

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELIMINATING THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage should be eliminated. Government has no business determining a person's worth in the job market. If you force a business to pay more than a person is worth, somebody else is going to be paid less than they are worth to compensate for that person's job. Worker wages should be determined by competitive market forces, not Government imposed mandates.

President Clinton's proposed 21 percent wage hike represents a powerful blow to the low skilled and young wage earners of America—the bulk of the minimum wage population. Legislation to raise the minimum wage is no answer to poverty. Instead, it will increase poverty. Economists agree that raising the minimum wage would instantly eliminate tens of thousands of jobs. The minimum wage is a tax on labor and, more importantly, a tax on hiring.

Increasing the cost of labor and hiring makes it difficult for small businesses—the engine for job creation—to hire new workers. The minimum wage slams shut the window of opportunity. It denies thousands of potential young, low-skilled workers the opportunity to better themselves and contribute to their communities.

Government exists to serve the needs of the people. A federally imposed minimum wage increase works against the needs of American workers and small businesses—shrinking the job base while raising costs. Our economy functions best when left alone, not when meddled with by Government bureaucrats.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1360— KOSOVA PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1995

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, recent events in Bosnia have demonstrated how little regard the Serbs have for the views of the international community. Their complete disregard for the mandates and requirements of the U.N. Security Council, and indeed for the norms of civilized behavior as they carry out their plan for an ethnically cleansed Greater Serbia raises concern for the region of Kosova with its population of nearly 2 million ethnic Albanians.

Prior to 1989, under the constitutional arrangements of the former Yugoslavia Kosova enjoyed an autonomous status in which the Albanian majority enjoyed many of the fruits of self-government. Public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and the police were con-

trolled by the local population. In 1989, however, as Serbian President Milosevic sought to consolidate his grasp on power he exploited ancient Serbian sensitivities on the status of Kosova as an excuse for annulling Kosova's autonomous status by illegally altering the Yugoslav Constitution, and subsequently replacing Albanian personnel in the educational, health, and law enforcement systems in Kosova with Serbs.

Almost 2 years ago, Serbian authorities refused to renew visas for a team of CSCE monitors that had been dispatched to Kosova to keep an eye on human rights abuses committed by the Serbian authorities. The Serbs have remained intransigent in refusing to grant visas for human rights monitors despite urgent appeals from the United States and most members of the European Union and other concerned countries. They have also refused to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 855 which required Serbia to permit international human rights monitors into Kosova. Since the departure of international monitors last summer human rights abuses have nearly doubled, according to reports from the Kosovar Albanian community, with a number of its leading personalities driven into exile for fear for their lives.

Accordingly, on behalf of the gentlemen and gentelady from New York, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MOLINARI and Mr. KING, the gentleman from California, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, I am today introducing H.R. 1360, entitled the "Kosova Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Act of 1995." This bill links lifting of the U.N. economic sanctions against Serbia—to a resolution of the deplorable human rights situation in Kosova, and requests the administration to submit a report within 60 days of enactment on its recommendations on ways to implement international protection for the rights of the majority of the Kosovar population. In so doing, I do not believe that this is an issue in which the United States should seek to act alone. We should consult with our allies in Europe and with other members of the Security Council because this is an issue in which they too have an important stake. I do hope that this measure will help to focus the administration on the issue of Kosova as it seeks to bring the conflict in Bosnia to conclusion. I do not believe that ignoring or omitting the situation in Kosova, wherein millions of people are daily subject to harsh and brutal denial of the most basic and fundamental human rights, will contribute to long-term stability in the Balkans.

I want to acknowledge with deep appreciation the role of my colleagues, Mr. ENGEL and Ms. MOLINARI, cofounders of the Albanian Issues Caucus, who have done so much to keep the issue of Kosova before the Congress and the American people. This bill reflects their efforts, and support for the rights of the citizens of Kosova, and I am pleased to be able to introduce this measure on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby request that the full text of H.R. 1360, the Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995, be included at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 1360

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1946, and the amended Constitution of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1974, described the status of Kosova as one of the eight constituent territorial units of the Yugoslav Federation.

(2) The political rights of the Albanian majority in Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugoslavia illegally amended the Constitution of Yugoslavia without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking the autonomous status of Kosova.

(3) In 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia.

(4) In September 1990, a referendum on the question of independence for Kosova was held in which 87 percent of those eligible to participate voted and 99 percent of those voting supported independence for Kosova.

(5) In May 1992, a Kosovar national parliament was elected and Dr. Ibrahim Rugova was overwhelmingly elected President of the Republic of Kosova.

(6) The Parliament and Government of Kosova were not permitted to assemble in Kosova.

(7) Credible reports of Serbian "ethnic cleansing" in Kosova have been received by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, and in January 1995, Serbia announced a new policy to colonize Albanian land in Kosova.

(8) Over 100,000 ethnic Albanians in government, police, the judiciary, enterprises, media, educational institutions, and hospitals of Kosova have been removed from their jobs and replaced by Serbians.

(9) The government in Belgrade has severely restricted the access of ethnic Albanians in Kosova to all levels of education, especially education in the Albanian language, solely on the basis of their ethnicity.

(10) Reports of arrests and brutal beatings by the mostly Servian police, sometimes leading to the death of ethnic Albanians in Kosova for expressing views in opposition to Servian authorities, are received almost daily.

(11) Observers of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe dispatched to Kosova in 1991 were expelled by the government in Belgrade in July 1993.

(12) The Government of Serbia has ignored United Nations Security Council Resolution 855 of August 1993, which calls upon Belgrade to allow the continuation of the mission of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to guarantee the safety of and unimpeded access for monitors of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

(13) Following the departure of such observers, several international human rights

• 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.

organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch-Helsinki, and the Helsinki Federation for Human Rights have documented an increase in humanitarian abuses in Kosova.

(14) Congress provided for the opening of United States Information Agency cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova, in section 223 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993, but the Department of State has asserted that security conditions have prevented the establishment of such center.

(15) The President has explicitly warned the Government of Serbia that the United States is prepared to respond in the event of escalated conflict in Kosova caused by Serbia.

(16) On January 4, 1994, President Clinton stated, "there are a large number of issues, including Kosova, that I believe must be addressed before Belgrade should be freed of United Nations sanctions and able to return to the international community. . . . As before, our decision of whether to support suspension of any sanctions will be made in close consultation with Congress."

(17) On February 15, 1994, President Clinton announced, without prior consultation with the Congress, a set of conditions, not including improvements in Kosova, which, if met by Serbia and Montenegro, would result in the lifting of international sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

SEC. 3. POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) the situation in Kosova must be resolved before Belgrade is freed of international sanctions and is able to return to the international community;

(2) the right of the people of Kosova to govern themselves and to establish a separate identity for Kosova must not be denied;

(3) international observers should be returned to Kosova;

(4) the elected Government of Kosova should be permitted to meet and exercise its legitimate mandate as elected representatives of the people of Kosova;

(5) all individuals whose employment was terminated on the basis of their ethnicity should be reinstated to their previous positions; and

(6) the education system in Kosova should be reopened to all residents of Kosova regardless of ethnicity and the majority ethnic Albanian population should be allowed to educate its youth in its native tongue.

SEC. 4. RESTRICTIONS ON THE TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO UNTIL CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET.

(a) RESTRICTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no sanction, prohibition, or requirement described in section 1511 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103-160), with respect to Serbia or Montenegro, may cease to be effective, unless—

(1) the President first submits to the Congress a certification described in subsection (b); and

(2) the requirements of section 1511 of that Act are met.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in this subsection is a certification that—

(1) there is substantial progress toward—

(A) the realization of a separate identity for Kosova and the right of the people of Kosova to govern themselves; or

(B) the creation of an international protectorate for Kosova;

(2) there is substantial improvement in the human rights situation in Kosova,

(3) international human rights observers are allowed to return to Kosova; and

(4) the elected government of Kosova is permitted to meet and carry out its legitimate mandate as elected representatives of the people of Kosova.

SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prepare and transmit to the Congress a report on—

(1) the situation in Kosova, including the manner in which the policies of Serbia have affected the economic, social, and cultural rights of the majority in Kosova;

(2) measures to provide humanitarian assistance to the population of Kosova and to Kosovar refugees who have fled Kosova, including the impact of United States sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro upon the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Kosova;

(3) recommendations (taking into account the views of other United Nations Security Council members and the European Union) on what modalities may be pursued, including the possibility of establishing an international protectorate for Kosova together with other members of the United Nations Security Council and the European Union, to implement international protection of the rights of the people of Kosova, reestablish an international presence in Kosova to monitor more effectively the situation in Kosova, and secure for the people of Kosova their right to democratic self-government;

(4) the current status of United States efforts to establish a United States Information Agency cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova, as provided in section 223 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993, specifying the security conditions and any other factors preventing establishment of such center; and

(5) the presence of United States officials in Kosova, prior to establishment of a United States Information Agency cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova, including the number, frequency, and duration of visits of personnel of the United States Embassy in Belgrade to Kosova during the 12-month period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful organization within my congressional district that is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The Human Development Commission has been ably led since 1979 by its executive director, Mary Ann Vandemark, whom I have had the privilege to know for a number of years. The work that HDC performs for the people of Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and Tuscola counties is most important, and the public support for HDC is a sincere testimony to the organization's worth.

HDC evolved from the Thumb Area Economic Opportunity Commission, which was created when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1965. A full-color photograph of that historic signing hangs today in HDC's board room, and it has witnessed many decisions which have served to help those in need in Michigan's Thumb area. Among the effects of those decisions were the local creation of Head Start, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, and Family Coun-

seling Programs. Today, HDC serves its population with over 40 programs, ranging from Assault Crisis Intervention to weatherization services, and is a leading member of the National Community Action network of nearly 1,000 agencies.

The Human Development Commission has faithfully served Michigan's Thumb area for 30 years, providing employment for thousands of area citizens, hundreds of whom have come from low-income categories, and has returned millions of dollars to its local communities through housing rehabilitation and construction, through food and nutrition services, and through dozens of services extended to the aging population.

HDC has been guided by the watchful, skilled, and sightful eyes of chairman LeeRoy Clark, a 30-year board member, commissioner Robert (Bob) Russell, a 30-year board member, executive director Mary Ann Vandemark, current president of the National Association of Community Action Agencies, and dozens of able board and advisory council members. HDC has consistently brought together government, business, and social segments of society for the purpose of creating new and ever more effective service delivery networks.

I am proud and honored to count the people of the Human Development Commission among the large number of Americans who make a positive difference in this country. Let us pay tribute to the Human Development Commission on its 30th anniversary, recognize its outstanding work on behalf of all people, and encourage its efforts to be extended well into the future.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. W.
FRANKLYN RICHARDSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor today a man of vision and commitment, the Reverend W. Franklyn Richardson.

April 1995 marks 20 years since Reverend Richardson became pastor of historic Grace Baptist Church which is located in my district in Mount Vernon, NY. Grace Baptist Church, the largest church in Westchester County, has some 3,000 parishioners and in addition conducts a comprehensive outreach ministry to the surrounding community.

Under Reverend Richardson's leadership, the congregation is involved in numerous programs and activities, such as providing food and clothing for the needy; ministering persons in prison, the sick and shut-in, senior citizens, the homeless and others; hosting a Christmas celebration and other programs for homeless and less privileged children; and sponsoring cultural and educational workshops and special events. Furthermore, Reverend Richardson led the congregation in the completion of a \$4.2 million restoration and expansion of the church facilities; and recently initiated the construction of an \$11 million 100-unit housing facility in Mount Vernon for senior citizens called Grace House.

And while he has cared for his flock in Mount Vernon, Dr. Richardson has also been

a leader on the national and international level. For the past 12 years Dr. Richardson served as the general secretary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc. He was elected to this prestigious office in September 1982. The National Baptist Convention consists of more than 30,000 churches and 8 million Baptist members across the country. He is also a member of the general council of the Baptist World Alliance. In May 1983, he was elected to the governing board of the National Council of Churches representing more than 400 million Christians from 150 countries.

As a world-renowned minister, Dr. Richardson has preached and travelled extensively on six continents, including Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America. In February 1980, Dr. Richardson was selected as a member of the 1980 preaching team of the foreign mission board of countries on the continent of Africa. Since 1982, he has served as the L.G. Jordan lecturer in the laymen's department of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. In addition, he has crossed the nation and the world speaking at churches, conventions, colleges and universities.

I am personally honored to join with Reverend Richardson's parishioners, family, friends and neighbors in this 20th anniversary celebration.

FISCAL YEAR 1996 BUDGET

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 30, 1995, I had the opportunity to testify before the House Committee on the Budget. The following is the text of my testimony.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN MIKE WARD BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, MARCH 30, 1995

Mr. Chairman: Thank you for allowing me to share my views on the fiscal year 1996 budget submitted to Congress by President Clinton. My statement will reflect my firm belief that the well-being of our children should be a national priority.

Specifically, I call your attention to Head Start, child nutrition programs, the Consolidated Child Care block grant, and the Vaccines for Children Program. The fiscal year 1996 budget presented by President Clinton calls for moderate increases in these programs. Head Start funding will go from \$3.535 billion to \$3.935 billion. Funding for child nutrition programs would be \$8.06 billion in 1996, an increase from \$7.7 billion this year. The block grant would increase from \$949 million to \$1.094 billion and \$845 million is proposed for the vaccine program.

I believe these levels of funding are entirely appropriate because these programs work. Furthermore, educating and nurturing our children, preventing disease through immunization, and providing quality child care are critical to assuring the health and welfare of our young people. We must not let our commitment to our future be lost in the frenzy to cut the budget. Focusing our attention on these goals, in my view, will ensure the prosperity of America for years to come.

In closing, I am very proud to represent Louisville and Jefferson County, KY. Taking care of the needs of the children in our community has always been a serious concern of our elected leaders like Louisville Mayor

Jerry Abramson and Jefferson County Judge/Executive David Armstrong.

Also, many of our citizens like Libby Grever, executive director of Community Coordinated Child Care, and Dr. Rice Leach, commissioner of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department for Health Services, have worked for years on behalf of our children. Dr. Leach, for example, is currently working to immunize all of Kentucky's children. I know that each of them joins me in urging your most thoughtful consideration of these concerns.

Chairman Kasich and Ranking Member Sabo, I appreciate your courtesy and time.

OUR VETERANS DESERVE NO LESS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in support of the concept of Medicare subvention, found in H.R. 580 and H.R. 861. These two bills would let military retirees and veterans use their Medicare benefits at military or VA hospitals.

I take great interest in this legislation because the concepts contained in H.R. 861 originated in my hometown—with Col. Walter D. Mikulich, Maj. Edward H. Townsend, and Lt. Col. George R. Smith, in the San Diego military retiree and veteran health care study group.

Military health care facilities can actually treat older military retirees for less than Medicare pays civilian providers, but cannot afford to enroll Medicare-eligible retirees unless Congress changes the law to allow reimbursement from Medicare. So, older military retirees are now limited to using Medicare in the civilian community at a higher cost to everyone—Medicare, taxpayers, and beneficiaries. Those who do use military facilities lose the Medicare benefit they deserve.

The exclusion of retired personnel from the military health care system undermines the long-term interest of our country. A crucial aspect of personnel readiness is maintaining strong incentives for high-quality personnel to continue to serve full military careers. Offers of lifetime health care benefits are one of the primary incentives that induced many current retired members to serve military careers that often spanned two or three wars. Now, they are upset at the broken promise—and the prospect of no coverage but Medicare, at a time when reductions in Medicare benefits are on the congressional table.

Another consideration is the recruitment and retention of quality medical personnel at our military hospitals. Professional advancement means that medical personnel must see and treat a wide range of patients with a broad spectrum of medical problems. Medicare-eligible retirees would provide that clinical experience.

Medicare subvention is an idea that makes sense for everyone. Older retirees have earned military health care through decades of selfless service to this great country. It is time for us to keep our promise to our veterans and provide them access to the VA and military health care facilities of their choice.

“TO AMEND” MEANS “TO IMPROVE”

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, my law school classmate, Prof. George Anastaplo, writes an interesting piece on the balanced budget amendment and on term limits, the latter of which comes to the floor this week. I submit his paper:

“TO AMEND” MEANS “TO IMPROVE”

(By George Anastaplo)

The considerable talk we hear these days of a balanced-budget amendment and of a legislative term-limitation amendment poses challenges to constitutional scholars respectful of the integrity of the Constitution. Both amendments would probably be troublesome if ratified: the first (an exercise in constitutional frivolity) because it is not likely to work; the second because it is likely to work, thereby crippling the Government of the United States. It does not help matters that the principal balanced-budget proposal currently before the Congress contains language that invites confusion and litigation, language that is singularly unfelicitous for permanent enshrinement in the Constitution.

Those who recognize how a balanced-budget amendment could readily be circumvented by both legislatures and executives suggest other ways of accomplishing such an amendment's purposes. One response is that a limitation be placed upon the amount of taxation that is permitted annually. But circumvention is likely there also, as may be seen in how State governments have had to work their way around such limitations. In fact, no mechanical rule or formula can take the place in such matters of political judgment on the part of both the people and their government, if there is to be sound guidance of the economy in varying circumstances. Such guidance depends upon sensible assessments not only of the causes and consequences of deficits but also of the costs, consequences, and desirability of balancing the national budget at any particular time. Here, as elsewhere, myths and misinformation have to be reckoned with. Many of these questions about economic and fiscal policies are better addressed directly and preferably by legislatures as circumstances change. A curious aspect of the balanced-budget situation today is that two-thirds of each House of Congress would vote for an amendment that might some day require a balanced budget, while at the same time one-half of each House could vote for a balanced budget during this session of Congress.

Those who recognize that term limitations for legislators can truly be crippling look to other remedies to deal with what they conceive to be the underlying problems. One set of remedies has to do with changes that could reduce the advantages of incumbency, including severe limitations upon political contributions and campaign expenditures. (A reconsideration by the United States Supreme Court of its unfortunate First Amendment rulings with respect to these matters should be encouraged.) Most of these remedies, too, are more appropriate for legislation than for constitutional amendments, especially since experiments and revisions are apt to be needed.

It is often said that those who hold legislative offices today are virtually impossible to defeat. But this is not, as many seem to believe, because incumbents are immune from

public scrutiny and control. On the contrary, incumbents these days tend to be very sensitive, perhaps unduly so, to the opinions of their constituents. Indicative of what has long been happening is the fact that incumbents do say quite different things on the issues of the day, depending on precisely where they are from and what electorate they rely upon. Public opinion polling makes it easier for each incumbent to tailor his words and deeds to the opinions and immediate desires of his constituents. Would Members of Congress who know they can be there for only a few more years once they "learn the ropes" be inclined to devote themselves to their demanding duties, unconcerned about preparing the way for their subsequent career?

It is likely, in any event, that most if not all of the constitutional amending being agitated these days (including the line-item veto) would be much better dealt with through legislation that can be readily adjusted and, if need be, improved or even repealed as circumstances change.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE "BOOMER"
BUCK

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, April 8, 1995 will be a very special day for the State of Michigan and for the city of Taylor. On that day, tribute will be paid to a great patriot and a great friend to the veterans in Michigan, Wayne "Boomer" Buck.

Boomer has served since June of 1994 as the State commander of the Michigan Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars. In that capacity, he has worked tirelessly to provide vigorous leadership to support the department's member posts, and guide their commanders. As the State commander, he has been responsible for the administration of a department with 88,000 members, comprised of veterans of all conflicts from World War I to the present.

Wayne Buck was born and raised in Michigan. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1956, and served aboard a 7th Fleet destroyer in the South China Sea during a period of high tension in that part of the world. For that, he was awarded the China Service Ribbon. He returned to duty in the United States in 1957 and was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1962.

Boomer has been active in the VFW since joining the Walter J. Smith Post 511 in New Britain, CT, in 1966. He became a life member of the VFW in 1970. While living in Connecticut, he served as an active member of his home post as well as on committees at the district and department level.

After returning to his home State of Michigan, Boomer served as an officer and commander of Post 9283 in Southgate, achieving recognition as All State Commander in 1983. He later served in a district office, and was elected district four commander in 1987. His exceptional performance led to recognition as outstanding district commander that year. He later served as POW/MIA department chairman for Michigan, as Michigan vice commander, and became Michigan department commander in June, 1994.

Mr. Speaker, my friend Wayne "Boomer" Buck has devoted his life to service of his

country and those who have worn its uniform. He has done so with energy, integrity and skill. It is with pride that I commend him to you with the highest praise I can render: "Citizen, Patriot, Friend."

TRIBUTE TO SKIP CIOFFI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 1, 1995, Mr. Henry R. "Skip" Cioffi will be honored by the Figli Colombo, Sons of Columbus, in a testimonial dinner at Mike Doolan's Restaurant in Spring Lake Heights, NJ. It is a great honor and privilege to pay tribute to this special man and good friend who played an important role in helping me get my start in politics.

Mr. Cioffi is probably best known as the mayor of Long Branch, NJ, my hometown. He was first elected mayor in 1970, after having served as a city councilman since 1962. He was subsequently reelected to 4-year terms in 1974 and 1978. His 12 years as mayor stand as the longest tenure of any directly elected mayor in the history of Long Branch. Mayor Cioffi's record is an impressive and distinguished one. During his tenure, Ocean Boulevard was initiated, the police department was reorganized, and taxes were stabilized. His vision led to creation of the Monmouth County Park System's Seven Presidents Park, the preservation of valuable ocean-front acreage, restoration of the boardwalk, and the construction of a satellite facility for Brookdale Community College in downtown Long Branch.

Mr. Speaker, Skip Cioffi's life story reads like a great American success story. Mr. Cioffi grew up in Monmouth County, attended the Lyceum in Long Branch and Red Bank Catholic High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after high school, and served for 39 months before being honorably discharged in December 1952. He has received degrees from Monmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance. He has spent his entire career in public service. In addition to his elected offices in Long Branch, he served as business administrator of the public schools systems in Eatontown, NJ, and Elizabeth, NJ. In 1961 he married Jean A. DeStafano, and they have four children, Michael, Gina, Danielle, and Skip, Jr. His daughter Gina did a great job during the 6 years she served as executive assistant in my Capitol Hill office.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to my friend Skip Cioffi. I join with the members of Figli Colombo in congratulating him on his wonderful and exemplary career in public service.

TERM LIMITS

HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a historic day. For the first time in history, the House of Representatives debated and voted

on term limits for its Members. I have and continue to be a strong supporter of term limits. Term limits would help to deter Members from acting in a career-oriented, self interested manner and would promote decisions for the public good. In short, term limits would make legislators more responsive to the people.

The support for term limits has been demonstrated by the 22 State term limits initiatives and polls showing 70 percent or more approval by the public. My State of Colorado was the first State to enact limits in 1990 with a 12-year limit and in 1994 with a 6-year House limit.

Four versions of term limits were offered yesterday. In the end, it was the Colorado law that I voted in favor of. I voted against the Dingell-Peterson 12-12 years amendment because it was retroactive, which has been rejected by States, and also because it would supersede all State term limit laws. I voted in favor of the Inglis 6-12 years amendment because it was the same as the Colorado provision, 6 years for House Members and 12 years for Senators. I also voted in favor of the Van Hilleary 12-12 years amendment because it would not supersede any State term limit law. This amendment would have kept the Colorado term limit law in place. I voted against the McCollum 12-12 years version because it would have superseded all other State term limit laws.

I believe the voters of Colorado who voted for 6 years in the House and 12 years in the Senate know best. The Federal Government should respect the desires of each State. The McCollum amendment was flawed because it would have nullified all other State limits. If either the Inglis or Hilleary amendments had made it to final passage I would have enthusiastically voted yes. In my view, they were the only acceptable term limits proposals the House debated.

CAPT. ROBERT PEARSON: A TRUE
CREDIT TO THE BADGE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Capt. Robert Pearson, the third district commander of the Michigan State Police, as he retires after more than 23 years of service to the people of Michigan as a member of the Michigan Department of State Police. His devotion to duty, care for the officers he commands, and attention to the needs and concerns of the people of Michigan who called upon him during his time as a member of the department have earned him the thanks and true respect of those whose lives he touched during a most memorable career.

Robert Pearson was born in Waverly, TN, and came to Michigan as a young boy. He attended both Ferris State University and Delta College, while serving as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps for 2½ years between enrollments. He is a Vietnam veteran, having admirably served his country and earning a Presidential Unit Citation and a National Defense award.

He joined the State police in February 1972. Following graduation he was posted at Jackson, Detroit, Flint, Northville, and finally Saginaw since April 30, 1989. Just as so many police officers do, his watchful eyes may have helped protect many of us as we traveled through Michigan during his exemplary career.

I have the pleasure and the privilege of personally knowing Captain Pearson. If any of you want to find an outstanding role model for our children, look at Robert Pearson. If you need to know what it means to be devoted to public service, look at Robert Pearson. It is no wonder that a man of his skills and purpose has served on numerous departmental boards and committees, has been sought out by colleagues and law enforcement agencies to serve on their boards and committees, and has won an award from the Michigan State Safety Commission for developing and overseeing the C.Z.A.R.—Construction Zone Accident Reduction Program.

His dedication to his profession is exceeded only by his commitment to family, including his wife Phyllis, and son Jason. Despite his very demanding schedule, he still has made the time to be a very active member of St. Luke C.M.E. Church, and a Prince hall Mason for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Captain Pearson the very best on his retirement. As he is joined by friends and colleagues who will honor him at a dinner this Saturday, let this man of distinction know that his career has earned him the gratitude of the people of Michigan that he so richly deserves.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST,
ALASKA WINNER

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, with pride and honor I acknowledge Walter McInnis, of Eagle River, AK, for his accomplishment of first place in the 1995 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy Broadcast Script-Writing Contest of the State of Alaska. Mr. McInnis will receive \$1,000 in scholarship funds to apply toward his collegiate education.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program was started 48 years ago with the endorsement of the U.S. Office of Education and National Association of Broadcaster, Electronic Industries Association, and State Association of Broadcasters. Over the past 35 years the number of annual national scholarships has risen to 47 totaling \$109,000 with a \$20,000 scholarship to the school of choice going to the first place winner.

Mr. McInnis, a junior at Chugiak High School, has not decided on where he would like to attend college. He plans on pursuing a career in law. His list of achievements include the American Legion's Scholastic Achievement Award and first and second year outstanding and honor cadet in the National Junior ROTC Unit.

It pleases me to enter Mr. McInnis' winning essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

(By Walter McInnis)

My vision for America.

I see a place where Constitutional rights are more than just words on paper, written long ago in an age of idealism. Foremost among these rights must be education. Quality education, which sees to it that the Nation's youth are ready to assume the responsibilities of their parents.

I see a place where certain Constitutional guarantees are unnecessary. A place where discrimination on the basis of race, sex, or religion is not only unconstitutional, but unthinkable.

I see an America whose citizens understand that "honor" and "duty" are more than just clichés that sound good; that they are what sets leaders apart from followers. I see a nation willing to pay the price of being a world leader; willing to pay for a strong national defense, and I see a nation willing to use its strength to stand up for what's honorable. Because being a leader has nothing to do with making the easy decisions, or even the popular decisions; it's being able to make choices based on nothing more than "they're the right thing to do."

I see a nation that has all but eliminated crime through the equal application of mercy and justice. A society that understands that to be merciful without justice is foolish, and to be just without mercy is tyrannous. A society that rewards sympathy only to those who are repentant, instead of those with the most excuses.

I see a nation who has come to the realization that resource management isn't such a difficult and confounding thing after all. For in the interest of development now and in the future, conservation is vital. A nation that also realizes conserving a resource is pointless if not to develop that resource for later generations.

I see a nation that readily assumes responsibility. Because personal accountability is critical to success in all areas of life; from basic person to person honesty all the way to a national, political level.

I see a people who have risen above a cynical derision of their government. I see a citizenry who have balanced their democratic duty to critique their government, with a respect for the same. After all if the voters are not responsible for their government, then who is?

I see a people who also remember to respect their children and senior citizens. Senior citizens have made the sacrifices to get the country in the leadership role it now enjoys; and the leaders of today must realize that they do not own the country, but instead are holding it in trust for the generations to come.

In conclusion, I envision America continuing its prominent role in world affairs. America must also continue to set the example for personal freedom and equality. It is crucial that the country reassume dominance in education, second best simply isn't good enough. Respect and responsibility must be the axioms which the country strives toward because a leader who does not respect other's opinions, and does not accept responsibility for his actions, does not deserve to be a leader.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAL MINE
HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act went into effect. In this era of regulatory moratoria, of

reducing Federal regulations, and of risk assessments being applied to the rulemaking process, this act stands as a shining example of the overwhelming benefits to society of Federal regulation and oversight.

During November 1968, 78 coal miners lie trapped deep beneath the Earth in a mine near Farmington, WV. For the first time the average American witnessed a coal mine disaster as television coverage beamed this devastating incident across the Nation. They saw the horror, the sheer terror, on the faces of the wives and children, and of the fellow workers, of those coal miners. The reaction of the American people was swift, and it was clearly stated. Within 1 year Congress enacted the landmark Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, for the first time applying a Federal occupational safety law to a specific industry.

More than 250 coal miners on average perished annually while on the job during the 3-year period prior to passage of the 1969 act. Over the last 3 years, the average number of coal miner fatalities has totaled fewer than 50. This achievement was made without a loss of industry productivity, or for that matter, profit.

Mary 'Mother' Jones, the union activist, after seeing the plight of coal miners in West Virginia during the earlier part of this century once exclaimed: "When I get to Heaven I am going to tell God Almighty about West Virginia!" The good Lord must have listened. Entering this century as the most dangerous industry in the Nation, the coal industry is ending it as one of the most improved, and again, without sacrificing productivity.

But much more remains to be done. The improvements made since 1969 offers little solace to the families of the 44 coal miners who perished in 1994. They offer little consolidation to the many coal miners who today suffer from the crippling affects of black lung disease.

And so I say to my colleagues, take care in what we do when considering changes to our Nation's safety laws. Take care that what we wrought today, does not come back to haunt us in the future.

UNJUSTIFIED GIVEAWAY TO THE
OIL INDUSTRY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just when you might have thought you had heard it all about the limitless greed of the special interests for more subsidies and favors, along comes the oil and gas industry, belying up to the bar for a few more billion from taxpayers.

This time, it's called a royalty holiday: For-giving oil companies from paying royalties to taxpayers—who own the oil and gas—in cases where the lease is in deep water.

Now, you would logically assume that, absent some enticement or tax break, industry would be unwilling to sink an offshore well in deep water, thereby necessitating the royalty holiday to encourage exploration in otherwise unattractive areas. But you would be wrong. Indeed, the industry press is replete with reports of growing interest and activity by industry in deep water areas.

According to a March 13, 1995, article in the "Oil and Gas Journal," written by senior editor A.D. Koen, "Improved economics, better technology, and growing experience are converging in the Gulf of Mexico's ultradeep water areas to fuel a new era of U.S. offshore development." The author describes the factors contributing to this surge in Outer Continental Shelf [OCS] development: "Companies taking the plunge into deeper water credit better economics with providing the impetus to begin exploiting discoveries. Lower finding, development, and production costs make some of the gulf's larger reservoirs in very deep water competitive with many other offshore prospects, United States or non-United States in any water depth."

Deep water reserves in the gulf are providing to be larger and more profitable than originally projected. According to a December 7, 1994, New York Times article, deep water reserves are thought to hold 50 percent more oil than the giant Prudhoe Bay fields in Alaska, as much as 15 billion barrels.

In the November 21, 1994, issue of Forbes magazine, Shell and British Petroleum officials stated that they could develop the first 500 million barrels from the 2,933-foot deep MARS field in the gulf at a cost of only \$3 per barrel. Thus, even though the deep water fields are expensive, they are large enough that the per barrel production cost is exceedingly low, generating plenty of profit and reducing any justification for royalty relief or tax breaks.

Moreover, the technology is constantly improving, as noted in the Wall Street Journal on January 25, 1995: "Industry executives believe tension leg-platforms can be affordable in water as deep as 6,000 feet."

As a result of these disclosures, it was with some consternation that I read in the March 24, 1995, edition of The Energy Daily that some congressional leaders and some officials in the administration are supporting a proposal to reduce substantially royalties owed on deep water oil and gas leases on public lands in the Gulf of Mexico.

The new legislative proposal, S. 158, would provide a royalty holiday for producers that drill in deep waters in order to "revitalize the domestic oil and gas industry." Under this ill-conceived scheme, the U.S. Department of the Interior would forgive all royalty payments owed to the Federal taxpayer until all drilling expenses have been recovered.

This royalty relief, in addition to the extremely favorable tax treatment the oil and gas industry already enjoys, would make for a very generous gift during a time of fiscal constraint. According to a Congressional Research Service analysis provided to the Natural Resources Committee last year, the current effective tax rate for oil and gas companies is 17 percent, and independent oil and gas producers are estimated to enjoy an effective tax rate of zero, due to the benefits of depreciation, depletion allowance, alternative minimum tax, and other tax credits which the industry is allowed under current law.

Last week, many of us in this House were shocked when we heard Republican Members use animal analogies to justify cutting off aid to poor- and middle-class families. Not only were these arguments offensive, they highlight the hypocrisy in the Republican approach to Government.

If the majority truly want to end the cycle of dependence, why not do so for the richest in our society, not just for the poorest? Why, at a time when working people are increasingly living on the economic edge, do we need to give multibillion dollar tax breaks to multinational energy conglomerates to do what they are already doing: drilling for oil?

And, never satisfied with a limited corporate tax break when a bigger one will do, some in Congress now are planning to expand the unneeded royalty relief to environmentally important waters in Alaska.

The American people are not interested in cutting social welfare programs in order to pay for corporate welfare. They are justifiably tiring of high-priced lobbyists securing lucrative tax breaks and special treatment from the Republican leadership while those too young, too poor, or too weak are told they must sacrifice more.

The oil industry is already proceeding with and profiting from deep water development without additional royalty relief. We shouldn't be bribing them to do what they are doing already.

The royalty holiday is a paid vacation for the oil industry, and a bad deal for the taxpayer.

TRIBUTE TO COL. HENRY E.
STRICKLAND

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to Col. Henry E. Strickland, a distinguished gentleman from Fairfax County in Virginia's 11th Congressional District. He will be honored by the Fairfax County Planning Commission on April 1, 1995. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Hank moved to Fairfax County after a distinguished career in the U.S. Army.

Hank Strickland recently retired from the Fairfax County Planning Commission after service since April 1989. Under his tenure the county planning commission replanned much of Fairfax County's high growth corridors, including the Route 28 corridor, Tyson's Corner, and Reston Town Center.

More importantly, as the Mason district member of the planning commission, Hank helped in the revitalization of the Baileys Crossroads area, and worked with numerous civic associations to prevent commercial encroachment into the long established residential neighborhoods. Neighborhoods from Sleepy Hollow to Glen Forest have worked with Hank in their efforts to balance the need for an expanded commercial base with their needs to preserve their residential quality of life.

In addition to serving on the planning commission Hank served as chairman of the Mason District Council, president of the Sleepy Hollow Civic Association, and former chairman of the Mason District Land Use Task

Force. His wife Muriel, is also active in civic affairs, and has been a strong influence and source of support for Hank.

As well as a civic leader, Hank is a respected public servant who works well with all sides on an issue to build consensus where possible, and insuring that both sides are heard prior to a decision. His leadership, knowledge, and experience will be missed, but I know my colleagues join me in encouraging Hank to continue his civic involvement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. APRIL
GENTES

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations on behalf of the U.S. Congress to Ms. April Gentes, a resident of Rumford, RI who is a senior at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, MA.

Ms. Gentes has been named a national winner in the 1995 Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of a National Veterans of Foreign Wars Scholarship Award. This distinguished program began 48 years ago and, this year, had 125,000 participants competing for 47 annual scholarships nationwide with the submission of an essay on the subject of "My Vision for America."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to present Ms. Gentes essay for the RECORD.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

(By April Gentes)

A world without prejudice and bigotry anywhere. A place where the word hatred does not exist. Somewhere where people will help one another and not think of their own needs first. A place where children can run and play and moms and dads won't have to worry about their safety. A land filled with people who are not poor, hungry, or homeless. A place where all who are there feel loved and accepted. Somewhere where no man or woman, boy or girl, feels they are worthless or can not make a difference in someone else's life. A place where forgiveness and trust go hand in hand. A land with no disease, war or killing. This is my vision for America.

I believe that every single person in this world is here for a reason. I have a story I'm sure you've heard before but it ties in well about how my vision of America would be. It goes like this: One day a girl was walking along a beach where thousands of star fish were washed up along the shore. The girl started picking the star fish up, one by one, and throwing them back into the ocean. As she was doing this a man walking noticed her. He walked up to her and asked "little girl, don't you see there are thousands of star fish here all washed up on the sand. You can't possibly save them all, so why are you trying too?" The little girl looked up at the man and, hurt by his question, thought for a moment. Then she replied "No, you're right. I can't possibly save them all, but I can save this one (and she picked up a star fish and threw it back into the ocean.) and I can help this one", and she picked up another one and did the same. She continued on walking and throwing the star fish back into the water feeling happy with what she could do to help.

This story has so much meaning behind it. Instead of the girl being intimidated by the

man's frightfully true question, she kept on going. She was not ashamed of what she could not do, rather she only thought of what she could do. If everyone in America thought of one thing they could do to make someone else's life a little brighter, our country would be in pretty good shape.

By starting out with lots of small things to do or ways of being there for other people, soon it will lead to big changes. By first starting with the family and having peace and happiness within the home, eventually that peace and love will spread into society.

By learning to accept people's differences first in our communities we will then be able to accept and understand all those around us. By giving of our time and money to help those struggling right in our area, they in turn will help other people when they can. It will be like one big domino effect of humans loving and caring for each other as God calls us to do. People will feel good about themselves being able to make a difference in someone else's life. More people will want to work together to meet common goals and achieve individual and nationwide dreams. America will once again be the country of equal opportunities and freedom for everyone. There will be no more people trapped in fear or robbed of their pride. We will all be viewed as people, people who love and accept, forgive and protect, one another.

I don't believe that having this hope of America is being naive. I believe it is putting a lot of faith and trust into one another through, and I know we can do this together. With each of us having different yet special gifts and talents, we are able to share these with one another. If all of our hopes and aspirations are put together we will be able to have one vision of America that is a vision for everyone.

COMMENDATION OF AWADAGIN
PRATT SYMPHONY SPONSORS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the efforts of three businesses in my district who have generously sponsored the appearance of Mr. Awadagin Pratt, an extraordinary pianist, to perform with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra this weekend.

The sponsors, WMCS AM 1290 Radio, the Milwaukee Community Journal, and the Milwaukee Times have worked together to sponsor and promote Mr. Pratt's much-anticipated performances. Led by guest conductor Hermann Michael, Mr. Pratt will share his gift for the piano in a series of concerts to be held this weekend at Uihlein Hall in Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center.

As an African-American and a virtuoso pianist, Awadagin Pratt is recognized as one of the most versatile and fastest rising stars in the arts community. Mr. Pratt was named one of the 50 Leaders of Tomorrow in Ebony magazine's 50th anniversary issue, and he recently performed at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton. Mr. Pratt was also selected as winner of a 1994 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the 1992 Naumburg International Piano Competition.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that WMCS Radio, Milwaukee Community Journal, and the Milwaukee Times recognize the cultural value of

Mr. Pratt's appearance in Milwaukee. I applaud their commitment to the arts, which is demonstrated by their efforts to share Mr. Pratt's unique talent with our community. Mr. Speaker, I am personally looking forward to experiencing Mr. Pratt's performance, which was made possible by the benevolence of these businesses.

TERM LIMITS CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to House Joint Resolution 73, in opposition to term limits for Members of Congress, and I urge my colleagues to reject this ill-conceived legislation.

Why do I oppose term limits? Well for one, they are absolutely unnecessary. The voting public always has, and will continue to have, complete control over the membership of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. One need only to look back to last year's historic November elections to recognize this fact. Those Representatives and Senators that were not doing the job their constituents wanted or expected were not reelected—pure and simple.

The reality that my Republican friends tend to deemphasize and don't want to discuss is that more than half the Members of this House have been elected only within the past 6 years. That's right—over 50 percent of this Chamber are serving in their third term or less.

In addition, term limits are an affront to the basic rights, responsibilities, and intelligence of all American citizens. Our Federal Government functions best when the public and the Congress act together to carry out the responsibility for moving our Nation forward. An educated and politically aware public is vital for the strength of our democracy.

However, term limits take away the ability of voters to choose who they want to represent them at the Federal level by imposing an arbitrary timetable on length of service without regard to a Member's effectiveness or responsiveness to the needs of his or her constituents. In effect, term limits say to the voters, "You are not smart enough to know the issues at hand, to know for whom to vote, to know who will best represent you and your fellow neighbors, therefore we'll help you out." This is a ridiculous, untrue, antidemocratic proposition and one at which people should be strongly offended.

Term limits are patently nonsensical. The only thing that they will serve to do is deprive this institution of several effective legislators who have the historical perspective and expertise necessary to tackle the major challenges facing this body and turn greater power and influence in Congress over to entrenched,

unelected staff, lobbyists, and agency bureaucrats. I can tell you that this is not what my constituents want.

Mr. Chairman, to me it is also disingenuous of the GOP to claim support for term limits and yet put forth a bill that will not affect them for at least another 19 years and does not speak to the issue of State preemption. This is just blatant, and frankly quite despicable, political posturing.

If you want term limits, if you believe they are such a great idea, and think that many years of service in the U.S. Congress is inherently evil, why not make term limits retroactive and also defer to those States with less than 12-year limits currently on the books? Maybe because you are trying to fool the American people. Well, let me tell you something, Mr. Chairman, the American people are not stupid. They can see through such charades.

Mr. Chairman, I vigorously urge defeat of House Joint Resolution 73. The leadership in this body better start concentrating on the real needs of the American people, like jobs, accessible and affordable health care, community development and revitalization, and the long-term economic and social growth of this country. If they don't begin to, it's a pretty safe bet that their terms will be limited regardless of the passage of this legislation.

MOUNT HOPE FERC LICENSE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to extend the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] license for the Mt. Hope Hydroelectric Project in Rockaway Township, NJ.

The proposed Mt. Hope Waterpower Project is an advanced pumped storage hydroelectric plant which is the third largest hydroelectric plant in the country to be licensed by FERC.

Since its inception, the sponsors of this project have been diligently working to see that this proposal can become a reality. I introduce this legislation today to allow the project developers to have every opportunity, in this period of electric energy deregulation, to convince power purchasers of the merits of this project.

This project will generate 2,000 megawatts of electricity—enough power to heat and light a 1/2-million homes and businesses in the Northeast at times of peak demand. It brings many benefits to the consumers of not only New Jersey but also New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware.

In addition to power production, this project will mean a significant reduction in air pollution and will help New Jersey meet its Clean Air Act goals. It is estimated that up to 50 tons of air pollution in the regional area will be eliminated if Mt. Hope is used for power generation instead of burning traditional fossil fuels.

I am very encouraged by the progress this project has made thus far and I hope that with this extension, the project will soon become a reality. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation and will work with the Commerce Committee members to see that this legislation is considered soon.

PT PHONE HOME PROGRAM

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the hard work of my constituents back in Buffalo, NY, as we celebrate the completion of the PT Phone Home Program at the Buffalo VA Medical Center on Saturday.

PT Phone Home is a cost-effective volunteer program which solicits equipment, labor, and donations from a variety of groups for patient bedside telephone service at VAMC's across the Nation. VA officials, NYNEX, the Service Employees International Union [SEIU] Local 200C, and the Communications Workers of America [CWA] Local 1122 have been collaborating to bring the PT Phone Home Program to Buffalo.

A patient bedside telephone initial report issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs recognized that without the efforts of the PT Phone Home Program and its volunteers, the bedside telephone project would not have been started at this point.

With the services of PT Phone Home, VA has estimated that \$18 million will allow the planned installation of patient bedside telephone systems to be completed. Without these services, estimates run closer to \$80 million. Without the direct involvement of the volunteer organizations mobilized under PT Phone Home, the cost of such a program is certainly prohibitive.

Experience with this worthwhile program has convinced me that bedside telephones are an absolute necessity for our VA hospitals nationwide. Bedside telephone service allows nurses and support staff to spend more time on clinical activities and increases patient morale by allowing veterans invaluable contact with their family and friends.

The veterans who use our veteran hospitals are here because of the sacrifices they were willing to make for their country. They were willing to serve in the name of freedom, and I am very happy to be part of an effort to give them something in return.

I believe we owe all participants in the PT Phone Home Program a great debt of gratitude and would ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing those who made the Buffalo project successful.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain you agree that all the medicine in the world cannot replace the therapeutic value of contact with family and friends.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX BREAKS IN
REPUBLICAN BILL WILL BENEFIT
A PRIVILEGED FEW

HON. SAM GIBBONS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the capital gains exclusion and indexing in the Republican tax plan provides a huge benefit for a very small number of wealthy taxpayers.

The Treasury Department tells us that only 8 percent of the population realize capital

gains in any given year. Even among those with high incomes it is not universal—about 52 percent of those with incomes of \$200,000 or more and 23 percent of those with incomes between \$100,000 and \$200,000 realize capital gains every year. Truly, a privileged few.

Both the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Department of Treasury agree that most of the benefit of a cut in capital gains taxes will go to the richest 6 percent of all taxpayers: 76 percent—a full three-quarters—of the tax benefit will go to those with incomes of \$100,000 or more.

The Republicans have tried to characterize the capital gains tax cut as a major benefit to ordinary Americans, those who realize a capital gain infrequently when they sell Grandma's farm or a family business upon retirement. This is patently misleading.

Seventy-one percent of all capital gains are realized by taxpayers who realize capital gains almost every year, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation. These financially sophisticated high rollers receive most of the dollars of capital gains, so naturally they are the ones who will get most of the benefit from the Republican plan—not ordinary Americans who work hard for what they earn.

And, wealthy repeaters who realize gains almost every year are the ones who will be helped the most by the Republican plan.

The Republicans have tried to characterize the Democrats' analysis as flawed by saying that the numbers that Democrats have quoted on the average benefit per taxpayer were computed on the basis of the whole population, instead of just taking account of those who actually receive the tax cuts. When the computations are done on the basis that the Republicans prefer, the average tax cuts are much bigger.

Treasury Department figures show that when the total capital gains tax cut going to those with incomes of \$200,000 or more is averaged over only the 52 percent of taxpayers at that income level who realize capital gains, the result is a tax cut of almost \$7,800 per taxpayer in 1996. If that figure simply kept pace with inflation, it would be \$9,300 by 2002.

HONORING HISPANIC-AMERICAN
WWII SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of my colleagues to a very important and emotional event that is occurring on March 31, 1995—the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the widow of Sgt. Abelardo Montanez.

Sergeant Montanez was killed in the invasion of Attu, AL, in World War II. His widow, Mrs. Esperanza Ramos Montanez, will lay the wreath today on behalf of the widows and mothers of the Hispanic-American WWII service men and women, at the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Armed Services of WWII were vastly different from the Armed Services of 1995. In the 1940's, the United States was still a segregated society, both in civilian and in military life. While the segregation of African Ameri-

cans it is a widely discussed and remembered fact, it is not so widely known that Hispanic Americans were also segregated into their own units during the war.

Many Hispanic Americans served proudly in WWII. They fought honorably to advance the cause of democracy and freedom in the world; and they died on battlefields far from their homes and families all over Europe and in the Pacific. In WWII alone, 12 Hispanics received the Medal of Honor. Interestingly enough, per capita, there are more Hispanic recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor than any other ethnic group, for meritorious service to their country in times of war.

In fact, WWII was a transforming event for the Hispanic community. Many Hispanics who served in the Armed Forces returned to the United States to blatant discrimination in their hometowns. Many built on their gallant service after they returned home by organizing and making it known that discrimination was no longer acceptable.

One of the organizations that galvanized Hispanic veterans into a potent political force was the American G.I. Forum, founded by my political and personal mentor, Dr. Hector Garcia, also a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, of Corpus Christi, TX. The G.I. Forum, and other organizations founded by veterans—for veterans—registered voters and petitioned local and State governments to treat Hispanics equally with other elements of their communities.

The G.I. Forum will join the Ramos Family, and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in this important—and long overdue—ceremony.

TRIBUTE TO CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birthdate of a genuine American hero, Cesar Chavez, which is on Friday, March 31. It is hard to summarize the accomplishments and impact of those citizens whose work not only changes the nature of the world in which they lived—but extends beyond their natural lives into the lives of those who will only know them by their legacy.

Just as every African-American citizen feels the impact of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy in their lives, every Hispanic citizen, especially those who work the farms, fruit orchards and vegetable fields of America, will feel the impact of the life of Cesar Chavez.

Before Cesar, America's migrant workers had few rights. He became their voice and the force that fought for basic human liberties and labor rights.

When Cesar died he left a legacy to be emulated by future generations and the lessons learned will resonate for years to come. A legacy that will make migrant workers a full partner in the agricultural industry, and bring them to full membership in our society with all the benefits that full membership implies.

Ever so slowly, migrant workers are entering into the mainstream of our society and into a status for which they have long aspired and is

long overdue. Cesar's dream is moving towards reality. Whether it be by increasing education, work and training opportunities; continuing the fight to gain a liveable wage, benefits, and working conditions; or guaranteeing their access to full citizenship and the right to have their grievance addressed by whether legal means available.

As we move forward as a community towards ensuring equal opportunity, equal protections and equal membership for all peoples in our society, let us remember the contributions of one of the greatest teachers on the means and importance of this pursuit—Cesar Chavez.

TRIBUTE TO ALPHONSE AUCLAIR

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Alphonse Auclair, a distinguished individual from Rhode Island who through his dedication and hard work, has selflessly served the people of Rhode Island in many capacities.

Mr. Auclair is a lifelong resident of Rhode Island. He was born in Woonsocket, RI and was educated in area schools. On his 18th birthday, November 9, 1942, Alphonse enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After serving his country with valor and distinction in the Pacific, including the battle for Iwo Jima, Alphonse Auclair returned to Rhode Island.

Mr. Auclair served as a police officer in the city of Woonsocket from 1952 through 1977, when he was elected to represent his community in the Rhode Island State Senate. In this capacity, Mr. Auclair was a champion of veterans issues in Rhode Island. In 1962 he helped to found the St. Joseph's Veterans Association, which has played a key role in veterans affairs in Woonsocket ever since. In addition to working to improve the lives of Woonsocket's veterans, Mr. Auclair was instrumental in the building of a monument dedicated to the many Rhode Islander's that made the supreme sacrifice in the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Rhode Island, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a truly exceptional individual, Alphonse Auclair.

TURKEY MUST CEASE ITS RELENTLESS ATTACKS AGAINST THE KURDISH PEOPLE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme dismay and strong concerns about the recent actions of the Turkish Government.

The government in Turkey has once again decided that it is easier to address dissension around its borders with military force than to sit down to talk with those whose only wish is to seek freedom from overwhelming oppression.

You will hear from the Turkish Government that this recent excursion into Kurdish-held areas in Iraq is only aimed at stopping Kurdish

rebel groups from making raids into Turkey. We must not be fooled by what they say.

It is accepted policy in that country to deny official acknowledgement of a group that comprises close to 20 percent of its total population. Because they have no special protection under Turkish law, Kurdish civilians have been victim to a policy of discriminate harassment, persecution, even killing and wounding at the hands of the Turkish establishment.

The Turkish Government has been condemned time and time again by the United Nations, Helsinki Watch, and Amnesty International for denying Kurds the basic civil liberties. These include the right to freedom of self-determination and the right to freely express the richness of their cultural heritage.

Mr. Speaker, this current situation is no different. Thousands of Turkish-born Kurds are now living in northern Iraq, after fleeing Turkey last year because of harassment from Turkish officials. Their lives have been shattered because of the incessant attacks on their heritage, culture, and indeed, their very existence.

These civilians have been caught in the crossfire for too long. These civilians only seek the freedom to choose their own destinies. At the very least, this Government's response should be to say in no uncertain terms that they be allowed to pursue this very basic right.

However, Mr. Speaker, we may be also partly to blame for the ongoing crisis in the mountains of Iraq.

Not only does the Turkish Government receive vast amounts of United States financial aid, we and our allies also supply their government with large amounts of military hardware. These weapons are in turn being used to wipe out whole villages, to kill innocent women and children. We should follow the lead of the German Government and look to end our weapons trade with Turkey.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, all United States aid to Turkey should be reviewed in light of their history with other ethnic groups in Cyprus and Armenia. And just as important, that government's current activities in the mountains of Iraq should further make us question our priorities in that region.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey does have the right to protect its borders and to protect its citizens from terrorism. However, this very right cannot be used to justify continued harassment and persecution of innocent civilian populations.

We have supported the right of Iraqi-born Kurds to pursue independence from the regime in Baghdad. Our troops are in the mountains of northern Iraq at this moment, protecting Kurds from the Iraqi military. However, Mr. Speaker, we should look to protect the rights of all Kurds, regardless of where they were born.

The United States has warned the Turkish Government that we are watching. I will say also that the whole world should watch this situation very closely. This will not only hold that government accountable but will also force this country to reevaluate its foreign priorities and practices.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE NATHANIEL R. JONES

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today to honor a remarkable man from the 17th Congressional District of Ohio. Please join me today in honoring the Honorable Judge Nathaniel R. Jones on his retirement from the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Judge Jones has served on the bench of the Sixth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals since his appointment during the Carter administration in 1979. This accounts for 15 years of service to his country. In addition, Judge Jones has devoted much of his time outside the office to community events and civil rights activities. Judge Jones has the further distinction of having served the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as Chief Legal Counsel.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare that I have the opportunity to honor someone like Judge Nathaniel R. Jones who has given so much not only to his own community but also to the entire country. My sincere appreciation goes out to Judge Jones for the job he has done. May he be blessed with health, happiness and continued success in the years to come.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO-BARCELÓ

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, reducing costly and unnecessary regulatory burdens has become a leading theme in the 104th Congress. Today, I am introducing legislation that promotes this goal. The Environmental Protection Agency has demanded that Puerto Rico institute costly secondary treatment at one of the island's wastewater treatment facilities despite any showing that it will improve the environment and without considering whether less costly alternatives would be equally or even more effective. This legislation, first, provides for an independent study of the relative costs, benefits, and feasibility of alternatives to secondary treatment for wastewater discharged through a deep ocean outfall from the Mayaguez wastewater treatment plant, and second, permits Puerto Rico to apply for, and EPA to consider, a waiver of secondary treatment requirements under the Clean Water Act if such a waiver is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a reasonable, cost-effective solution to what has become an interminable, intractable series of negotiations and court battles between Puerto Rico and the EPA over abstruse points of administrative law—at considerable expense to the American taxpayers. Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act provides that EPA may waive secondary treatment standards for publicly owned treatment works [POTW's] that meet certain effluent standards. But the EPA contends it is time-barred from considering a waiver application for the Mayaguez POTW.

Under the 1977 Clean Water Act Amendments, coastal communities—mainland and island—were permitted a time-limited opportunity to apply for exemptions from secondary treatment requirements if they met very stringent environmental standards for ocean discharges. Overall, EPA has granted 39 waivers. All applications were required to be submitted to EPA by December 29, 1982. The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority [PRASA] submitted 12 waiver applications, and 6 have been tentatively approved. Only two applications—including one for the Mayaguez treatment facility—were denied, in December 1993. The EPA insists that the Mayaguez POTW construct secondary treatment facilities costing approximately \$100 million, despite significant evidence that other, far less costly alternatives would be equally, or even more, effective in protecting the surrounding marine environment.

Puerto Rico has proposed construction of a deep water outfall situated more than 300 feet deep and several miles from shore as an alternative to secondary treatment at the Mayaguez POTW. This would save the Commonwealth about \$65 million. Substantial scientific evidence gathered from similarly situated POTW's with deep ocean outfalls indicates that such methods can achieve the equivalent of secondary treatment standards or better.

The evidence was so compelling in the instance of San Diego, CA, that Congress last year enacted, and the President signed into law, legislation permitting EPA to consider a section 301(h) waiver application proposing a similar alternative to secondary treatment— notwithstanding that such a waiver otherwise would be time-barred under the Clean Water Act. Puerto Rico deserves the same opportunity to implement cost-effective alternatives and seek a section 301(h) waiver.

This is not simply an issue of fairness or cost-effectiveness; it is also an issue of science. The Clean Water Act was intended to improve the marine environment. There is significant scientific evidence that suggesting that a new deep ocean outfall at the Mayaguez POTW would best protect the surrounding marine environment. Furthermore, this legislation would require a scientific study of the issue by the U.S. Geological Survey, an impartial agency with no interest in the outcome. Puerto Rico is willing to share 50 percent of the financing necessary for the study.

There are numerous precedents of such limited exceptions to the requirements of section 301. The municipal wastewater treatment construction grant amendments of 1981 included a provision that extended the date under which section 301(h) waivers could be requested and specifically permitted the city of Avalon, CA, to receive such a waiver. The Water Quality Act of 1987 included a specific exception for the Irvine Ranch Water District that permitted it also to file for a waiver after the deadline.

The 1981 provision specifically reexamined section 301(h) and concluded: "failure to broaden eligibility * * * risks requiring treatment for treatment's sake, involving the expenditure of funds which could be better used to achieve additional water quality benefits elsewhere." This provision does not grant variances. It simply allows variances to be sought with the burden on the applicant to

make its case on environmental grounds.¹ Such logic applies fully to this legislation.

I urge our colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and on the Resources Committee to consider this bill and its common sense approach to the regulatory burden confronting Puerto Rico. I understand that the EPA is receptive to this change in the law, which can only improve the marine environment off the west coast of Puerto Rico, and which will apply these regulatory requirements with cost effectiveness and flexibility, rather than rigidly and without regard to their consequences.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PICO RIVERA BOBBY SOX ASSOCIATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Pico Rivera Bobby Sox Association.

For the past 25 years, the Bobby Sox Association has been providing an invaluable service to the young girls, and now the young boys, of Pico Rivera. The association was established in 1970 by a group of parents determined to give their daughters the same opportunities to play on an organized team sport, as their sons. The parents, led by Bobby Sox founder and president of the board, Mr. Ray Garcia, labored countless hours laying out fields, building dugouts, and constructing and staffing a snack bar, all for the love of their children and softball.

The whole community has a vested interest in the success of this program. Countless parents have taken time out of their schedules to coach, manage, chaperon, and care for these young girls. And, because of their efforts, the return on their investment has been immeasurable.

These young women have all learned lessons in comradery and sportsmanship. In 1977, the Pico Rivera Bobby Soxers All-Stars led by coaches Jim Cafferty and Eddie Gomez experienced the thrill of winning a national championship. Indeed, the whole association is to be commended for putting forth the effort to ensure the participation of the nearly 6,000 young girls who have graced the softball diamonds at Rio Vista Park over the past 25 years.

I applaud every individual who has had a part in making the Bobby Sox of Pico Rivera a success. I know that the memories carried in the hearts of their daughters are priceless. As a new generation of young girls, and now boys, stand ready to take the fields at Rio Vista, I hope the dedicated spirit which has accompanied their predecessors will continue for many more generations of players to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, I was having dinner at a nearby restaurant with the Oregon State labor commissioner and apparently my electronic beeper malfunctioned and I missed a recorded vote on the Cox amendment to H.R. 956 which would cap non-economic pain and suffering damages in health care liability cases at \$250,000. If I had been present I would have voted "no."

ROBERT GARCIA BRINGS HISPANICS TOGETHER

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, our former colleague, Bobby Garcia, has spent many years trying to forge better relations among all people. As a co-founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, he sought to unite Hispanic Members of Congress working toward common goals. As a private citizen, he has continued to focus his attention on uniting Hispanics in this country and throughout our hemisphere.

Recently, Mr. Garcia hosted a reception in Washington honoring the current chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, our colleague, ED PASTOR. Mr. Garcia also invited representatives of the Latin American republics and Spain to further our common interests.

I commend our former colleague for his work in improving relations between people and countries and urge my colleagues to review the following article which appeared in the Caribbean Business publication.

[From Caribbean Business, Mar. 23, 1995]

GARCIA SEES EXPANDED CAUCUS ROLE

(By John Collins)

Former Congressman Robert Garcia of New York views the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, of which he was a co-founder, as an important catalyst for bringing Hispanics, in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world, closer together for the mutual benefit of all.

Garcia and his wife, Jane, hosted a reception in honor of the new chairman of the CHC, Ed Pastor, an Arizona Democrat. To help familiarize members of the Diplomatic Corps with the workings of Congress and how Hispanic members might assist them in achieving their legislative agendas, Garcia invited representatives of the Latin American republics and Spain to the reception.

Among those attending were ambassadors Raul Granillo Ocampo (Argentina), Sonia Picado (Costa Rica), Ana Cristina Sol (El Salvador), Jesus Silva Herzog (Mexico), Ricardo Alberto Arias (Panama), Jaime de Ojedo (Spain), and Pedro Luis Echevarria (Venezuela). Countries represented by other diplomats included Brazil and Guatemala.

EXPANDED DIVERSITY

The CHC was organized in 1977 when there were only four Hispanics in Congress, including Garcia. Today, the caucus has grown to 18 members, 13 Democrats and five Republicans. The largest segment of the CHC is of Mexican descent, four are Puerto Ricans,

¹H. Rep. No. 97-270, 97th Cong. 1st Sess. at p. 17.

three are Cuban and one is Guamanian. Three are women, including Rep. Lucile Roybal-Allard (D-Cal.), whose father was a CHC co-founder. The previous chairman was Rep. Jose E. Serrano (D-N.Y.). The current first vice chairman is Resident Commissioner Carlos Romero Barcelo (D-P.R.).

The caucus is dedicated to voicing and advancing, through the legislative process, issues affecting Hispanics in the U.S. and insular areas.

THE SPIRIT OF MIAMI

While a guest at President Bill Clinton's historic Summit of the Americas in Miami last December, Garcia was determined to return to Washington committed to assisting the CHC perform a much more active role in fostering dialogue and interaction between its members and Hispanics throughout the hemisphere and elsewhere in the world. "My idea is for the caucus to help really make Clinton's Spirit of Miami work," Garcia said. The Spirit of Miami is a declaration of commitment signed at the summit. He recalled how active the CHC was in the 1970s and 1980s in fostering greater understanding of Latin America.

Although modest, Washington observers point to the important role Garcia performed in persuading the late House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-Mass.) that Argentine President Raul Alfonsín should be afforded an opportunity to address a joint session of Congress after he had decided such an invitation should not be extended in the post-Falklands War climate.

ARGENTINE PRAISE

Garcia's initiative "proved that subjects of common interest are easily discussed among diplomats and Hispanic legislators here, to the benefit of all our countries," Ambassador Granillo Ocampo told Caribbean Business from Washington. "With regard to Argentina's message to the U.S.—a message of political reliability and economic predictability from a country where democracy has flourished, a market economy is growing and human and civil rights are prevalent—I would say it has been understood and fostered in Congress with the help of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus."

The Argentine envoy said: "This was true when the then-Congressman Bob Garcia chaired the Caucus during the 1980s and remains so under the chairmanship of Congressman Ed Pastor."

Although it is a busy time in Washington and the House was in session, several members were able to attend the reception including Reps. Solomon P. Ortiz (D-Texas); Bill Richardson (D-N.M.); Roybal-Allard; Esteban E. Torres (D-Cal.); Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.); and Romero Barcelo accompanied by his wife, Doña Kate. Also present was Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.), the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

CLINTON REPRESENTED

Representing the Clinton administration, among others, were U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor; Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs; Judge Nelson A. Diaz, general counsel of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; Jeffrey Farrow, co-chairman, White House Inter-agency Working Group on Puerto Rico. HUD Secretary Henry G. Cisneros was represented by his wife, Mary Alice; and another HUD official, Aida Alvarez, the director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, was also there. Tony Rodham, brother of first lady Hillary Clinton, was also present.

Among others in attendance were Puerto Rico Commerce Development Administrator Juan Woodroffe and National Puerto Rican

Coalition Chief Executive Officer Manuel Mirabel.

TO AMEND THE INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT ON BEHALF OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the suit filed by the Seminole Indians that would allow tribes to sue States in order to enter into Class III gaming—casino gambling—compacts. The Court's interest in hearing this case points to the long overdue need for a restructuring of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. One glaring flaw of the statute lies with the current approval process for gaming compacts—the local communities do not have a voice in these matters which will clearly impact their quality of life.

By way of background, under current law, all that is required for Class III gaming approval is a compact between the tribe and State—the local community affected by the gaming activity has no involvement in the approval process. Moreover, under the current law, State and local governments are prohibited from assessing taxes on these gaming activities. I believe that the local community, whose infrastructure and public services will be strained by the operation of a gambling casino, should be able to participate in the approval process. A full-fledged casino would place untold burdens on the police, fire, rescue, and other public services of a small town. The roads, bridges and water and sewer capabilities of a small or rural town would be inadequate to handle the added demand and usage.

Today I am joined by a number of interested members in introducing legislation that will give local communities a voice in the approval process. First, the elected governing body, such as the city council, mayor or county commissioners, would be required to approve the Tribal-State compact. Second, the local community will then have the opportunity to approve the compact through a referendum. The inclusion of the local community in the gaming compact will not only reflect a more complete representation of the people of the affected area, but I believe will foster a friendlier and more cooperative relationship between the tribes and the local communities in which they reside.

Whether you are a proponent of opponent of casino gambling, the concerns of impacted local communities should be factored into the process. This legislation will go a long way to alleviate these concerns, and believe that it is time for Congress to take action and amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for the Endangered Species Act. For over 20 years, this landmark legislation has been America's contract with nature.

It has also ensured the survival and conservation of hundreds of native fish, wildlife and plant species—and with them our natural heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act has helped to preserve biological diversity within our country by preserving species that are on the brink of extinction. Since 1973, 731 U.S. species have been listed under the Endangered Species Act. Without this vital protection, many listed species, including our national symbol, the bald eagle, would have long since become extinct.

Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act is at a decisive crossroads.

While it has come under attack from those who contend that it places unnecessary roadblocks in the path of economic development, polls consistently show that the American people support the Endangered Species Act by wide margins.

The American people know that to abandon the Endangered Species Act would be tantamount to an open season on endangered waterfowl, marine mammals, songbirds, and other federally protected wildlife. It would give a green light to international traffickers of fur-bearing animals, wild birds, elephant ivory, tigers, and other wildlife and wildlife products.

The time to protect America's biological resources is now Mr. Speaker. I urge all of my colleagues to support re-authorization of a strong Endangered Species Act.

DELAURO HONORS AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the 103d Air Control Squadron of the Connecticut Air National Guard in Orange, CT. The Orange Unit's tremendous service to our country has earned it the 1994 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

For more than a half-century, the Orange Air National Guard Unit has guaranteed our Nation's security and demonstrated that citizen militias—such as the ones that fought for and won freedom in this land over 200 years ago—are still effective and necessary. With support from a small number of full-time Air Force personnel, the Orange Unit fields more than 250 airmen and women. These members of our community serve the United States through the Air National Guard while keeping their commitments to careers and families. These National guardsmen and women deserve our deepest thanks for their selfless service.

Although the National Guard finds its roots in colonial militias, today's Guard has adapted to keep up with the technological changes that have reshaped our Nation's fighting force. The Orange Unit exemplifies this progress. The unit's communications expertise enables it to coordinate air missions and track aircraft using radar and even satellite communications.

The Orange Air National Guard Unit distinguished itself among all Air Force units to earn this well-deserved honor not only by standing at the ready, but by actively participating in numerous missions around the globe. Whenever duty called, they were there.

The Orange Unit has worked hard to stem the tide of illegal drugs entering our country by tracking drug flights in the Colombian jungle, as well as on the Texas-Mexican border. As the first Air National Guard Unit to participate in Operation Deny Flight to prevent air attacks in the former Yugoslavia, the Orange Air Guard Unit ably replaced an active Air Force Unit and coordinated air operations over this dangerous area. The unit's communications support has been vital to U.S. forces in Haiti and NATO exercises in Turkey.

In these and other missions, the Orange Air Guard Unit has set itself apart. Congratulations, and thank you for your dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI PHILIP
LAZOWSKI

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Rabbi Philip Lazowski, Ph.D., of Bloomfield, CT, who is

being recognized for 40 years of spiritual leadership and service.

Dr. Lazowski was born in Belitza, Poland, in 1930. Eighteen years later, he emigrated to the United States and began taking classes that would eventually lead to a bachelor of religious education degree from Yeshiva University in 1955; a bachelor of arts degree from Brooklyn College in 1956; a master of science degree from Yeshiva in 1960; a doctorate of Jewish literature from the Jewish Teachers Seminary and People's University in 1970; and a doctorate of divinity from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1992.

Rabbi Lazowski's first calling was as the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Manchester, CT, where he served for 14 years. In 1969 he accepted the position of spiritual leader of Beth Hillel Synagogue in Bloomfield, CT. He was supported in his work by his wife, the former Ruth Rabinowitz, and their three sons, Barry, Alan, and David.

It was during his tenure at Beth Hillel that he began his work on behalf of many professional, civic, and humanitarian organizations, including: the Rabbinical Assembly in Connecticut; the Hartford Police Department; the Institute of Living; the National U.J.A. Rabbinical Cabinet; the Educators Assembly of the United States and Canada, American Association of Jewish Educators; the Hartford Jewish Federation; and Bloomfield Interfaith Homes.

Rabbi Lazowski is known not only for his spiritual leadership, but for his intellectual integrity that invites others to follow his example. He is admired and respected by countless people, of all religious beliefs.

Now, after four decades of selfless service, Rabbi Lazowski is being recognized by congregants, colleagues, family, and friends. His contributions to the Greater Hartford community, the State of Connecticut, and the Na-

tion set a standard for future generations to emulate.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM BRADY AND
GUN CONTROL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jim Brady and the historic Brady law which has reduced gun violence in America.

Today marks the 14th anniversary of the attack by a lone gunman on President Reagan outside of a Washington hotel which left Jim Brady critically wounded.

Although severely disabled, Jim Brady has become a spokesperson for all Americans who live in fear because of gun violence. Without his leadership, I believe Congress would not have passed legislation requiring a 5-day waiting period before a person can purchase a firearm.

Mr. Speaker, waiting periods work.

In California over the past 2 years, our 15-day waiting period has helped deny firearms purchases to nearly 12,000 people, including 6,000 people convicted of assaults and 141 people under restraining orders for domestic violence.

Let's not fall victim to the gun lobby which is flexing its muscles in an attempt to overturn Federal laws supported by 92 percent of all Americans.

In the spirit of Jim Brady and millions of his admirers across this country and on behalf of the countless victims of unnecessary shootings, I urge Members to repel the gun lobby's request to overturn the Brady law and the assault weapons ban.