

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONOR FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, government employees don't have much of a cheering section these days. The men and women who work diligently and conscientiously to serve our citizens and make government operate seem to be bearing more than their portion of the blame for what's perceived to be wrong with the world. The critics are relentless.

So, it is particularly noteworthy that in a recent commencement address at the University of California at Berkeley, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Dan Beard, a self-confessed public servant with much pride in his years of service, extolled the virtues of public service. His message to the graduates was that the public employees who are being denigrated are not strangers but our friends and neighbors, whose responsibility is foremost to serve the public good.

I know the Commissioner to be an exemplary public servant from his service as the Staff Director of the Water and Power Subcommittee during my chairmanship, and later as the Director for the Full Committee during my tenure as chairman. And I am gratified that he has taken this opportunity to speak out on behalf of public servants, and to challenge those who demean their contributions and their service.

I would call to my colleagues' attention the following excerpt from the Commissioner's address at Berkeley printed earlier this month by the San Francisco Chronicle.

The article follows:

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, June 14, 1995]

THE MYTH ABOUT PUBLIC SERVANTS

(By Dan Beard)

I have a confession to make: I have worked in government for more than two decades. Even more scandalous, I am a political appointee who believes it is an honor to work with career public servants.

I guess those are dangerous things to admit these days, given the strong undercurrent of suspicion and mistrust surrounding public service. But they are beliefs I have expressed throughout my career—and they are especially important to emphasize now that I am leaving government.

We seem to be awash in a steady media diet of supposed examples of government employees who have gone too far. Of power-mad bureaucrats harassing private citizens or squeezing the life out of small businesses and property owners.

For a growing number of critics, everything that government does is viciously wrong, or at least hopelessly wrong-headed. According to them, we cannot rely on public servants to strike a fair balance between the public good and economic security.

Most of the critics of government rely on a volatile mixture of myth and innuendo to make their case. They ignore the amazing

contributions that millions of government workers have made to American prosperity, peace, happiness and yes, freedom.

How completely different is today's atmosphere from the beginning of this century, an era dominated by the first true Republican reformer, Teddy Roosevelt. Roosevelt believed most deeply and passionately in the values of public service.

"The first duty of an American citizen," he once said, "is that he should work in politics; the second is that he shall do that work in a practical manner; and the third is that it shall be done in accord with the highest principles of honor and justice."

Roosevelt spent five years as a member of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, and as its leading reformer worked to dismantle the spoils system and institute what we have today: a merit-based civil service system.

Before we malign government workers, let's think about who they really are. They are the people who led the rescue in Oklahoma City—not who caused it. They are the ones who are charged with apprehending those suspected of being responsible. Every day, they make their contributions to society, ensuring our food is safe to eat, the water fit to drink, and the air clean enough to breathe, teaching our children to read and write, protecting our neighborhoods and our nation as a whole.

Public servants are not monsters, and they are not strangers. All of us know them—they are our neighbors, friends, parents, children.

They are not, as the National Rifle Association would have us believe, "jack-booted thugs" who thrive on intimidating law-abiding citizens.

They are there to serve. Yes, they should be held strictly accountable and be efficient. And yes, sometimes they will do things that annoy us. Who wants to be given a parking ticket—until someone blocks us in or out by parking illegally.

Who wants to be made to conform to strict environmental laws—until we want clean water and air. Who wants government at all—until we want well-maintained highways, first-class public universities, tremendous medical and scientific technology, incredible national security and so on.

Public servants should not be castigated for doing their jobs. Most do a job that we couldn't do without. They deserve our respect.

The highest reward for any work is not what you get for it, but what you become by it. It is the goal of most government workers that our country becomes better by their work.

We should and do have vigorous and honest debate about what our government should be involved in. But, we can have it without vilifying public servants.

To all our nation's public servants, I say "thank you." You do a great deal of good for this country and the world—much, much more than many now give you credit for.

IN HONOR OF GILBERT HERRERA, OUTSTANDING YOUNG TEXAS EX

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Gilbert A. Herrera, a recipient of the 1995 Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award. Gilbert was a page in the Texas Senate during the time that I was a Texas State Senator, and we have been great friends ever since. Gilbert's intelligence, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence have served him well, culminating with this prestigious honor.

The Outstanding Young Texas Exes Award has been presented annually since 1980 by The Ex-Students' Association to four alumni under the age of 41 who have excelled in their chosen fields of endeavor and have shown loyalty to the University of Texas. The 1995 award was presented during University of Texas' spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 20, 1995.

Gilbert graduated from University of Texas in 1978 with a BBA degree in finance. He is a principal of G. A. Herrera & Co., a private investment banking firm with offices in Houston and Austin, and he is also a consultant on corporate governance. Gilbert previously served in a variety of corporate finance and banking positions. In 1993 he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, where he serves as chair of its budget committee.

Gilbert also has been active in community service. He is a member of the board of advisors for the Texas Product Development Commission. In Houston he served on the Houston Parks Board and as trustee of the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority, where he chaired the Legislative and Employee Benefits Committees. Gilbert is a life member of the Ex-Students' Association, a lifetime member of the Century Club, a member of the Littlefield Society, the University of Texas Chancellor's Council, the MBA Investment Fund, L.L.C., and the Longhorn Associates for Women's Athletics.

Gilbert and his wife, Kari, have been personal friends of mine for many years. Today, I join their family and many friends in offering my sincere congratulations to this outstanding young Texas Ex on his selection for this recognition. His achievements are a source of pride for his family, his friends, and The University of Texas, and I know that he will continue to distinguish himself in his profession as well as in his service to his community, his State, and his country.

• 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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION OF THE FLAG

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, some people just don't get it. Our flag is more than just another piece of cloth.

Our flag is a symbol, a proud symbol. It represents much of what is good and right in America. But, as history has taught us, what is good and right does not necessarily prevail merely because it is good and right, often it must be fought for.

We face just such a fight today as we consider an amendment to the Constitution that would forbid burning the flag.

Some self-styled liberals contend this is a question of freedom of speech, that malcontents in our population have a right to burn the flag to show their defiance of this country or its policies.

They are wrong, dead wrong.

Dissidents in this country have an unbridled freedom to voice their dissent and opposition whether it comes from the right or the left of the political spectrum. This freedom does not extend to the physical destruction of our flag, the official symbol of our Nation.

Millions of Americans have often spoken of having proudly fought for the flag. Such a statement is not quite accurate. Those millions fought not for the flag itself, but they did fight for what that flag represents—what it stands for—what it means.

Just before the critical battle at Valley Forge, George Washington cited the true importance of our flag as he implored his desperate, outnumbered troops. Washington said, "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair, the event is in the hands of God." This standard helped carry the Nation to victory.

That is the real significance and meaning of this debate. We are fighting for the very values, concepts, and principals on which this country was founded.

I am proud to be one of the 281 members of this House in support of the amendment to protect our flag. I urge all of my colleagues to reflect on the true significance of this issue and join us in support of this amendment.

MEDICAL SAVING ACCOUNTS: NOT A CURE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Medical Savings Accounts—MSAs—are the latest fad sweeping Congress and are seen as an easy way to solve the health care insurance crisis.

Wrong.

They are a brilliant scheme by some profit-hungry insurers to skim healthy people out of the insurance pool and increase health care premiums for the sick, the disabled, and those planning to have a baby.

The Washington Post editorial of June 29 entitled "Not a Cure" explains the problem:

[From The Washington Post, June 29, 1995]

NOT A CURE

In the name of health insurance reform, a proposal is being advanced in Congress whose effect could well be to weaken rather than strengthen the health insurance system. To some extent that's even its goal. It's an idea that should be approached with the greatest caution.

The proposal is to change tax law to allow what are known as medical savings accounts. Instead of normal insurance, a person or his boss would buy a high-deductible policy that would kick in only after the first several thousand dollars a year of medical expenses. To help pay the uninsured expenses, the individual or employer would then also put some money in a special savings account. The savings account contributions, whether made by the employer or the beneficiary, wouldn't count as part of the beneficiary's taxable income.

The new wrinkle here would be that part of the "insurance" would be in cash that the employee could keep in the account for future use if he didn't spend it all. Advocates say the great virtue is that the employees would have an incentive they currently lack to limit their health care spending while increasing national savings. They add that the health care costs of employers would likely decline under the plan, while the cost to the government would increase only marginally (in part because more people would be at least partially insured).

The problem is that the savings accounts would likely split the insurance market. The healthy would be drawn to the new system. The others—those likely to face high costs—would not. Health insurance is supposed to be a system for spreading risk. You put as large a cross-section of premium payers as possible into a common pool, and the healthy at any given moment then support the sick, secure in the knowledge that when they become sick in turn, they too will be supported. To the extent that you take away the healthy, the sick are left to support themselves, and the system unravels.

The American Academy of Actuaries commissioned a study of the savings account idea. "Employees who have little or no health care expenditures stand to reap a real financial reward. The biggest losers will be employees with substantial health care expenditures," said the head of the study group. The head of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Ohio calls the proposal "the ultimate 'cherry-picking' scheme invented by some insurers to guarantee themselves large profits by only insuring the healthiest among us."

The risk is the greater if people can ultimately use the medical savings for non-medical purposes. A bill by Chairman Bill Archer of the House Ways and Means Committee, on which a hearing was held the other day, seeks to prevent that. Some people doubt that for all the debate it has stirred the bill would have the momentous effect that either side expects, and therefore that it's safe to enact. That's not much of a claim for it. Congress should look twice at this one.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WELSH, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend to you and my other col-

leagues a distinguished citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Robert Welsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Welsh Oil, Inc. Bob, whose executive office is located in Merrillville, IN, has used his "grow or go" philosophy to make his business the success that it is today.

While today Bob is the mainstay of Welsh Oil, Inc., his father founded the company on St. Patrick's Day in 1925 with a one-pump gas station located at 5th and Virginia in Gary, IN. Since then, the company has flourished, diversifying into convenience stores, four truck plazas, and an oil delivery service with a total of 57 locations in Indiana, Michigan, and Virginia. The Merrillville-based company grossed \$151 million in sales last year. However, Bob gives credit for the success of his business to his dedicated, hardworking employees.

As if running a multi-million dollar company were not enough, Bob has donated his time and money to numerous causes and community service groups. Last year, Welsh Oil solicited \$84,700 from the individual Welsh Oil stations while corporate donations brought the total donation to \$100,000. In addition, Bob is on the boards of NIPSCO Industries Inc., NBD Bank's Merrillville Region, the Northwest Indiana Forum, the Northwest Indiana Entrepreneurship Academy, Zollner Industries, Lakeshore Health Systems, and Catholic Charities. He is also on the Board of Regents of St. Mary's College in Notre Dame and has served as chairman of St. Mary's School of Finance and Investment Committee.

As a result of Bob's charitable contributions to Northwest Indiana, Bob is one of three finalists for the Ernst & Young Illinois/Northwest Indiana "Entrepreneur of the Year" award that will be decided in December, 1995. To be considered for this distinguished award, one must be nominated by his colleagues or employees. This award recognizes entrepreneurs whose success is exemplified through their financial performance and personal commitment to their business or community.

However, this is not the first time that Bob's hard work and achievements have been recognized. Previously, he was awarded the Entrepreneurial Lifetime Achievement Award for the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center, the Asian-American Medical Society's Crystal Globe Award, and the President's Medal from St. Mary's College.

In between Bob's business and his community service, Bob has time to appreciate the finer things in life. Bob and I share a passion for the University of Notre Dame from which we both earned degrees. Bob is currently a trustee of the university and serves on three board of director committees. Notre Dame has recognized his contributions to the university by naming him Notre Dame's Man of the Year.

Bob is truly a remarkable man. Along with his professional and civic responsibilities, he and his wife, Kay, have also raised a wonderful family. Indeed, their proudest accomplishments are their five children. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Bob for successfully achieving the "American Dream." May the future continue to hold great things in store for this fine man.

B-1B RECORD FLIGHT AROUND
THE EARTH

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, in Texas several weeks ago, two B-1B bombers established new around-the-world records and made aviation history. I am proud to say this historic flight started and finished in Abilene, the city known as the star of Texas.

On Saturday, June 3, 1995, at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX, two B-1B's landed at 3:23 and 3:24 p.m. completing a historic, nonstop, around-the-world flight. This occurred in conjunction with Dyess Big Country Appreciation Day, symbolizing both the 10-year anniversary of the B-1B at Dyess and the base's appreciation of the local community. The landing, greeted by cheers and applause, reflects the closeness and cooperation of the Abilene and Dyess Air Force Base community. More importantly to the American people, this performance demonstrates the B-1B's unique ability to meet our Nation's present and future defense challenges.

When confirmed by the National Aeronautics Association, the planes will have officially made the fastest around-the-world flight using aerial refueling. This record-breaking event accomplished the practical purpose of demonstrating the long-range, power-projection capability of the B-1B.

I am pleased to describe this successful mission, termed "Coronet Bat." It challenged crews and maintainers to prepare for the launch of four B-1B's on June 2, at 3 a.m., with two scheduled to fly the unprecedented nonstop flight around the world. As planned, one B-1B recovered at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, another at Lajes Field in the Azores, while the primary two B-1B's successfully circumnavigated the globe and returned to Dyess Air Force Base in 36.4 hours.

The flight routed B-1B crews over the North Atlantic, through the Strait of Gibraltar, across the Mediterranean Sea, south to the Indian Ocean, north over the Pacific Ocean to the Aleutian Islands, southeast of the western coast of the United States and back to the Lone Star State's Dyess Air Force Base. The successful completion of the Coronet Bat demonstrates the immense capability of the B-1B and reinforces its position as a vital contributor to our conventional bomber force.

Let me further emphasize the meticulous planning, requiring support across Air Force commands, that went into this highly successful mission. Global power missions, such as Coronet Bat, provide valuable training in peacetime for air crews and maintainers preparing for quick response to any major regional conflict. More importantly, this mission mirrored a realistic training scenario for war-time taskings by dropping practice bombs over the Pachino Range of Italy; in the Torishima Range, near Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan; and in the Utah Test and Training Range.

Further proving the B-1B's ability to respond rapidly and decisively around the globe, this B-1B team overcame major obstacles. They encountered monsoon related thunderstorms over the Indian Ocean and a tropical depression associated with tropical storm

Deanna near the Phillipines. Crews received regular updates via satellite and radio throughout the flight to apprise them of upcoming weather. Together with onboard systems, the B-1B crews were able to avoid potential weather related problems.

A number of challenges were met by those people involved in this mission. It required a genuine team effort, designed to exercise the total force capabilities of our Nation's military. Lt. Col. Douglas Raaberg, who is the mission commander and 9th Bomb Squadron commander, credits maintainers, flyers and support personnel from all Air Force commands. He said, "it was a true Air Force team effort from the youngest airman on the flightline to the Thule Greenland radio operator who helped with radio telephone patches, to all those at the tanker units and staffs at different headquarters and wings." He further remarks, "It is global teamwork at its best."

The planes required only minor routine maintenance upon completion of this 36-hour flight. This is a real tribute to the durability of the B-1B. It reinforces the outstanding results of the recently completed congressionally mandated operational readiness assessment and highlights the Air Force plans for the B-1B conventional upgrade programs.

Mr. President, by meeting a number of different challenges over the years, the B-1B has earned justifiably the designation as the backbone of the heavy bomber force. This global power mission once again demonstrated the capability of the B-1B to deliver weapons to any spot in the world and return nonstop to the United States. In this period of budget constraints, I urge my colleagues to consider carefully how the B-1B is uniquely suited to meeting our Nation's present and future defense challenges before casting their votes on any defense measure affecting our heavy bomber force. The B-1B is an efficient and effective long-range bomber, and it should be funded as the centerpiece of American air power projection.

1995 MINI DEAF SPORTS FESTIVAL

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call to the attention of our colleagues a very special upcoming event in my hometown of Louisville, KY. The week of July 21-29 is the date of the 13th Annual Mini Deaf Sports Festival. The Festival is a week long sports competition involving deaf/hard of hearing young people from throughout the country. The event helps to educate the public on the special challenges faced by deaf/hard of hearing individuals. It also teaches festival participants how to face those challenges and overcome them.

Under the leadership of committed people like Timothy Owens, the Executive Director of the Deaf Community Center of Louisville, the Sports Festival strives to make the most of each participant's talents in the context of sports. The confidence and social skills that are a byproduct of healthy competition give these youth the one thing that is essential to that future success—belief in themselves.

Those who have worked so hard to give this gift to our deaf children have recruited many

volunteers with the slogan, "Your Hands—Your Future." Their point is well taken. The futures of these young people directly depend on the hard work, dedication, and concern we show them how. It is a pleasure to lend my support to that cause, even in this small way, by recognizing and commending this effort to bring opportunity, hope, and a sense of belonging to these very special young people.

BRAWLEY BUSINESSMAN
HONORED BY NAVY SECRETARY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable accomplishment by a constituent in my district, Mr. Glen Huber, of Brawley, CA. Mr. Huber recently accepted the Navy Superior Public Service Award from Hon. Richard Danzig, Undersecretary of the Navy, for his exceptional service and outstanding dedication to U.S. Navy and its personnel. Undersecretary Danzig presented the award on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy, Hon. John Dalton.

Mr. Huber's many efforts to bring the Navy and civilian communities together were also honored earlier this month by the Navy League of the United States and their national convention held in St. Louis, MO. Mr. Huber's work on behalf of the annual Navy Desert Outing was particularly praised.

Founded in 1902, the 68,000-member Navy League is a civilian organization dedicated to highlighting the need for seapower to ensure national security and economic well-being. During the League's national convention, Mr. Huber was elected national vice president for Legislative Education. His responsibilities will involve keeping Navy League members advised of congressional activity, specifically as it pertains to maritime issues. In addition, Mr. Huber will be charged with the task of informing Congress and their staffs about the significance of seapower and other related matters.

Established in 1986, the Navy League Desert Outing provides Navy Leaguers the opportunity to observe the Navy's demonstration flight team, the Blue Angels, perform intricate and precisely-coordinated maneuvers during their practice sessions. Navy League participants also attend a formal dinner with the Blue Angels team. This dinner provides the Navy Leaguers the opportunity to meet the young pilots, while promoting constructive interaction between the military and the local community. The following morning, the participants attend a ranch-style breakfast in the desert which features the opportunity to view the Blue Angels during their practice session.

For the last several years, Mr. Huber has served as the co-chairman for the El Centro Naval Air Facility's [NAF] annual air show. This event not only features the precision-flying Blue Angels, but also offers an inside look at NAF El Centro with its various aircraft, displays and exhibits.

Mr. Speaker, in an age where the role and importance of our nation's armed forces is often shrouded by various trivial issues and concerns, it is heartening to see citizens, like Mr. Huber, exhibiting this type of patriotic behavior.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted in favor of House Joint Resolution 79, the flag amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Franklin, PA, on the bicentennial celebration of this community. It is an honor and a privilege to commemorate the residents of Franklin as they embark on their third century.

Deep in the oil region of Pennsylvania, Franklin is a community with spirit. Located in Venango County on the banks of the Allegheny River, there is a town full of beauty, natural resources, industry and historic significance. From the time of George Washington and the French and Indian War, this tract of land served to protect and enhance the lives of its inhabitants.

There was little activity until Andrew Ellicott built a fort to honor Benjamin Franklin. Once established as a fortification, Fort Franklin quickly grew into a village and subsequently into the prosperous city it is today. Franklin also offers stability to the community, as the seat of county government for more than 150 years.

Called the Victorian City, Franklin takes pride in the rich heritage established by the first pioneer settlers, and the industrial revolutionaries who drilled the first oil well. It is my pleasure to honor these first residents of Franklin for their achievements and for setting the standard of excellence that the community values today.

EDINBURG, TEXAS, NAMED ALL-AMERICAN CITY

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, at its ceremony in Cleveland this past weekend, the National Civic League announced it had selected the city of Edinburg, TX, as an all-American city for 1995. A finalist for the award 27 years ago, Edinburg is one of only 10 communities nationwide named by the League—and is, in fact, the only Texas town to be selected.

Chosen from 145 original entries, communities were evaluated on how well they addressed such problems as youth violence, affordable housing and downtown revitalization through grass-roots activism and collaborative problem solving. "Responding to unacceptable high rates of youth crime and violence, citizens, city agencies and service groups initiated a comprehensive package of crime pre-

vention, anti-drug, mental health, education, recreation and employment programs," the awards announcement for Edinburg said.

This recognition is certainly a testimony to Edinburg Mayor Joe Ochoa, to the city commissioners Roy Pena, Pete Rodriguez, Toribio Palacios, and Ofelia De Los Santos, and to the people of Edinburg who have joined together to make their city such an outstanding community. It is truly a great honor.

At the awards ceremony Civic League Chairman John Gardner commented there is a paralysis and pessimism that infects too much of the country today, and that it is communities such as Edinburg which demonstrate the grassroots activism, can-do spirit and creative foresight needed to renew our country. I fully share those sentiments. Indeed, I think I speak for all of us in south Texas when I say how proud we are.

Congratulations.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will help to address some very serious ambiguities currently found in the tax code relating to the availability of pension plans for Indian tribal governments and their employees.

Under current law, there are no salary deferred pension plans for Indian tribal governments and their employees. As far as we can tell, Indian tribal governments are one of only a few employers which do not have such plans available to them. Further aggravating matters, several tribes have purchased plans provided for under section 403 (b) of the Code from insurance companies, only later to find that such plans were not intended for their use. Those retirement funds, affecting several tribes and thousands of tribal employees, are now in jeopardy.

One of the chief reasons individuals elect to work for an employer is based on a strong employee benefits package. Although many tribes are now competitive in the area of salary and health care the laws of the Federal Government have prohibited tribes from offering any form of salary reduction pension plan—one of the most sought after benefits offered to prospective employees. This is a basic matter of equity.

The proposal would provide that annuity contracts purchased by employees of Indian tribal governments qualify under section 403 (b) as tax-sheltered annuities. The Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that this proposal would have a negligible revenue effect on Federal fiscal year budget receipts.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation today and I ask for the consideration of my colleagues.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, In a declaration issued on June 7 in Prague, participants at the CIVITAS PRAGUE 1995 conference pledged to create an international network to help make civic education a higher priority on the agendas of participating nations as well as on the international agenda.

The conference was one of the largest international gatherings of educators and representatives of the public and private sectors supporting civic education ever held. Four hundred twenty-five representatives from 52 nations participated. The conference was sponsored by 36 civic education organizations from North America, Eastern and Western Europe, and the former Soviet Union.

The declaration by CIVITAS participants asserts that civic education is essential for developing the support required for the establishment and maintenance of stable democratic institutions, economic development, national security, and for overcoming destructive religious and ethnic conflicts. The declaration also argues that civic education should have a more prominent place in the programs of all government and international organizations.

The text of the CIVITAS declaration follows. I urge my fellow Members to join me in supporting the declaration and in giving greater recognition to the need to improve civic education for students in the United States and in other nations throughout the world.

On June 2-6, 1995, representatives from fifty-two countries met in Prague at one of the largest international meetings on civic education ever held. The following is a declaration adopted by the participants. A list of the individual signers is available on CIVNET.

The wave of change toward democracy and the open economy that swept the world at the beginning of this decade has slowed, and, in some respects, even turned around. Religious and ethnic intolerance; abuses of human rights; cynicism toward politics and government; corruption, crime and violence; ignorance, apathy and irresponsibility—all represent growing challenges to freedom, the marketplace, democratic government, and the rule of law.

All this makes clear how central knowledge, skills, and democratic values are to building and sustaining democratic societies that are respectful of human rights and cultural diversity. Once again, we see the importance of education which empowers citizens to participate competently and responsibly in their society.

Despite great differences in the more than fifty countries represented among us, we find many similarities in the challenges we face in our civic life. These challenges exist not only in the countries represented here; they also exist in other parts of the world, and in all aspects of social, economic, and political life. People involved in civic education have much to learn from one another.

It is time again to recognize the crucial role that civic education plays in many areas of concern to the International community: Shared democratic values, and institutions that reflect these values, are the necessary foundation for national and international security and stability; the breakup of Cold War blocs, while bringing much good, has also

created openings for aggressive and undemocratic movements, even in the established democracies themselves; civic development is an essential element in—not just a side effect of—economic development. Investments and guarantees made by private enterprise, governments, and international financial institutions will fall where political and legal systems fall, and where corruption and violence flourish.

The challenge of civic education is too great for educators alone. They need far greater cooperation from their own peoples, governments, and the international community.

We seek increased support for civic education—formal and informal—from the widest range of institutions and governments. In particular, we urge greater involvement in civic education by international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the European Union, the North Atlantic Assembly, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Bank.

We seek an active personal and electronic on-line-exchange (through CIVNET) of curricular concepts, teaching methods, study units, and evaluation programs for all elements of continuing education in civics, economics, and history.

We pledge ourselves to create and maintain a worldwide network that will make civic education a higher priority on the international agenda.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MCKIM
BARLEY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George McKim Barley, Jr., a seventh generation Floridian who leaves behind a legacy of leadership in the fight to save Florida Bay and the Everglades. Mr. Barley tragically died in a plane crash in Orlando, FL, on June 23, 1995.

George Barley will be remembered among the great conservationists like Marjorie Stoneman Douglas—author of "A River of Grass"—who brought national attention to the plight of the embattled Everglades ecosystem that stretches from Lake Okechobee to the coral reefs of the Florida Keys. A passionate environmentalist, George Barley became Florida Bay's most visible and ardent proponent in Washington. His advocacy and dedication were vital to much of the progress made to date in Everglades restoration efforts. Unfortunately, Mr. Barley was killed pursuing this passion—his untimely death occurred while en route to an Everglades meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Barley was the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission's first director. He was chairman of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council from 1992 until 1995. He chaired Save Our Everglades Alliance—a family of organizations dedicated to a broad campaign of Everglades education, political action and restoration.

Mr. Barley was named the Florida Audubon's Conservationist of the Year for 1994. The Nature Conservancy, the Everglades Coalition, The Broward County Environmental Coalition and the Florida Outdoor Writer's Association also have given him

awards for his volunteer work on restoring Florida Bay and the Everglades.

Perhaps George Barley's greatest contribution to the cause of Florida Bay and Everglades restoration was his understanding of the need to express environmentalism as an economic argument, a question of jobs and a future for ordinary people. As a successful businessman, he was well positioned to argue for the need to protect our natural resources in order to maintain economic prosperity. He will be long remembered and sorely missed by those of us working to preserve the Everglades and Florida Bay for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, I spoke to the graduates, teachers, and families at 15 public school graduation exercises in my district. I consider it one of my most important duties as a Representative to celebrate these events and acknowledge publicly that these young people of the South Bronx, often in spite of terrible odds, have successfully completed major stages in their education.

However, I missed several votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On further consideration of H.R. 1854, Legislative Branch Appropriations, 1996:

Rollcall No. 408, approval of the Journal—no.

Rollcall No. 409, motion to permit Committees to sit—no.

Rollcall No. 410, Fazio amendment, amended by Mr. HOUGHTON—yes.

Rollcall No. 411, Clinger amendment to cut Folklife Center, increase CBO to do unfunded mandate analyses—no.

Rollcall No. 412, Orton amendment to cut the Botanical Garden, increase depository libraries—no.

Rollcall No. 413, Klug amendment to cut GPO staffing—no.

Rollcall No. 414, Christensen amendment to ban funds for elevator operators—no.

Rollcall No. 415, Zimmer amendment to return unspent funds for deficit reduction—no.

Rollcall No. 416, motion to recommit—yes.

Rollcall No. 417, passage of H.R. 1854—yes.

On H. Res. 170, the rule for consideration of H.R. 1868, Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations, 1996:

Rollcall No. 418, ordering the previous question—no.

Rollcall No. 419, passage of H. Res. 170—no.

CONKLIN ACHIEVES ELITE ISO 9001
CERTIFIED QUALITY STATUS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, Conklin Instrument Corp., a leading supplier of tele-

communications network access products in my district of upstate New York, joined an elite group of companies which have had their quality systems certified under the international standard for quality, ISO 9001.

ISO is widely known for the ISO number on photographic film that established the standard for film speed. That standard allows all photographic film and cameras in the world to work together without problems. The ISO 9001 quality system standard allows suppliers and customers world wide to work together with the highest quality possible.

ISO 9001 specifies the characteristics of quality management system that gives mutual benefit to both customers and suppliers alike. It also requires an independent third party registrar to certify conformance periodically. Only 2,100 companies in the United States and 250 companies in Canada have achieved ISO 9001 certification to date.

Conklin Instrument Corp. was founded in 1957 by Charles Conklin, who produced gauges for jet engine manufacturers. In 1972, Conklin began to design and manufacture custom products for telephone companies with construction of the company's existing corporate headquarters and factory beginning in 1973. Proud of its contributions to the telecommunications industry, Conklin formed its Atlanta Design Center in 1984, and continues to provide for research and development of digital telephone products which account for most of the company's current sales.

Charles Conklin had the dream that many Americans have. He wanted to do something he loved and to be successful doing it. His entrepreneurial spirit should be emulated by all young businessmen and women, for he took that risk in 1957 and his company is reaping the benefits today. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all Members to congratulate Conklin Instrument Corp. on this prestigious award and I thank them for their service to my district.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK BRUCE SMITH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding East Texan, Frank Bruce Smith of Tool, TX, who died recently at the age of 80. Bruce was a lifelong resident of Henderson County and a man of stature there. I always felt a kinship to Bruce and his wife, Willie Mae; actually, Willie Mae is related to my wife. Bruce spent a lifetime devoting his energies to help make Henderson County a better place in which to live, and his presence will be truly missed.

Born January 15, 1915, in Henderson County to Dan and Eula Smith, Bruce graduated from Mabank High School in 1934 and from Draughn's Business College in Dallas in 1937. He served 28 years with the Trinity River Authority, including serving as vice president, president, and chairman of the board. He was the only person to be appointed by five Governors.

Bruce also was involved in the oil and cattle industries. He was an active member of the

Hard Hat Club, American and East Texas Petroleum Landman Association and Texas Independent Royalty Owner's Association. His cattle brand, "Big 4 Cattle Company," was recognized by Texas A&M University on its new agricultural building, the Calhoun Building, in College Station. Bruce gave his strong support to the Henderson County Fair Board, Henderson County Agricultural Board and Southwestern Cattle Raiser's Conventions.

In addition to his many business responsibilities, Bruce devoted countless hours to community service, particularly in the area of education. He was a past board member of Malakoff Independent School District and at the time of his death was a member of the board of trustees of Trinity Valley Community College. He was a contributor to the Henderson County Historical Association and Henderson County Library.

Bruce also was a member of the Lions Club and was a 32nd degree Mason. He supported the Boy Scouts of America, East Texas Medical Center, Henderson County Fairgrounds, and Optimist Club, which honored him with its Friends of Youth award. His service included the boards of many banks and savings and loan associations, and he was a board member of First National Bank of Athens at the time of his death. He was a long-time member of Providence Baptist Church in Tool.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Willie Mae Landrum Smith of Tool; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carolyn Sue and Kenneth Davis, and Janice Ann and Ronnie Brown; two granddaughters, Annsley Carol Brown and Keeley Lauren Brown; three sisters, Betty Rogers of Irving, Lometa Johnson of Tool, and Frances Monroe of Malakoff; and four brothers, Orvil Smith and Ray Smith, both of Tool, Jackie Smith of Tyler, and Pat Smith of Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, I would like to join his family and many friends in paying our last respects to Bruce Smith and in thanking him for his many contributions. His legacy will be felt for generations to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79,
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESE-
CRATION OF THE FLAG

SPEECH OF

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, today we vote on legislation which would create a constitutional

amendment that would authorize the Congress and the States to prohibit the physical desecration of the Nation's flag.

There are many dangers presented by this constitutional amendment, particularly to the first amendment right to free speech and free expression. In 1989, the Supreme Court handed down a decision which supported this argument. In effect, the decision reversed 48 State flag protection laws that were already on the books. In response to this decision, Congress passed the Flag Protection Act in 1989 and deleted any reference to an individual's intent in mutilating the flag. However, in 1990, the Supreme Court ruled that the statute was unconstitutional because it infringed on the first amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of expression. The statute was found to "suppress[es] expression out of concern for its communicative impact."

I agree that the burning of the American flag is disrespectful and I am often disgusted and disturbed by this act. I also feel compelled to protect the right of any American to express themselves as they see fit. In a democratic society, we have the enormous and sometimes difficult duty of protecting all forms of speech.

House Joint Resolution 79 seeks to eliminate the already rare incidents of flag burning. From 1777 to 1989, there were only 45 incidents reported. Since the 1989 and 1990 Supreme Court decisions which deemed the flag-desecration statutes unconstitutional, there has been no outbreak of flag burning. In fact, fewer than 10 flag burning incidents have been reported since 1990.

There is no flag burning problem sufficient to justify the radical step of amending the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has been consistent in its rulings that the destruction of the flag is a political statement and political expression, which is exactly the kind of unpopular speech which the first amendment has always sought to protect. For example, in *Street v. New York*, Sidney Street publicly burned the American flag in protest of the shooting of civil rights activist James Meredith. He was convicted under a New York law which made it illegal to mutilate a flag or to show contempt for it in words or conduct. The Supreme Court overturned the decision and stated that the language was too broad because it punished not only Street's actions but his words as well.

The amendment we debated today was written with such broad strokes that it fails to define desecration and fails to establish which flags or representations of the flag are to be protected. Such open-endedness and vague wording provides Congress and the States with enormous powers to criminalize a broad range of acts which fall short of flag burning or mutilation.

This bill would amend the Bill of Rights and damage the first amendment's protection of freedom of expression.

Prohibiting the right of expression is characteristic of a totalitarian society not a democracy such as ours. We must not erode the right of citizens to express their political opinions no matter how repugnant they may seem to some. There is only one thing more distressing than the desecration of this national symbol and that is the desecration of the principles which it represents. It is certainly a sad day in this country when we invest all of our beliefs into a single symbol and are willing to forgo real constitutional rights for it.

The freedom of expression that is guaranteed to every citizen of the United States carries with it a great responsibility. Any attempts to curb that right must not be taken lightly. If so, our freedom of speech and expression becomes the price for adopting a constitutional amendment.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1868) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Visclosky amendment to maintain the ban on United States foreign aid to Azerbaijan.

I am deeply concerned that lifting this ban will weaken efforts to find a political solution to the Karabagh conflict. While a ceasefire has been in place for over a year now, talks toward settlement have been stalled.

There is simply no reason to threaten a fragile peace and reward Azerbaijan for failing to comply with United States law. Instead, Congress must stand by the principles of the Freedom Support Act it adopted in 1992. We must support a peace settlement of the current conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, without weakening the tough stand we took 3 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.