her church and the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with Ms. Norma Jordan and the family and friends of Mrs. Clements in wishing her a very happy 75th birthday.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES: PART OF THE SOLUTION

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, an established resource for Florida's future economic security is in jeopardy due to lack of adequate State and Federal support. This resource is the community college system which is the access point to higher education, skills training, and successful employment for a growing underclass and increasingly diverse State population. As funding for public educational institutions, in Florida and elsewhere, is steadily declining, community colleges are faring most poorly of all as demands for their services continue to increase.

While it has long been recognized that the community colleges play a crucial role in helping dependent individuals become self-sufficient, the financial commitment to this longer

term, solid solution is being abandoned to cover prison expenditures, law enforcement, and immediate public assistance. The continued funding of these escalating programs results in a starving of the ultimate solution to these runaway problems, and I am sure that the State of Florida is not unique in this experience. As a former faculty member of Miami-Dade Community College, I am directly familiar with the fine educational and training services the school provides and its value to the greater Miami area.

I would like to share with my colleagues the following statement by Dr. Robert H. McCabe, president of Miami Dade Community College, which points out the value of this Nations community college.

Mr. Speaker, funding for community colleges is an investment in our future.

STARVING THE SOLUTION

(By Robert H. McCabe)

The growing underclass of individuals who are dependent on society is threatening the well-being of all Floridians. Our state is becoming overwhelmed by the cost of sustaining this dependency. The number of persons receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) has been rising at a rate of 20% a year since 1988. The state's Medicaid expenditure skyrocketed to almost two billion dollars by 1990 and over \$4.1 billion by 1993. This was equal to the state general revenue budget in 1980-81. Expenditures on prison and law enforcement are escalating exponentially, in Dade County alone, nearly one quarter of our citizens are receiving public assistance—in housing, health care, or food stamps.

Florida has exceptional prospects for a bright economic future as the business connector to the emerging nations of the Caribbean and Central and South America. However, the loss of our human resources, because of lack of skills, and the cost of sustaining growing numbers of individuals in a dependent status, threatens to destroy that potential.

Florida's productive and efficient community colleges have been the primary access to college and post-secondary education for our residents. Community colleges are uniquely positioned to help dependent individuals gain the skill and become self-sufficient, thus providing business and industry with a much needed quality work force and saving Floridians literally billions of dollars. Despite the community colleges' excellent record of performance, reduced resources are provided to the community colleges to support essential services to our communities. Over the history of the community college system, the income per student has been reduced from 50% more to 22% less than that provided for public schools, grades K through 12. In 1994-95, community colleges received just over half as much per lower division student as the state universities.

The current level of funding for community colleges threatens their capacity to carry out their mission—Florida is, in effect, starving the most promising solution to the problem of reducing the number of dependent individuals by denying the colleges the resources they need to help these individuals gain the skills they need to be productively employed.

VIRGINIA NATIONAL PARKS ACT

HON. THOMAS J. BLILEY, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation that responds to the concerns of Virginians regarding national parks in the Commonwealth. The Virginia National Parks bill confronts a number of Virginia's pressing park issues, addressing Shenandoah National Park, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields, and Colonial Parkway.

First, my bill addresses constituent concerns about the expansion of Shenandoah National Park and Richmond National Battlefield Park. These two parks share an unusual status in that they are each a relatively small park with a much larger authorized boundary. The result of this situation is that, unlike the vast majority of national parks, these parks can expand whenever they want, without congressional approval or proper representation of local communities' interests.

While Shenandoah National Park includes 196,000 acres of land, its enormous 1926 authorized boundary includes 521,000 acres, enveloping parts of many surrounding communities. Similarly, while Richmond National Battlefield is composed of several small sites surrounding Richmond, its sprawling 1936 authorized boundary includes about 250 square miles of the metropolitan area.

Many citizens and local governments within the authorized boundaries of both the Shenandoah and Richmond parks fear that there is a cloud hanging over local property titles and that the parks could expand without a fair consideration of the local communities' concerns. My bill would put to rest these fears by amending the two parks' authorized boundaries to conform to the land that the National Park Service currently owns. This legislation doesn't preclude future expansion of these parks. It simply gives the people most affected by park expansion a proper voice in the decision. I believe that these provisions will relieve the long-standing tensions between these parks and their neighbors and promote more cooperative and fruitful relationships.

Another provision of my bill responds to a Virginia General Assembly resolution asking for legislation to allow for the maintenance of secondary roads inside Shenandoah National Park. Since the park's inception in 1935, Virginia has maintained and operated secondary roads in the park under a series of temporary-use permits. These permits have recently expired and the National Parks Service has not renewed them, leaving the State without permission to maintain the roads. Many of these secondary highways are regularly traveled by school buses and are badly in need of repairs and safety improvements. My bill returns these roads to the State so that they can be properly maintained.

This legislation I introduced today also incorporates the provisions of the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act, legislation sponsored by Congressman WOLF, which passed the other body last year. This legislation conserves for future generations 10 Civil War battlefields of the Shenandoah Valley. Importantly, the act accomplishes these goals without infringing on the rights of private

property owners. This legislation establishes partnerships between Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector to conserve and interpret the legacy of some of the most vital battlefields of the Civil War.

Another provision of my bill authorizes the National Parks Service to buy a small plot of land for the Colonial Parkway near Jamestown.

The Virginia National Parks bill addresses the concerns of Virginians on a variety of issues pertaining to national parks and I welcome the support of my colleagues in cosponsoring this legislation.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF
IMLAY CITY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to a great city in Michigan's Ninth Congressional District. Imlay City is celebrating its 125th anniversary during the week of August 2-6, 1995.

Imlay City, located at the intersection of I-69 and M-53—the Gateway to the Thumb Area of Michigan from Detroit—was named after William Imlay, an Eastern Seaboard capitalist who moved to the area in 1828. The village was settled in 1870 when the construction of the Port Huron and Lake Michigan Railway was completed as far as Attica, MI.

The chief engineer of the railroad, Charles Palmer, selected Imlay City as a likely produce market between Lapeer and Capac. He then purchased 240 acres of land which he surveyed and proceeded to plot. Since the township was called Imlay, he decided to name this site Imlay City.

The city celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1970. Also in that year a change was made from a village home rule to a city form of government. Today, this eastern Lapeer County community is home to several farming operations, commercial facilities and industries. The city is continuing to grow and prosper as many people move into the area from throughout the State of Michigan.

I have had the privilege of representing this area for many years. I have come to know many fine people in this community and consider them to be friends and advisors. The area surrounding Imlay City is rich with agricultural history. Businesses and industries have seen the potential for this area and have located their factories in this area, creating great economic opportunities for Imlay City. But throughout the years, with all the growth, Imlay City has retained the best features of a small town, with an excellent educational system and a friendliness that has remained constant though those 125 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to rise before my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor this great community for celebrating its 125th anniversary. It is a shining jewel in the Ninth Congressional District of Michigan.

HONORING THE 1995 VALOR AWARD
WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1995 Prince William County, VA Annual Valor Award winners. On Friday, March 10, 1995, the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce and the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Valor Awards at the FBI Academy, Quantico Marine Base.

The Valor Awards honor public service officers who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal, The Silver Medal, The Bronze Medal, Certificate of Valor, The Lifesaving Award.

The Valor Awards is a project under the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce's Education and Safety Committee and the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce's Valor Committee. This is the ninth year the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce has held the Valor Awards and the first year that the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber has participated.

The Gold Medal Award is the highest award for bravery and heroism. Awarded in cases in which a public safety official knowingly places his/her life in peril of death or extreme serious bodily harm while saving or attempting to save the lives of others who are clearly at risk.

The Gold Medal Winners for 1995 are: Richard R. Kassler and Dwayne A. Palermo.

The Silver Medal is the second highest award for bravery and heroism. Awarded in situations when a public safety official knowingly exposes himself/herself to great personal risk in the performance of an official act.

The Silver Medal Award Winner for 1995 is: Dwayne K. Moyers.

The Bronze Medal is awarded in situations where during the course of an emergency, a public safety official demonstrates judgment, ingenuity, or performance at a level that clearly exceeds that required and expected in the performance of his/her duties. This may include the saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons.

The Bronze Medal Award Winners for 1995 are: Charles P. Gardiner, Heidi D. Greaves, Franklin Ray Osborne, Bernard R. Rfluger, Brian F. Wing, and Mark K. Fleming.

The Certificate of Valor is awarded for acts involving personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity above what is normally expected in the performance of duty.

The Certificate of Valor Award Winners for 1995 are: William A. Lawrence, Carter M. Boston, Wesley K. Brown, Douglas J. Buchanan, and Douglas H. Litton.

The Lifesaving Award is awarded in recognition of acts taken in a life-threatening situation where an individual's life is in jeopardy, either medically or physically.

The Lifesaving Award Winners for 1995 are: Lori A. Kiley and Michael T. Neary.

Mr. Speaker I know my colleagues join me in commending these fine citizens who are truly deserving of the title, hero.

BAN WASTEFUL SPENDING ON
METRIC CONVERSION OF OUR
HIGHWAYS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will prohibit the use of Federal funds to require States to construct or modify highway signs using metric measurement.

In 1977, the Federal Highway Administration [FHA] attempted to convert all road signs to solely metric measurement. The plan was scrapped because 98 percent of the public comments received by the agency opposed the idea. However, some FHA bureaucrats are not getting the message. They believe that a section of the 1988 Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act which required Government agencies to use the metric system in procurement, contracts, and grants to enhance our international competitiveness gives them the authority to demand all U.S. highway signs be in metric. In 1993, the FHA again published a mandatory metric transition plan in the Federal Record. Again, the vast majority of public responses received were negative. Exactly how metric highway signs in the United States will aid us in overseas markets eludes me.

Clearly, there is widespread public opposition to a heavy handed Government attempt to impose the use of metric measurement on our highways. We cannot afford to waste money on such nonsense. Not only would the American people be made to suffer with the inconvenience brought about by changing to a system currently unknown to many of them, but would be forced to pick up the enormous price tag. Think of it—in addition to highway signs, such items as road maps, manuals, speedometers, odometers, and machinery would have to be changed and workers would need to be retrained.

Let me make it clear that I do not oppose the voluntary use of the metric system. Those who wish to use metric measurement or stand to benefit from it, can and should use it. What I do strongly oppose is the Government's unwarranted and costly imposition of metric on our highways. The American people do not want it and stand to gain nothing from it.

As we are fighting to cut Federal spending and get the budget deficit under control, converting our highway signs to metric measurement is an inexcusable waste of tax dollars.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 114,
SIKESTON, MO

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, over the course of my years as a private citizen and public servant I have been witness to a great, unfolding story. That story is one of pride and principle, enterprise and excellence, and perhaps more than anything else, life and liberty. It is the story of the American people and the right and true Nation that they have struggled to forge.

Without the brave Americans who responded to our country's need and who pledged themselves to the banner of freedom and democracy, the United States might not be what it is today; might not, in fact, even be at all. I would like to reverently pay tribute to all of the American men and women who have served in our Armed Forces—they truly represent uncommon and unsurpassed devotion. I am further honored to be able to present to you a shining example of the fine caliber of those who wore America's uniform in World War II.

Sikeston, MO, in my congressional district, is home to a group of veterans worth this special attention. I would like to recognize the active members of American Legion Post 114 who served under President Franklin Roosevelt and Missouri's own Harry Truman when the fate of the world's democracies was in the balance during World War II. America asked these sons and daughters to throw back the tide of despotism and injustice and Post 114 answered without pause.

May it be entered into the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that the courageous members of Post 114 of Sikeston, MO, are hereby recognized for their selfless service to their country. We applaud you, we honor you, we thank you.

The members of Post 114: James W. Abernathy, Marcus W. Abernathy, Ray Alberson, Hugh Aldrich, Ralph Armour, James A. Armstrong, James A. Baker, James M. Beaird, J.D. Bearden, Eli Beason, Gaines B. Beck, C.C. Beason, John Beetrum, William W. Bess, and Howard E. Billman.

David E. Blanton, Lee A. Bowman, Woodrow Brashears, L.V. Brothers, Phonzie W. Brown, Reece Brown, Arthur O. Bruce, Joel G. Buchanan, Arthur Bunch, Ray Burnett, Henry S. Bussey, Cline Carter, Ray Cathey, Mark L. Childs, and Lewis H. Conley.

Marshall Craig, Francis E. Crenshaw, William L. Crowden, Don Culbertson, Edgar Culbertson, B.G. Daugherty, Jr., John W. Davis, Joseph H. Davis, Eugene Dawson, Marion K. Day, Dan Delplane, Robert Dempster, Richard Dillender, Pete Dominquez, Sr., Durwood Dover, and Elmer Elfrank.

Leonard Etienne, Lloyd B. Evans, John F. Ferrell, Ulie F. Fitts, Glenn Forbis, Morris E. French, Jeremiah Fulton, Gene Gadberry, Arthur J. Gall, Jerry Gilliland, Gilbert Gilmore, Woodrow Glass, Brewer Glenn, William A. Gnann, and Kelly B. Goza.

Frank E. Grimms, William A. Guess, Charles R. Hammock, Douglas L. Hammock, Billie J. Harp, Lloyd G. Harris, James H. Hart, Gorman Hartlein, Everetta W. Hays, Sr., Tommie N. Hefner, Benjamin R. Heil, James T. Hensley, Hubert Hill, Glen Hines, and Jewell R. Hinkle.

R.H. Hodge, Bill Holleman, Cecil O. Holman, J.W. Homes, Lynn Ingram, Z.T. Jackson, Forrest Johnson, Sol D. Johnson, Jerry Kellum, L.E. King, Hugh Klasing, Leo J. Klekamp, James W. Lackey, Raymond C. Landers, Dayton A. Lasater, and Onis H. Learue.

Harry S. Littleton, George Mannon, Johnny Marshall, Joseph D. Martinez, Jr., Edward C. Matthews, Jr., Ruby Maynard, James E. Mayo, Alfred H. McCutchen, Sr., Willard McDaniel, Dean McDonald, James E. McGarity, Mary M. McNay, Charlie Meunier, Vincent R. Michelena, and Ray A. Moll.

William C. Moore, Jr, Joel A. Montgomery, Kenneth R. Morgan, Charles W. Myers, Claude A. Myracle, Paul Nugent, John R. O'Neal, George W. Orr, William K. Parker, Ishmael T. Payne, Carl H. Phillips, James V. Phillips, Martha S. Pickett, Rachael R. Pierce, and Irick A. Poe.

Vincent J. Polito, Charles F. Powell, Otto W. Pratt, Arnold Raburn, Patrick Regan, Paul Rennie, Carroll Robertson, Leo Rofkahr, Walter J. Rogers, Herbert Rowell, William P. Sappenfield, William L. Scarbrough, Billy G. Schock, Ellavyn Schubert, Harold H. Schultz, and Bernie L. Seagraves.

Albert Seiler, Charles Shelby, Paul Scherrard, Earl Sloan, Nat M. Snider, Walter B. Spence, Jr., Burleigh Spitzer, R.L. Stalcup, Hank F. Switala, Goble Trail, Jr., Charles M. Trucks, Charles W. Tucker, Lynn Twitty, Russel Walker, and Linzy Walls.

Leroy Wamble, Charles Watson, Manuel F. Whitener, Oren Whiteside, Curtis Wilborn, Denzel W. Williams, George Williams, Charles D. Wood, Edgar L. Woodard, and James S. Woods.

We, as Americans, have ample reason to be proud of these World War II veterans and the country they helped build for us today. Our economy is invigorated, our cities and communities are prospering, and our democracy is strong and secure. In these good times, we must never forget who paved the trail before us; it is precisely to forestall and combat such a happenstance that I wanted to honor American Legion Post 114.

Now, more than ever, we should recall the struggles and sacrifices of these patriots who responded to our country's need and pledged themselves to defend the causes of freedom and democracy. When dark shadows threatened to strike down that which is good, the members of post 114 rallied and brought with them grit, fortitude, and ultimately triumph. Because they exceeded the call of duty, stood in harm's way, and met each challenge without wavering: America continues to be free.

TAX LEGISLATION

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with my Ways and Means Committee colleague Mr. RANGEL, long overdue tax legislation to reform the cost recovery rules associated with leasehold improvements. Simply stated, our legislation would enable building owners to more closely match the expenses incurred to construct these improvements with the income the improvements generate under the lease.

Office, retail, or other commercial rental real estate is typically reconfigured, changed or somehow improved on a regular basis to meet the needs of new and existing tenants. Internal walls, ceilings, partitions, plumbing, lighting and finish each are elements that might be the type of improvement made within a building to accommodate a tenant's requirements, and thereby ensure that the work or shopping space is as modern, efficient, and environmentally responsible as possible.

Logically, the time period during which the costs associated with constructing leasehold

improvements are recovered, through depreciation deductions, should match the time period during which the improvement is useful. Unfortunately, today's depreciation rules do not differentiate between the economic useful life of a building improvement—which typically corresponds with a tenant's lease-term—and the life of the overall building structure. The result is that current tax law dictates a depreciable life for leasehold improvements of 39 years—the depreciable life for the entire building—even though most commercial leases typically run for a period of 7 to 10 years. Correcting this mismatch between income and expense is the goal of our legislation.

Compounding this problem is confusion in the marketplace today concerning whether a building owner may close out and deduct currently any unrecovered costs remaining at the time a leasehold improvement is destroyed. It seems almost absurd, but the current rules are in some cases being interpreted to deny the ability of a building owner to "close out" its investment for tax purposes even though the improvement has been scrapped, demolished or otherwise permanently retired from service. Theoretically, in 30 years a building owner could have had 6 different 5-year tenants, each requiring different improvements to accommodate their individual business needs. Because of the current confusion, the owner may be required to depreciate improvements that in fact no longer exist. In addition to more closely recovering the costs of the improvements with the income generated by them, this close out issue needs to be addressed.

As a result of today's flawed depreciation rules in this area, the after-tax cost of reconfiguring, or building out, office, retail, or other commercial space to accommodate new tenants or modernizing work places is artificially high. This is because building owners are unable to fully deduct the economic costs expended on leasehold improvements over the period in which the improvements actually generate income.

In addition, the current policy hinders urban reinvestment and construction job opportunities as improvements are delayed or not undertaken at all. Especially given the absence of new building construction in many markets, opportunities for the Nation's seven million construction and building trades workers in the remainder of the decade will largely be tied to the renovation and rehabilitation of existing commercial space.

Moreover, a widespread shift to more energy-efficient, environmentally sound building elements is discouraged by the current tax system because of their typically higher expense. For example, the Natural Resources Defense Council notes that commercial lighting alone consumes more than one-third of the electrical energy produced in the United States. If a greater conservation potential of energy-efficient lighting were to be realized, the demand for the equivalent of one hundred 1,000-mega-watt power plants could be eliminated, with corresponding reductions in air pollution and global warming.

To address this issue, our legislation would establish a new depreciation recovery period of 10 years for a carefully defined category of interior building improvements. In general, to qualify under the legislation the improvement must be constructed by a lessor or lessee in the tenant-occupied space. In an effort to ensure that the legislation is as cost efficient as

possible, improvements constructed in common areas of a building, such as elevators, escalators, and lobbies, would not qualify; nor would improvements made to new buildings.

Equally important, our legislation would clarify that building owners are permitted to fully deduct and close out any unrecovered leasehold improvement expenses remaining at the time a lease expires and the improvement is demolished.

Our legislation should be enacted this year. This would acknowledge the fact that improvements constructed for one tenant are rarely suitable for another, and that when a tenant leaves, the space is typically built-out all over again for a new tenant. It is important to note that prior to 1981 our tax laws allowed these improvement costs to be deducted over the life of the lease. Subsequent legislation, however, abandoned this policy as part of a move to simplify and shorten building depreciation rules in general to 15 years. Given that buildings are now required to be depreciated over 39 years, it is time to face economic reality and reinstate a separate depreciation period for building improvements to tenant occupied space.

I am pleased that several members of the Ways and Means Committee have joined me today in introducing this legislation. I urge all members of the House to review and support this important job producing, urban revitalization legislation, and I look forward to working with the Ways and Means Committee to enact this bill.

SALUTING THOMAS JOE HARRIS
OF THE WOODLANDS, TX—WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE TALENT
SEARCH FINALIST

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I will have the privilege of meeting a constituent—Thomas Joe Harris of The Woodlands, TX—who is a finalist in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search competition. At a time when too few young people use their high school years to explore the world around them, Thomas Harris is an exception—and has proven himself to be a young man of exceptional intelligence and potential.

Thomas is the son of Jeff and Aletha Harris of Falling Start Court in The Woodlands.

The Westinghouse Science Talent Search brings together the brightest, most creative science students from across the country. Each talent search hopeful is required to submit a written description of the student's research, plus a completed entry form that is designed to measure a student's creativity and interest in science.

Many of our Nation's top scientists and mathematicians share the common bond of having participated in the talent search when they were students. The 54th annual Westinghouse Science Talent Search caps more than a half century of remarkable achievements by more than 1,500 semifinalists and 2,000 finalists who have participated in this, America's most highly regarded precollege science competition.

In his science project, Thomas looked at ways to increase the population of red-

cockaded woodpeckers—an endangered species. Thomas studied the red-cockaded woodpecker's feeding habits and determined whether or not the birds would accept artificial nests in established colonies.

As a result of his innovative research, Thomas concluded that protecting the birds' specialized feeding niche in older pine forests, as well as private property owners providing artificial nests on their land, are essential for the survival of the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Thomas attends the Academy of Science and Technology in Conroe, where he is student council president and a member of the math club. Additionally, he is an environmental speaker for the Boy Scouts, and a basketball coach for the YMCA youth league.

First-place winner in a dozen science competitions, Thomas also has won the U.S. Navy Honors Academic Award and was an invited guest at the Texas Endangered Species and Wildlife Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I know you agree that Thomas Joe Harris personifies the qualities we all seek in our high school students: a thirst for knowledge, an interest in science, and an eagerness to learn new ways to solve old problems. In this age of high-technology and nonstop scientific advances, the United States will need the skills and imagination of Thomas Joe Harris—and the other Westinghouse Science Talent Search finalists—if we are to remain the most advanced nation in environmental research and other sciences. And I know you also join with me in congratulating this remarkable young man on being named a finalist in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search.

1995 YEAR OF THE VETERAN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to join the county of San Diego in honoring our Nation's veterans. The following resolution by the county of San Diego designates 1995 as the "Year of the Veteran":

Whereas, on May 8, 1995, America will observe the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war; and,

Whereas, on September 2, 1995, our Nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II; and,

Whereas, San Diego County has the highest retired military population in the state of California; and,

Whereas, San Diego County has the second largest veteran population in the Nation; and,

Whereas, the county homeless veteran population is double the national percentage, and others are at risk of becoming the "News" homeless; and,

Whereas, veterans of all eras are still facing the aftermath and reconstruction of their lives after military service; and,

Whereas, these veterans, their families, their widows and their survivors continue to be adversely affected by military downsizing, base closures, massive defense industry cutbacks; and,

Whereas, a concerted effort to assist these worthy citizens and former soldiers with decent jobs adequate housing and economic, self-empowering opportunities, will demonstrate our concern and gratitude; and,

Whereas, as the County of San Diego is committed to finding new and creative solu-

tions and programs, that provide "continuum of care" solutions to combat and reverse this national and local tragedy that has befallen our veterans: Now, Therefore, Be it

Resolved, That the County of San Diego designates 1995 as the "Year of the Veteran." We call upon our citizens, the business community, non-profit groups, service providers, our individual cities and others throughout the county to join together for the purpose of focusing on providing effective solutions to those who have not overcome the effects of their military service and still need our help.

Mr. Speaker, I submit this resolution to recognize the tremendous debt of gratitude we owe to our Nation's veterans for their valor and service to our country. Let us resolve to make 1995 not only the Year of the Veteran, but more importantly, the year we begin to make real strides toward keeping our contract with these brave men and women.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK GANDOR

HON. MARK ADAM FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to salute an exceptional member of the south Florida Polish-American community as he celebrates his 80th birthday, Mr. Frank Gandor of Lantana, FL. I would like to share with the Nation some information about this outstanding individual.

Frank Gandor was born in 1915 in Bielsko, Poland, the youngest of six children. While in the Polish Army Corps he fought the Germans in World War II and helped liberate Bologna in Italy. He was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the United States Army for his employment in the Polish Labor Service in the years following the war.

An exceptionally gifted lyric tenor, Mr. Gandor has devoted his life to music, from singing solo in the church choir at age 9 to directing the Chopin Choir of the American Polish Club for the past 10 years in Lake Worth, FL. Today the songs of his homeland and the patriotic renditions of his adopted country, these United States, are still sung with pride and vigor at the age of 80. He is an active citizen in his community and is always busy with musical and veterans activities.

Mr. Speaker, the heart of this honorable man and gifted maestro surely beats with the "Sound of Music." I am proud today to recognize Mr. Frank Gandor on his 80th birthday and the contributions he has made to his community and to America.

RESULTS OF MUNICIPAL
ELECTION IN BURLINGTON, VT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the congressional leadership is proposing

huge tax breaks for the wealthy, an increase in military spending and major cutbacks in a wide variety of programs which tens of millions of low and moderate Americans desperately need, I am happy to tell you about the results of the municipal election yesterday in Burlington, VT—the State's largest city.

Peter Clavelle, a Progressive, won the mayoral election with 5,055 votes. Peter Brownell, the Republican incumbent, came in second with 4,815 and Paul Lafayette, the Democrat, came in third with 1,793. Further, Progressives and Independents held their seats on the city council which will give the Progressives more voting power than they have ever had before.

Mr. Clavelle, in opposing the Republican and Democratic candidates, called for property tax reform and a progressive tax system which is based on ability to pay. He also called for keeping Burlington's waterfront open for all the people—not just the wealthy. He indicated that the goal of his administration would be to make government work for the average citizen—not just those who have a lot of money. Mr. Clavelle had the support of city unions, women's groups, environmentalists, and many low income citizens.

I should also mention to you that Mr. Clavelle and the Progressives did their best in the low and moderate income wards of the city. In ward 2 he received 65 percent of the vote in the 3-way race, and in ward 3 he received 58 percent of the vote. The voter turnout was also significantly higher than the 38 percent by which the Republican's won their national mandate on November 8, 1994.

While the results of this municipal election have almost everything to do with local issues and local personalities, I do believe that national politics played a role. In Burlington, VT, as in other communities across America, middle income and working people are becoming increasingly concerned about the class warfare which is going on in Washington. They want to see government represent all the people—not just big money interests. They want to see government protect the elderly, the children, women, and the poor—rather than just those who make large campaign contributions.

IN HONOR OF THE STEVENSON PATRIOTS, 1994-95 WOMENS' BASKETBALL CLASS AA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to salute the Adlai Stevenson High School Patriots Womens' Basketball Team, who last weekend won the Class AA State Championship. This is a wonderful achievement for the team, for their school, and for all the people of our area, as this is the first-ever State championship for Stevenson High and the first-ever basketball State championship for any Lake County high school.

The Patriots cruised to victory over Mother McAuley, their highly regarded opponent, by a final margin of 77 to 47. In the process, they showed why they are ranked No. 1 in the State. They jumped out to an early 12-point

lead and never let Mother McAuley come closer than 7 points throughout the game.

All of the people involved with this remarkable team have earned special recognition. We should begin with head coach Frank Mattucci and assistant coach Tom Kelly, athletic director John Martin and assistant athletic director Pete Weber, junior varsity coaches Mike Fitzgerald and Tim Tomaso, freshman coaches Trish Betthausser and Renee Gates, managers Jenny Mendigutia and Romy Rosenbaum, scorer Willis Wudtke and equipment manager Cathy Coradini.

The players who were part of the championship roster are Aarin Bartelt, Ashley Campbell, Kim Carter, Tamika Catchings and her sister, Tauja Catchings, Amy Chaness, Kelly Cole, Katie Coleman, Trish DeClark, Rebekah Ford, Noelle Medenwaldt, Christy Miller, Felice Rosenzweig, Carolyn Roth, Jamie Smith, and Jennifer Warkins.

Yes, this was a magical year for Stevenson, but there was nothing mysterious about their championship. Their team motto highlights three words that are at the heart of their winning season: pride, hustle, and dedication. In other words, they didn't win just because they had the talent—they won because they worked hard, they had the desire to succeed, and they were dedicated to one another. The Patriots have reminded us what character and teamwork are all about.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the women of the Stevenson High School Patriots, who gave their school and our area a State basketball championship and so much more. They are the pride of all Illinois and we can't wait for next season.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1119

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, last Friday I introduced H.R. 1119 to improve section 457 pensions for police officers, firefighters, and other public employees.

Currently, these public servants are not eligible for 401(k) pension plans, but may elect to contribute to employee-funded plans governed by section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code [IRC]. Unfortunately, these deferred compensation plans have been left out of many of the improvements that have been made over the years to the more well-known 401(k) plans.

My legislation will make three important improvements to 457 pension plans. First, it will index the maximum contribution amount to account for inflation. While maximum contributions to 401(k) plans are indexed for inflation, the maximum contribution for 457 plans is set at \$7,500 a year and can only be increased by Congress.

Second, H.R. 1119 will allow participants to make a one-time change in the date when benefits are received. Currently, participants must make an irrevocable, one-time decision about the exact date they want to begin receiving benefits. This decision is a difficult one, especially for police and other public safety officers, because they often retire at relatively young ages and might pursue other careers.

Third, my bill will allow plans to be cashed out if they contain less than \$3,500 and have been inactive for at least 2 years. Currently, some enroll in 457 plans and find, for one reason or another, that they cannot make payments. Maybe they have gotten married, had children or bought a home, and simply cannot afford to make the necessary contributions. For whatever reason, these accounts can lie dormant for long periods of time. Yet, plan administrators must continue to maintain records on them. My bill will allow these accounts to be cashed out and taxed at the usual rate for income.

The important changes H.R. 1119 makes to 457 plans will help public employees enrolled in these pensions contribute more to their retirement savings and better plan for their retirement years. I encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1119.

SCHODACK, NY CELEBRATES
BICENTENNIAL ON MARCH 18

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, our smaller municipalities exhibit the small-town virtues that make this country the greatest nation on Earth. I'd like to say a few words today about one of them.

The town of Schodack is celebrating its bicentennial this year. It occupies 63 square miles in a picturesque spot along the east bank of the Hudson River in the southwest corner of Rensselaer County. Indian tribes warred over the region until Dutch settlers arrived in 1630. The town of Schodack was formed on March 17, 1795. Farming spread from the river banks to the interior, and Schodack became important as a trading and shipping port. The abundant waterpower opened the door for paper factories and other industries. One of the paper mills, the Fort Orange Paper Co., is still operating today. Such industries as ice harvesting during the winter linked the town to larger metropolitan areas such as New York.

Schodack was a frequent crossroads for colonial armies, including the caravan taking captured cannon from Ticonderoga to Boston. In 1777, thousands of British prisoners captured in Saratoga were marched through Schodack to prisons in New England.

Many of the houses still standing in the town were built in the 18th century. One structure, the Staats house, has been occupied by the same family for 12 consecutive generations, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, despite the accelerating changes of 20th century life, Schodack has preserved its smalltown charm, making it a great place to live and raise families.

On March 18, town officials and residents are celebrating with a grand gala-dinner dance.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in wishing the town of Schodack all the best on this proud occasion of its bicentennial, and all the best as it enters its third century.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
LEGISLATION**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 1151 to authorize appropriations for the U.S. Coast Guard. This bill was developed by the Coast Guard and represents the Clinton administration's legislative goals and approach for the Coast Guard.

I serve as the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. Subcommittee Chairman HOWARD COBLE and I are working in a bipartisan fashion to develop a Coast Guard authorization bill that we plan to mark up in the subcommittee next week.

We will be drawing heavily from the administration's bill as we develop our own as it has many useful legislative proposals. I commend the Coast Guard and the administration for the work and thought that went into their legislation. It has been most useful to have it before us.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to salute women as we commemorate the International Women's Day. On this most special day, I would like to salute American women, including my fellow Puerto Rican women. Women of courage who are seeking better opportunities, women who refuse to be second-class citizens, women who are eager to build a new society but have been denied their opportunity.

Unfortunately, in some instances, our legal system has entrenched the subordinate status of women. These attitudes have contributed to the perpetuation of stereotypes which must be eliminated for they only contribute to all types of violence against women. On this day, I invite you to join women in their request to live in peace and to be recognized as equal citizens with equal rights to equal opportunities. Their claim is nothing more than what they deserve. This is simply an issue of human rights.

I commend the Organization of American States for its approval of a convention holding nations responsible for violence against women. I believe this groundbreaking convention should be followed by other international organizations.

This is the first convention in the world to focus exclusively on a woman's human right to be free from violence. Moreover, it is the first convention to provide a mechanism for individual women to file complaints with an international body, charging their governments with failing to protect them from violence. Although the Organization of American States has no direct enforcement power, its decisions would be intended to trigger legal and policy reforms so necessary in member states.

Today, I urge Congress to sustain our commitment to women. Today, I remind the nations of the world to continue to build a gender-respectful society.

On the threshold of the 21st century, it is imperative to recognize women's rights. Let us not forget that all men and women are created equal and they are both moral and accountable human beings.

H.R. 1058

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I voted for H.R. 1058 even though I continue to have concerns about some provisions of the bill. Because the bill has been significantly improved and moderated, I was willing to support it as a vehicle for the Senate to complete the improvements.

I oppose loser pays or the English rule and I note that the provisions in H.R. 1058 allow judges for good cause to order the loser to pay what that result would not be unjust. In fact, to some extent the language in the bill tracks language found in section 11e of the Securities Act of 1933. Nevertheless, I believe that section 20(B)(c) could be improved. I continue to have concerns about section 20(B)(c)(2) of the bill. I realize that this provision has been moderated considerably and may, in actual practice, prove to be workable. Nevertheless, it is my hope that the Senate will further revise this section so that it might substitute rule 11 on a mandated basis. I understand that existing pleadings requirements may need reform, but have concerns that the pleading language in the bill may go too far. This is one area where a more deliberative legislative process would have been extremely helpful in shedding light on what changes should be made.

My colleague, ANNA ESHOO, prepared a thoughtful amendment to the recklessness standard that was superior to the changes adopted in the bill. Nevertheless, the amendment adopted is an improvement over the original language.

Over the past year of study, I have reached the conclusion that, especially for high technology companies, there is a problem of strike lawsuits that requires remedy. While H.R. 1058 is considerably better than H.R. 10, I have concerns about some provisions as I have outlined here. Had I had the opportunity to provide meaningful input into this legislation, I would have written something different. But that luxury is not available to me.

Because I am convinced there is a problem requiring remedy, I voted for H.R. 1058. Some vehicle for reform must be passed in order to allow the Senate to act and, I hope, to correct the remaining problems that exist in this bill, when it comes before me again after the conference committee. My standard for judging the Senate's efforts will be, does this prevent abusive lawsuits while preserving the rights of legitimate victims of fraud in the securities arena?

I know that the Senate will proceed more deliberately than has the House of Representatives in reviewing this bill. It is a shame that the current processes in this body preclude more thoughtful action and consideration of laws here. It is a shame, indeed, that useful amendments offered by knowledgeable people to improve the bill have not been permitted

because of arbitrary time constraints. Had we taken the time, I am convinced we could have crafted a bill that would have attracted broad bipartisan support. I am hopeful yet that we will see a final product out of conference committee that allows for that to occur.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY MILLER, SR.

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, we have lost a good friend, the country has lost a good man, and the family of Jerry Miller, Sr., has lost a husband and father.

On Saturday, March 4, 1995, Jerry lost his fight with cancer at the age of 74 and he will be missed by all who knew him and loved him.

A lifelong resident of the community of Omaha, Jerry graduated from Creighton Prep in the class of 1939 and took with him a celebrated record as a varsity football and baseball squad member.

Jerry also served with the U.S. Navy during the Second World War and saw action in the Pacific theater before returning home to Omaha.

As founder and president of Kiess/Kraft Dental Laboratories, Inc., in Omaha, Jerry was a significant member of the community. He devoted his entire life to his business and literally ran it until he was physically unable to continue to do so. Over the years, he turned his business into one of the most respected technical dental laboratories in the country.

As a war veteran, a responsible community leader, and a man who loved his family, Jerry Miller will be sorely missed. Condolences go to his extensive family circle in the loss of this member of the Omaha community.

NOTING THE PASSING OF
BLANCHE RANGEL**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today upon learning of the passing of Mrs. Blanche Rangel, the mother of our good friend and colleague, CHARLIE RANGEL. Mrs. Rangel was called to rest on Monday, March 6, 1995, at the age of 90. Our thoughts and prayers are with CHARLIE and his family during this time of sorrow.

With the passing of this devoted human being, CHARLIE has lost a good friend and close confidant. Like many of us, his mother occupied a special place in his heart and played a very special role in his life.

Blanche Rangel was born in New York on March 20, 1904. She worked in the garment industry until 1965 and was an active member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Rangel was a person who took great pride in her family and their achievements. We can envision her joy

many years ago when her son, CHARLIE RANGEL, was elected to the United States Congress. She was a devoted mother, an affectionate grandmother and a proud great-grandmother.

Blanche Rangel was married to the late Ralph Rangel, and raised three children. Ralph Rangel, Jr. passed away in 1975. Mrs. Rangel is survived by our colleague, CHARLIE RANGEL, and a daughter, Mrs. Frances McDermott. She also leaves to mourn her passing two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Alma Rangel and Mrs. Dolores Rangel; a son-in-law, Mr. Donald McDermott; a brother, Mr. Percy Wharton; a sister, Mrs. Sylvia Curtis; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, for many years my wife, Jay, and I have enjoyed a very close friendship with CHARLIE and Alma Rangel and their family. It is out of that deep friendship that I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to CHARLIE RANGEL on this occasion.

We pray that the Rangel family will find comfort in knowing their mother has left behind a legacy of love that will endure forever.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS CAMPAIGN OF 1965

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act—perhaps the most significant piece of legislation since the adoption of the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

The Voting Rights Act has revolutionized the American political landscape. Were it not for the Voting Rights Act, the black Members of this body would be able to meet in a telephone booth—our numbers would be virtually that small. Were it not for the Voting Rights Act, all of the State legislatures and nearly all of the city and county legislative bodies in the South would still consist of white elected officials. Were it not for the Voting Rights Act, we would not have had the first black Governor elected since Reconstruction.

With all of the positive revolutionary changes brought about by the Voting Rights Act, you would think that this 30th anniversary would be celebrated in every corner of the land. But, sadly, Mr. Speaker, we have once again come to the stark realization that many people in this great country are simply opposed to America becoming a society that includes racial minorities rather than one that excludes them from full participation as citizens.

I am always amazed and puzzled by those Americans who argue persuasively and passionately on behalf of equal treatment for blacks while simultaneously supporting measures to deny the same people the opportunity for achieving equality. The drawing of race-based congressional districts, which is at the very heart of the Voting Rights Act, is a perfect example.

Last year, in a 5 to 4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that drawing congressional dis-

tricts for the purpose of giving blacks an opportunity to be elected, dilutes the votes of white citizens. In the case of *Shaw versus Reno*, the high court discounted the fact that until the drawing of two congressional districts with a majority of black voters, North Carolina had not elected a black Member to Congress since 1901. The high court ignored the fact that for over 90 years a State with 35 percent black population had deliberately created white race-based districts which diluted the voting strength of black citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this is the hypocrisy of which I speak when describing those Americans who creatively and passionately argue on behalf of equal treatment while simultaneously denying blacks the vehicle for equal opportunity.

The alternative to drawing race-based congressional districts thus making it possible for blacks to be elected, is to draw race-based districts that make it impossible for blacks to be elected.

North Carolina is not an isolated case where black people have been denied the right of legitimate representation. Until recently, every State in the union drew legislative districts at the local, State and congressional levels that were purposely designed to deny blacks fair representation. From one end of this country to the other, north, south, east and west wherever large numbers of blacks resided, districts were drawn in these cities to dilute the black vote.

From the turn of this century until the election of Oscar DePriest to Congress in 1928, being black in America meant suffering taxation without representation. This condition existed until just a few years ago. Black representation, at all levels of government, was sparse indeed.

The self-described liberal State of New York did not elect its first black to the State assembly until 1916, 53 years after the Emancipation Proclamation. California did not elect its first black to the State assembly until 1918 and Missouri followed suit in 1920. Thirty-six years later in 1956, the great State of Illinois, the land of Abraham Lincoln, elected its first black to the State legislature.

At the time of DePriest's election, major industrial cities with large concentrations of black residents like Memphis, Atlanta, New York, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Little Rock, Charleston, Charlotte, Richmond, New Orleans, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, Savannah, Birmingham, and Detroit had no elected black official.

The cities of New York and St. Louis did not elect their first blacks to their city councils until 1941 and 1943 respectively. Los Angeles did not elect its first black city councilman until 1963. It would be 17 years after DePriest's election before another black was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and not until 1966 before the first black in the 20th century was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Three events occurred that now make it possible for 41 blacks to sit in the House of Representatives and one in the United States Senate. First, the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act by Congress enabled blacks to register and vote in large numbers throughout the Southern States. Prior to this time, chicanery, trickery, fraud, intimidation, gerrymandering, and the purging of registration rolls were common techniques capriciously employed to deny black people the opportunity to vote and to

serve in elective office. For over 100 years, poll taxes, literacy tests, all white primaries, threats of bodily harm and murder kept 95 percent of the black populace from registering and voting.

Second, the 1964 Supreme Court one man, one vote, ruling required the redrawing of legislative districts at all levels of elective government, ensuring equal weight to each individual vote cast. Some States had congressional districts as large as 900,000 and others had districts as small as 180,000. This ratio meant that one vote in one district was equal to 5 in the other. This inequitable arrangement was used extensively to keep blacks from having too much voting power in a particular district.

Third, the Federal Court decision that rendered as unconstitutional the gerrymandering of districts to diminish the importance of minority voters played an important role in the dramatic increase in black elected officials in every sector of the country.

Clearly, the 1965 Voting Rights Act is the centerpiece of this triad of empowerment.

Prior to these legislative and judicial decisions, most State laws failed to give adequate protection to the rights of black voters. State officials either overtly sanctioned this injustice or gave tacit approval to those who flagrantly disregarded the rights of their minority citizens. Scandalously, these political entities were permitted by the Federal Government to operate with impunity.

Mr. Speaker, beginning in 1876, black voters were systematically reduced to non-citizens by the denial of their right to fully and freely participate in the political process. They were almost totally purged from voter lists in the eleven southern States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

This diminution of black political power eventually resulted in the virtual disfranchisement of 90 percent of the black populace. Within 20 years after 1876, 8 States enacted devastating literacy tests as a requirement for blacks to register and vote. By requiring black folk to read, understand and interpret any section of the State constitution, Mississippi was able to reduce the number of qualified black voters from over 235,000 to 5,300. The situation was identical in Alabama where the number of black voters was reduced from 187,000 to 3,000.

In some communities prominent black educators and other professionals never passed the tests. Blacks with Ph.D.'s were denied the right to register because they were unable to give a satisfactory response to such obtuse and irrelevant questions from some illiterate, ignorant white registrar as "how many bubbles are in a bar of soap?"

The Supreme Court, a majority of whom were appointed by ultra conservative ideologues, Presidents Reagan and Bush, issued an opinion in *Shaw v. Reno* which implied that blacks who constitute 10 percent of the Nation's population and less than 2 percent of the total elected officials in the country have made too much progress. Shamefully, Clarence Thomas, a Negro on the Supreme Court, voted with the majority in this 5 to 4 decision. His vote has seriously jeopardized the future of a viable, black presence among elected officials.

Of course, his action was consistent with his prior positions involving the rights of black citizens when he as Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Additionally, in his very first case as a Supreme Court Justice, Thomas displayed his contempt for the Voting Rights Act. In a critical decision interpreting the act, the court adopted a restrictive view of the law and rejected arguments presented by the Justice Department on behalf of black elected officials in two Alabama counties. The two, after being elected, were stripped of the budgetary authority traditionally and customarily accompanying the positions

by the all white county board. Judge Thomas voted with the 6-to-3 majority in sanctioning the right of districts under the Voting Rights Act to change laws, rules and regulations without prior approval of the Department of Justice.

If these cases were not bad enough, the Supreme Court now is poised to act on two additional redistricting cases involving black districts in Louisiana and Georgia. Again, they are taking aim at the very meat of the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, if blacks are to unshackle the chains of bondage that bind us to a status of

economic deprivation, decent people must counter the warped mentalities of those misfits in society whose penchants for racial fairness is flawed beyond redemption. This body should make it clear that black people have a basic right not only to participate in the affairs of government but also to govern.

Mr. Speaker, the Voting Rights Act was passed within the context of massive protests by black Americans and other Americans of good will. As we stand on the eve of its 30th anniversary, let us prepare now to meet the challenge of racist motivated proposals that would destroy all that is decent in our society.

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 Thursday, March 9, 1995, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 10

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
SD-138

Environment and Public Works
Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Assessment Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.
SD-406

Joint Economic
To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for February.
SD-562

10:00 a.m.

Finance
To continue hearings to examine welfare reform proposals, focusing on the Administration's views.
SD-215

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.

Finance
To hold hearings to examine the status of the consumer price index.
SD-215

MARCH 14

9:00 a.m.

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine proposals to reduce illegal immigration and to control financial costs to taxpayers.
SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation to strengthen and improve United States agricultural programs, focusing on wetlands and farm policy.
SR-332

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of Defense.
SD-138

Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of Energy Office of Energy Research.
SD-192

Finance
To resume hearings to examine welfare reform proposals, focusing on teen parents receiving welfare.
SD-215

10:00 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing Opportunity and Community Development Subcommittee
HUD Oversight and Structure Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine proposals to reorganize the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
SD-538

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings on the nominations of Jacquelyn L. Williams-Bridgers, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Philip C. Wilcox, Jr., of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Coordinator for Counter Terrorism, and Ray L. Caldwell, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Burdensharing, all of the Department of State.
SD-419

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine nuclear non-proliferation issues.
SD-342

Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings to examine health care reform issues in a changing marketplace.
SD-430

2:00 p.m.

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
Room to be announced

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services
Acquisition and Technology Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the technology base programs in the Department of Defense.
SR-222

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Smithsonian Institution.
SD-116

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
SD-366

Labor and Human Resources
To continue hearings to examine health care reform issues in a changing marketplace.
SD-430

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for farm and foreign agriculture services of the Department of Agriculture.
SD-138

Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of Justice.
Room to be announced

Judiciary
To hold hearings on proposed legislation to reform the Federal regulatory process.
SD-226

2:00 p.m.

Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Bonneville Power Administration.
SD-192

Select on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters.
SH-219

2:30 p.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 349, to authorize funds for the Navajo-Hopi Relocation Housing Program.
SR-485

MARCH 16

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation to strengthen and improve United States agricultural programs, focusing on taxpayers' stake in Federal farm policy.
SR-332

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine Architect of the Capitol funding authority for new projects.
SR-301

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Agency, both of the Department of Justice.
S-146, Capitol

Appropriations
Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.
SD-192

Judiciary
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
SD-226

2:00 p.m.

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of Education.
SD-192

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1996

2:00 p.m.	APPROPRIATIONS Treasury, Postal Service, General Government Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of the Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget.	APRIL 27	United States Coast Guard, Department of Transportation.
	SD-116		SD-192
	APRIL 26		MAY 5
9:30 a.m.	APPROPRIATIONS Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for energy conservation.	APPROPRIATIONS Transportation Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation.	9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for Environmental Protection Agency science programs.
	SD-116	SD-138	SD-138
		MAY 2	MAY 11
10:00 a.m.	APPROPRIATIONS Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture.	9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.	10:00 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.
	SD-138	SD-192	SD-116
		MAY 3	
APPROPRIATIONS Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Legal Services Corporation.	9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.		1:00 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.
	S-146, Capitol	SD-192	SD-116
11:00 a.m.	APPROPRIATIONS Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for fossil energy, clean coal technology, Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and the Naval Petroleum Reserve.	10:00 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of Agriculture.	
	SD-116	SD-138	MAY 17
		MAY 4	9:30 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS Interior Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the Department of the Interior.
		10:00 a.m. APPROPRIATIONS Transportation Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1996 for the	SD-192