and its overall economy. During his 16 years with the association, Bob rose through the ranks as a member of the board of directors and eventually as president.

Bob also maintained an active involvement with the promotional activities at Sandy Hook, the Gateway National Recreation Area facility adjacent to Highlands, known and loved by people from all over New Jersey. He could always be counted on to help any cause to promote New Jersey. He participated in Governor Whitman's Sampling in Atlantic City prior to her inauguration, frequently hosted Bayshore Development Office meetings for the Department of Commerce, and offered his restaurant for any event to advance tourism in New Jersey. He was a long-time member of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and brought a special passion to maintaining the lively waterfront business community. In his home town of Rumson, Bob coached Pop Warner football, served on the zoning board of adjustment, was treasurer of the Republican Club and was a Republican committeeman for many years. Notwithstanding his Republican affiliation, Bob maintained close ties with officials from both political parties—always willing to work with anyone who shared his devotion to improving the economy and quality of life on the Jersey Shore.

Mr. Speaker, it is a truly an honor for me to pay tribute to Bob Hunter, a good man and a great leader who made a difference for our community.

IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, March 30 was the 14th anniversary of the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan and the wounding of his press secretary, Jim Brady. To commemorate that date, 82 national organizations, representing more than 88 million members, joined together in a campaign to protect sane gun laws.

Mr. Speaker, we commemorate this anniversary because the extreme Republican majority has vowed to overturn the Federal firearms laws that we have enacted, including the Brady law, the assault weapons ban, and other firearms provisions of last year's crime bill.

These laws have begun to make America safer. A poll conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Handgun Control, Inc. on the effectiveness of the Brady law found that background checks in 115 State and local jurisdictions stopped 19,000 felons and other prohibited persons from obtaining handguns.

The American people also continue to show strong support for gun control legislation. A 1993 Time/CNN poll showed that 92 percent of Americans supported the Brady law.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican attack on our gun laws is senseless. Letting more criminals buy guns will not reduce gun violence and putting more guns on the streets of America will not make our streets safer.

Let us not weaken the gun control legislation that has begun to make our country a safer one.

I urge my colleagues to work against Republican attempts to undo the laws that have already reduced gun violence and saved lives.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH RAUCH

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Elizabeth Rauch, a resident of St. Charles, MO, who on March 11, 1995, was honored by Youth in Need as their 1995 Celebration of Youth Honoree.

Elizabeth Rauch has faithfully served her community, and her outstanding leadership abilities have contributed to the continued growth and development of her community. She has dedicated her time as an active participant in countless community efforts to assist the young people of St. Charles. Mrs. Rauch serves as a member of the Lindenwood College Board of Directors and as chairwoman of the Academy of the Sacred Heart Board of Trustees Endowment Fund. She has also been appointed to a 4-year term on the Archdiocesan Development Appeal Council.

Elizabeth Rauch promotes many civic and charitable groups. She supports such noble causes as the Academy of the Sacred Heart Mother's Club, American Red Cross Junior Program, St. Joseph's Hospital, Alliance for Regional Community Health, United Way of St. Charles, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, and St. Charles Historical Society.

Elizabeth Rauch is a role model for community service, and in fact the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce recognized her dedication and leadership by awarding her its Humanitarian Award in 1984. She is indeed an inspiration to us all, and is rightfully honored for her continued service as Youth in Need's 1995 Celebration of Youth Honoree.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Elizabeth Rauch on this outstanding achievement and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE DOUGLAS, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Ms. Michelle Douglas of Agana, Guam, for winning this year's Pacific Area Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest.

Ms. Douglas is a senior at John F. Kennedy High School and hopes to pursue a career as a music or drama teacher. She has been honored repeatedly for her scholastic and extracurricular achievements and is a leader in school offices. Her patriotic essay, titled ''My Vision of America'' represents a vision of America as a place dedicated to the principles of equality and opportunity. I am proud to announce that as a result of her hard work, Ms. Douglas has been awarded $1,000.

This monetary award comes from the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. 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 Broadcasters, Electronic Industries Association and State Association of Broadcasters.

Starting in 1958, the program was conducted in cooperation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW], with the broadcasters still serving as sponsors. in 1961, the VFW assumed sole sponsorship responsibility. At that time, the national scholarship award consisted of a single $1,500 scholarship for the first place winner.

During the past 35 years, under VFW sponsorship, the annual national scholarship have been increased to 47 totaling $109,000 with the first place winner receiving a $20,000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

This past year, more than 126,000 students participated. Over 8,200 schools participated, over 4,400 VFW posts and over 4,200 auxiliaries sponsored the program. The total monetary value of scholarships, bonds, and awards provided by VFW posts, auxiliaries, districts, county councils, departments, and national amounted to over $2.5 million this past year. I commend the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary for this program and their role in promoting scholastic achievement in our Nation.

I am proud that the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have honored Ms. Michelle Douglas with this year's award. I wish Ms. Douglas all the best in her chosen career path and in her college years. I encourage my colleagues to take the time to read her thoughtful and inspiring essay.

''MY VISION FOR AMERICA''

(BY MICHELLE DOUGLAS)

Nearly everyone has a view of how America ought to be; even I have a dream. Most of us would probably imagine a future where all injustices are righted, where peace reigns. It would be a country without problems: a paradise for everyone. But this idea alone is vague. In order for a vision to materialize, there must be something concrete.

I am not saying it is necessary to have the blueprint laid out in front of us, or even to have a clear idea of the final vision. I am only saying that each of us contributing in our own way, whether large or small, will make a unique vision of America become reality. Imagine each of us holding a piece of a puzzle, and none of us knowing what the final picture will be. Yet as each of us connects our piece—our individual vision—with the others, a picture emerges, becoming clearer as more pieces are added.

Perhaps the first part of America's vision was placed by Thomas Jefferson in the early summer of 1776 as he pondered over the wording to the Declaration of Independence. His ideas not only challenged the oppression that stifled the daily lives of the colonists, they also changed the course of history and continue to guide us into the future. If Jefferson were asked where his vision would take this great nation two hundred years later, he would have hardly imagined the results. He could not have known how the vision would grow, or how important his piece would be. Nor did he have to.

When Abraham Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation to a war weary nation, he probably did not realize he was setting the stage for future equal rights. In fact, ethics was not the issue. He had decided, right or wrong, that freeing the slaves would hold the nation together. This does

not mean that the future outcome was not welcome. But it does show that a single act, however intended, can create astounding results, even without great insight.

These men from our history were magnificent figures whose actions affected the future of America, making it a better place for posterity. But we do not have to be presidents of the country to make worthwhile contributions.

We do not have to see the final picture, or even plan something remarkable for our future in order to be ''visionary.'' We needn't even focus on the results of our efforts. We only need to work toward what we believe in, making a personal effort to correct problems. The results will come, whether today or tomorrow.

Let's consider Rosa Parks. She was only an everyday-type person, a poor black seamstress who never had time for politics; she only tried to make enough to survive. One day as she sat on a bus, work out and tired, she was ordered to give up her seat to a white man. Non-violently, she refused and was arrested.

Her simple action became a catalyst for many others, starting an avalanche which turned into the Black Movement. Martin Luther King championed her very thoughts and feelings by organizing bus boycotts. Thousands of others added to the vision; many were poor, and many may have thought they had little to offer. But when all was done, the course of history was changed, once again. And equality for all minorities, not just Blacks, was promoted. But that was not the issue. The point was this: although Rosa was not the greatest martyr in history, she stood up for her beliefs, and that is how visions turn into reality.

How can you contribute to America's vision? It only takes a combination of your attitude and pride in your country. Being generous with your resources, helping out wherever possible, and using your abilities for good characterize a true contributor.

My individual piece of the final vision for America may not become as great as those of Thomas Jefferson's, Abraham Lincoln's, Rosa Park's, or even yours. But it will be just as important. I cannot guarantee world peace; I may not find a cure for the world's illnesses or put an end to starvation. I can, however, dedicate my efforts along with yours to the continued building of this great nation. After all, aren't our combined efforts today the way to create the greatest vision for America tomorrow?

A VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE

HON. GERRY E. STUDDS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, some 18 months ago this House enacted legislation to codify the so-called ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy barring gay and lesbian Americans from serving openly in the Armed Forces. The law thus placed on the statute books was an unprecedented exercise in overt, state-sanctioned discrimination. It was, from first to last, an irrational policy supported by nothing more than naked prejudice.

I stated at the time that I did not believe such a policy could survive constitutional scrutiny, and that the day would come when the courts would say so. On Thursday, March 30, 1995, Federal District Judge Eugene H. Nickerson fulfilled that prediction. In a 39-page opinion that is a triumph of decency and common sense, Judge Nickerson ruled in favor of six service members who challenged this cruel and unjust policy.

In striking down the law, the district court found it ''demeaning and unworthy of a great nation to base a policy on pretense rather than truth.'' It also accurately characterized the scholastic distinctions on which the law relies as ''Byzantine'' and ''Orwellian.''

Since the decision was handed down, the court's conclusions have been echoed on editorial pages across the country. Few could surpass the editorial published on March 31, 1995 in the Cape Cod Times, which I am proud to insert in the Record.

A RICHLY DESERVED DEFEAT

It took a federal judge to tell President Clinton what a great many people have known for years to be true—his ''Don't ask, don't tell'' policy on gays in the military was a compromise full of flaws right from the start. Basically, the policy allows gays and lesbians to serve as long as they don't admit their sexuality to anyone. If they do, they will be handed an honorable discharge and booted through the gate.

Yesterday, U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Nickerson ruled that the policy is discriminatory, a violation of free speech and it forces people to lie. In short, he said, the policy is ''inherently deceptive.'' The ruling involves, and applies to, only the six service personnel who filed the suit. The Defense Department will appeal.

This is the latest twist in a three-year debate that began when then-candidate Clinton made a rock-solid promise that if elected he would lift the ban entirely. That lit the fires, and the waffling started.

His first full year in office, 1993, was not a good one for The Pledge or the president. In January, the Pentagon and its supporters in Congress went on the offensive. The Joint Chiefs of Staff met with the Commander in Chief behind closed doors. When they emerged their only word was that it was a ''constructive'' meeting.

Two months later, in the semantic equivalent of jogging backwards, Clinton told his first televised press conference that he was now considering segregating homosexuals, which surprised even the military. Clinton fumbled that one, because it soon became clear he hadn't a clue as to how segregation could be done or whether it would even work (it wouldn't have—gays and lesbians aren't lepers).

As was inevitable, the gays struck back in a most telling manner. At the same time in May, 1993, that Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was on the road collecting comments from military and naval bases about gays in the military, Sgt. Jose Zuniga, the Sixth Army's 1992 ''Soldier of the Year,'' was packing his bags at the Presidio in San Francisco. The richly honored Sergeant Zuniga had ''come out'' earlier in the month during a gay rights march in Washington, D.C. He did so to prove to anyone who happened to care that gays and lesbians can be as good servicemen and women as any of their straight peers—and in Zuniga's case, much better than most.

The argument that Senator Nunn and so many others believe—homosexuals are a danger to morale, are incapable of doing battle, are born molesters who can't resist putting the make on their God-fearing mates in uniform and all the other stuff—is dead wrong.

Sergeant Zuniga, who could have stayed in the closet until retirement and remained a role model for his troops, is proof of that. So are two Medal of Honor recipients and an Army nurse with the rank of colonel. She served with distinction in Vietnam and has a medal to prove it, but she was later cashiered by the National Guard stateside because of her sexual orientation.

So are many others, who fought in wars or served in peace, all the while keeping their secret because of the fear of discharge or worse, should the straights find out.

One particularly egregious example of the mindset against gays resulted from the April 1989 explosion inside a gun turret aboard the battleship USS *Iowa* that killed 47 sailors. Looking for somebody to blame, the Navy settled on a young seaman who was killed, and put forth the story that he had caused the blast because he had been jilted by one of the victims.

Better that, they reasoned, than the truth, which emerged anyway, several months later: One of the propellant bags contained unstable explosive that went off when it was shoved into the breech. The story about the sailor was a crock, pure and simple.

As far back as October 1991, in a speech at Harvard, then-Governor Clinton made his position clear—at least, he thought he did—on permitting homosexuals to serve as equals in the military: It will be done. Thirteen months later came slippage. The then-president-elect said he would form a group to study the problem, ''but I am not going to change my mind on it.'' So much for his pledge.

The frustration among gays and their sense of having been betrayed by the president is understandable. There is so much anger against them from society in general and the military in particular that it's truly a wonder that any of their orientation even dare enter the services.

But the fear of gays is largely based on an ignorance that breeds intolerance and is to be found not only in government institutions but among religious conservatives, who have become a political force now and will certainly have an effect in the 1996 elections.

Judge Nickerson's ruling is a victory for gays and common sense, though in context of the war over equality, this—alas—was but a skirmish.

Mr. Chairman, the six plaintiffs and their attorneys have won an important victory, not only for themselves but for all who have served and still serve with honor and distinction. It is a victory shared most of all by those who challenged earlier versions of the ban in years past only to have their pleas fall on deaf ears.

I fully expect that the Government will appeal this decision, and that the constitutionality of the ban will ultimately be revisited by higher courts. But whatever may happen in the months to come, today's ruling is the beginning of the end for a policy that is unworthy of our country and the brave service members who offer their lives in its service.

TESTIMONY BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from one of the most moving hearings I have ever attended. Six survivors of the Chinese labor camp system, the Laogai, told their stories of life inside the prison. These are stories every Member of Congress and every American