

request of Director Rostropovich, to commemorate his last season as director of the Washington, DC, National Symphony Orchestra.

Gould served as president of ASCAP [American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers] from 1986 to 1994. He has been an ASCAP member since 1935 and a board member since 1959.

Certainly we have all benefited over the years from his work and know that future generations will benefit as well. Please join me today in honoring one of America's truest virtuosos.

SALUTE TO MR. ROBERT HEENAN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert T. Heenan, the business manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 542, who is the 1995 recipient of the Salute to Labor Gold Medal Award.

Mr. Heenan joined the Operating Engineers Local 542 in 1948 after completing his service with the U.S. Army. He has served as the business agent, collection manager for the welfare and pension fund and the business manager for local 542.

In addition to his work with local 542, Mr. Heenan has served with distinction on the Pennsylvania State Housing Authority, the CETA board of Bucks County, PA and the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Heenan is the current vice president of the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council and the Pennsylvania State AFL-CIO Council.

Mr. Heenan's commitment to community service has led to significant strides in neighborhoods throughout the Philadelphia region. Under Mr. Heenan's leadership, local 542's apprenticeship program has donated a great deal of assistance to local nonprofit groups. For example, Mr. Heenan is responsible for the reconstruction of two ballfields at seventh and Packer Streets in Philadelphia.

Mr. Heenan is also a long-time supporter of UNICO Charities the American Diabetes Association, and the Marine Corps League's toys for tots campaign.

I join the Philadelphia chapter on UNICO, Bob's wonderful wife Mary Heenan, and the Heenan children and grandchildren in recognizing Mr. Robert Heenan for his fine contributions to his country and community. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and am confident that he will continue to be a great contributor to communities throughout the Delaware Valley.

THE MILITARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1995

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing H.R. 1611, the Military

Housing Assistance Act of 1995. The purpose of this measure is to enable active duty military personnel to purchase homes for themselves and their families in areas where the supply of suitable military housing is inadequate. As a result, the Department of Defense's on-base housing costs could be significantly reduced. This joint Department of Veterans' Affairs/Department of Defense [VA/DOD] program would be an excellent example of Federal agencies working together to enhance the lives of our armed services personnel while reducing DOD construction expenditures.

Under this program, DOD would be authorized to buy down the interest rate for certain active duty personnel purchasing off-base housing using the VA guaranteed home loan. This buydown would lower the monthly mortgage payment during the first 3 years of the loan. Loans covered by this proposal would, as is currently the case with VA home loans, be made by private lenders. The escrowed funds needed for the buydown would be provided to the lender by the VA. DOD would then reimburse the VA. These loans would be processed in the same way as any other VA loan which includes a buydown except that these loans would be underwritten at the second-year rate rather than at the full note rate, thus enabling more individuals to qualify for the loans. Additionally, DOD would be authorized to indemnify mortgagees against any loss, thereby covering the difference between the VA guaranty and any actual loss on the sale of the property.

Eligibility for these loans would be limited to all enlisted members and officers in the pay grade O-3 or below who are first-time users of the VA home loan program. Application for participation in this program would be made within 12 months of assignment to a housing shortage area. The service Secretaries would designate those bases that have a housing shortage.

An important component of this bill would require individuals participating in the program to participate in comprehensive prepurchase counseling. It has been demonstrated that counseling of this type results in borrowers who are better prepared to assume the responsibilities of homeownership. Additionally, VA would be authorized to assign qualified VA loan guaranty personnel to the bases designated as having housing shortages. These VA personnel would provide prepurchase counseling and loan servicing assistance and assist GI's with the purchase and subsequent sale of their homes.

After consulting with and obtaining the agreement of the VA, DOD would be authorized to transfer its property management jurisdiction to the VA. Thirty VA FTEE would be authorized to fulfill these responsibilities.

Under this bill, DOD would be authorized \$104 million and \$6 million would be authorized for the VA. VA estimates these amounts would provide for 32,000 loans per year.

I believe the Military Housing Assistance Act of 1995 would establish an excellent program, and I urge my colleagues who would like to cosponsor this measure to contact Bo Maske at 225-5031 or Beth Kilker at 225-9756.

REMARKS BY MAJ. GEN. VANG PAO AT THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, April 30, I was at the Vietnam Memorial here in Washington. I met personally with many Vietnam veterans and their families at the Wall there to remember the sacrifices of our soldiers and the 20th anniversary of the tragic fall of South Vietnam to communism.

One of the important ceremonies that I attended at the Wall was held by the Counterparts organization where thousands of Montagnards, Hmong, Laotians and Vietnamese attended to mark the 20th anniversary of the tragic and bloody Communist takeover of their homelands. Some of those in attendance at this somber and important event were Grant McClure, Commanding Officer of Counterparts and former advisor to the Montagnards in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam, Ambassador Bill Colby former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Maj. Gen. Homer Smith head of the Defense Attaché Office during the fateful last hours in Saigon; Brig. Gen. Kor Ksor, a Montagnard leader; Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, Commander of Military Region II for the Royal Lao Army and head of Hmong Special Forces; General Thonglit Chokbenbun, Royal Lao Army Commander; Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt the distinguished Lao/Hmong scholar, author and photojournalist; and Philip Smith, Senior Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Congressman Don Ritter and current Director of the Center for Public Policy Analysis.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is crucial for the United States and Thailand not to forget the tremendous sacrifices of our former Vietnamese, Montagnard, Hmong and Laotian allies during the Vietnam War. I call upon all Vietnam veterans and Americans to oppose the current U.S. State Department and Thai policy of forcibly repatriating many of these former Hmong and Vietnamese Special Forces Commandos and combat veterans from refugee camps back to the repressive Communist regimes that they fled.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to make a part of the public record the speech that Maj. Gen. Vang Pao gave at the 20th Anniversary Ceremony which describes so well the major contribution made by many of our former allies and so many American soldiers during the Vietnam war.

STATEMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL VANG PAO

Dear Honorable Guests, Fellow Veterans, Ladies and Gentlemen: We are gathered here today at this ceremony to mark the 20th Anniversary of the tragic fall of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to invading Communist forces. But, we are also gathered here to recognize and honor those men and women who sacrificed and lost their lives in the Vietnam War—the Second Indochina War—fighting for freedom, democracy, and for the peace and security of Southeast Asia and the United States.

Tens of thousands of Lao and Hmong soldiers and their families who fought against the invading Soviet-backed North Vietnamese Army during the war are buried in unmarked graves in Laos and Vietnam. They

fought to defend their country and to help the United States against the expansion of Soviet Communism through its proxy regime in Hanoi. But, their names are not on the Vietnam Memorial Wall here in Washington. So, we must be vigilant to keep alive their memory in our hearts and tell the story of their brave sacrifices to our children and our children's children so that their memory and the important cause that they fought for is not forgotten by future generations.

In Laos, from 1969 to 1970, the Lao and Hmong Special Forces under my command captured and occupied the strategic site of the Plain of Jars (Thong Haihin) which was crucial to the overall course of the war effort. The Plain of Jars is near the border of North Vietnam and was controlled by three North Vietnamese divisions. During heavy fighting the Lao and Hmong Special Forces under my command defeated the North Vietnamese troops and captured many Soviet-supplied tanks, artillery pieces, anti-aircraft guns, trucks and many hundreds of tons of small arms and other equipment which cost Moscow an enormous amount of money. The Superpowers—the Soviet Union and the United States—were surprised that such a small number of Hmong and Lao soldiers could defeat such a large force of the North Vietnamese Army and then occupy and defend the Plain of Jars. This battlefield victory saved many Americans from having to fight against these North Vietnamese troops and their weapons as well as greatly slowing the advance of Communism in Southeast Asia for many additional years.

It is also important to note the major contribution made by the Lao and Hmong soldiers of the Royal Lao Army in locating and destroying many of the North Vietnamese Army's supply lines along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Lao/Hmong Special Forces caused heavy losses to the North Vietnamese troops and rescued many hundreds of downed American pilots.

The United States did not lose the Vietnam War on the battlefield. The United States withdrew from the Indochina War in 1975 because of world politics, U.S.-Soviet detente, American-Chinese relations and U.S. domestic opposition to the War. However, the United States eventually won the war in world politics in the struggle between Communism and Capitalism. Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe collapsed with the help of freedom fighters like the Hmong and Lao combat veterans who assisted the United States in resisting the expansion of international Communism. Many Communist countries changed to become free countries because of the sacrifices of the Laotian and American men and women who defended freedom and democracy during the Cold War. Therefore, we must recognize and honor those men and women-in-arms who fought and died in the Vietnam War and remember that freedom, democracy and peace will once again return to Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia in the near future.

Thank you for joining me here today to mark this important occasion. God bless you all.

CENTRAL NEW YORK: NATION'S
FIRST PEE WEE WORLD HOCKEY
CHAMPIONS

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, last year I was as proud as I could be, or thought I could be, of

some very special young athletes in my home district, the Syracuse Stars Pee Wee Hockey Team. They had won the USA Nationals and all of our hometown was awash in publicity and congratulations.

Today I am eager to report that the same team has once again prevailed. They are now the holders of the World Cup of Pee Wee Hockey, having won on February 19 this year the 36th Annual Tournoi De Quebec in Quebec City. The tournament hosted 115 teams from 17 countries. The Stars defeated teams from Russia, Ukraine, Detroit, and Toronto on their way to becoming the first U.S. team to ever win the World Cup.

To put this tournament in perspective, more than 550 former or present NHL players have participated, including Wayne Gretzky, Brett Hull, and Mario Lemieux.

The players are: Daniel Bequer, goalie, of North Syracuse; Brian Balash, forward, of Auburn; Gary Baronick, forward, of North Syracuse; Drew Bucktooth, forward, of the Onondaga Indian Nation; Tim Connolly, forward, of Baldwinsville; Jeremy Downs, defense, of Syracuse; Joshua Downs, defense, of Syracuse; J.D. Forrest, defense, of Auburn; Todd Jackson, forward, of Cortland; Josh Jordan, forward, of Marathon; Tom LeRoux, forward, of Syracuse; Doug MacCormack, forward, of Cortland; Matt Magloine, defense, of North Syracuse; Freddy Meyer, defense, of New Hampshire; Anthony Pace, forward, of Cortland; Steve Pakan, defense, of Syracuse; Mike Saraceni, goalie, of North Syracuse; and Ricky Williams, forward, of McGraw. Head Coach Don Kirnan was assisted by coaches Mike Connolly and John Jackson and manager Chris Kirnan.

Freddy Meyer won the Tournament MVP trophy and Drew Bucktooth won the Grand Finale Game MVP. Tim Connolly was top scorer of the tournament and along with Anthony Pace was named a single-game MVP. Dan Bequer gave up only two goals in the last three games, which proved for some exciting hockey, especially in the Stars' 6-2 final game win over the Toronto Young Nationals.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these young athletes for their performance, and for bringing home to the United States our first World Cup of Pee Wee Hockey.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOOD
SERVICE STAFF AT THE MIDDLE
COUNTRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the excellent food service staff at Middle Country School District in Centereach, Long Island, NY, for their hard work and outstanding service.

Next week, we will begin to celebrate National Child Nutrition Week, and it's an important time for us all to focus on the health and well-being of our children. For the food service staff at Middle Country schools, however, every week is Child Nutrition Week and every day is an opportunity to make sure that children are eating healthy and staying fit.

These individuals at the Middle Country schools continually go above and beyond the call of duty. Their work is not just another job, it is an important vocation. They are entrusted with our society's most precious possessions—our children. In their delicate hands, we place the crucial responsibility that's usually just reserved for mothers and fathers—the responsibility of caring for our children. The food service workers rise to this occasion graciously, and they gently nurture our students.

The food service staff who work at the Middle Country schools know that the little things make all the difference. They go out of their way to make sure that a particular little boy finishes his milk or a certain little girl sticks to her special diet. For this extra effort, we are most grateful, and on behalf of all of the people of eastern Long Island, I would like to thank them for a job well done. They truly are role models. Their example can teach us all.

I would also like to extend a special note of congratulations and gratitude to Audrey Prentice, the coordinator of the Middle Country School District's food service program. Audrey is a tireless champion for the health and welfare of our society's most vulnerable members. Her heart is in her work and that makes all the difference. I am very thankful for all of her wisdom, her counsel, and her service.

WELCOME TO JESSAMINE COUNTY
MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to welcome Jessamine County Middle School from Nicholasville, KY, to Washington, DC, on their annual trip.

There is a proud history in our Nation's Capital and I am pleased that these fine young men and women are able to take advantage of the educational opportunities available here in Washington.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the more than 1.5 million victims of Armenian genocide who perished 79 years ago, and their families who still to this day remember this crime against humanity with the same intensity and pain that was felt during 8 years of murder, plight, and savagery.

For 3,000 years, Armenians and Armenian culture had thrived in the area covered by the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish authorities in power in 1915, however, systematically wiped out nearly two-thirds of its Armenian population. They first executed intellectuals and doctors, then adult males, leaving the elderly, the very young, and women defenseless, as the Turkish Government forced them on death marches through the deserts.

In 8 short years, Turkey managed to slaughter a vibrant, thriving, indigenous population,