

today introducing legislation which would simply clarify current law by stating in no uncertain terms that States have the right to set their own base periods and no Federal actions should preempt that right. I hope that my colleagues will join with me in supporting States' rights and in supporting this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in the afternoon of Wednesday, July 10, 1996, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and therefore missed rollcall, vote No. 295, rollcall vote No. 296; rollcall vote No. 297 and rollcall vote No. 298—on final passage of the legislative branch appropriations for fiscal year 1997. I want the record to show that if I had been able to be present in this Chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted "no" on both rollcall vote No. 295 and rollcall vote No. 296 and "yea" on rollcall votes 297 and 298.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VFW POST
7980

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7980, located in Millstadt, IL. The Millstadt post is celebrating its 50th anniversary on July 20, 1996, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the current and former members for their contributions to the entire community.

I assisted the Millstadt post in securing an M-47 Patton tank in 1989 from the U.S. Department of Defense, and it stands as a reminder of those veterans who have sacrificed a great deal to protect the freedoms we love dearly in the United States of America. It was my privilege to be present at the dedication of the tank in September of that year, and since then it has served as both a tribute and educational tool for the whole region.

The Millstadt post has had a long and distinguished record of service to the community, which we will celebrate on July 20. A variety of post commanders have shepherded the post through several improvements and community projects, including services for local veterans, the purchase of American flag for area events, and a college scholarship program.

I want to congratulate the members of VFW Post 7980 for their continued hard work and dedication to their fellow veterans and their community. Their example stands out as an inspiration to other organizations looking to help their fellow man in our region.

A SALUTE TO BABCOCK AND
WILCOX FOR WINNING OHIO'S
EXPORTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a company in my district, Babcock and Wilcox [B&W], for recently receiving the State of Ohio's Exporter of the Year Award. This award is given each year to the Ohio company which best exemplifies the State's commitment to international trade. It is especially prestigious since Ohio is a leading export State, based on the number of manufacturers who export goods and services. It is particularly gratifying to see B&W win this award, since it has a proud tradition in Ohio since 1906.

B&W is internationally renowned and respected for its power and steam generation systems and for its environmental control equipment. This company's worldwide reputation as an engineering and advanced technologies leader helped its power generation group to earn a record \$558 million in overseas contract awards last year, equaling 63 percent of the group's total sales. A highlight was the sale of 10 of the first sulfur dioxide removal systems ever purchased by South Korea as part of its power expansion program. This was also the largest environmental equipment contract ever awarded by an electric utility. Beyond South Korea, B&W has increased its international presence over the last decade by establishing joint venture operations in China, India, Indonesia, Turkey, Mexico, and Egypt. This international expansion has helped the company stabilize its activities in Ohio and has contributed to its growth in my State.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize B&W's superior work in Ohio, and commend this company for winning the State's Exporter of the Year Award.

CONCERNS ABOUT WETLAND
REGULATIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following letter to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman concerning the increased amount of proposed wetland regulations.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

July 9, 1996.

Hon. DAN GLICKMAN,
Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR DAN: While visiting with my constituents, I have been advised of several concerns about wetland regulations, particularly a concern that actions by Federal Agencies with wetland responsibilities and jurisdiction are proposing actions that amount to "regulatory creep" by proposing to expand the amount of lands defined as Federally protected wetlands.

I am told that three changes are being considered by the four Federal agencies with wetland responsibilities (USDA, Corps of Engineers, EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service) that would expand the criteria used in the Federal delineation process by making changes to the 1987 delineation manual and by adopting a functional assessment process known as the hydrogeomorphic (HGM) approach.

One of the specific concerns has been that NRCS, without public notice and comment, is expanding its list of field indicators of hydric soils, which in turn would result in an expansion of areas and sites that would meet the hydric soil criteria. Mr. Secretary I want to ask whether it is the view of NRCS that all hydric soils are wetland soils? (I understood that wetland soils are a function of wetland hydrology, and that wetland delineation requires the independent verification of all three wetland criteria—soils, water, and plants.)

Secondly, I am told that the Fish and Wildlife Service is about to enter into an agreement to expand the hydrophytic plant list, also without the benefit of public notice and comment. Is the interagency wetland team recommending that Federal agencies be allowed to delineate wetlands based only upon two criteria (soils and plants) instead of the three essential wetland criteria? Such an action would seem to allow regulators to 'assume' hydrology based on the presence of an expanded list of hydric soil indicators and an expanded list of hydrophytic plants. It is already very difficult for many of my constituents to accept wetlands defined under present rules without wetlands being defined without the apparent presence of water for a significant period of time during the year.

Finally, I am curious about the interagency wetland team's implementation of a new methodology for the functional assessment of wetlands using the hydrogeomorphic (HGM) approach. There is a concern that this method would arbitrarily assign functions to various types of wetlands located within a watershed or ecological region by combining the subjective nature of wetlands science with the ambiguity of professional judgment.

Mr. Secretary, I am particularly alarmed by the appearance that no one in the Administration nor the Congress is currently in charge of wetland delineation. With no one designated for a leadership role on this subject I fear that the bureaucracy is once again free to initiate regulatory creep. That would leave the most important regulatory decisions to be accomplished behind the political scene by interagency fiat without public input.

Dan, I would appreciate it very much, and feel more comfortable, if you would take a personal role in overseeing the activities of the interagency wetland group to insure that the general public, including those which would be subject to these regulations, have adequate opportunity for involvement in any changes in wetland regulations.

Thank you very much for your consideration and assistance on this matter.

Best wishes,

DOUG BEREUTER,
Member of Congress.

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH BENEFITS
ALL AMERICANS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the increased funding levels contained in the fiscal year 1997 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act for the National Institutes of

Health [NIH]. This funding is critical for biomedical research and benefits all Americans, as it improves quality of life. In addition to researching treatments and cures for such disease as breast cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease. NIH funding is also used to advance medical devices that will save and enhance lives.

San Diego County is a leader in the field of biomedical research. This region of southern California is known for its advancements in medicine, and increased funding levels are vital to move forward with research that will find cures for diseases. Jonas Salk, the pioneering health researcher, did much of his greatest work at the University of California, San Diego. His development of the first polio vaccine saved countless lives, and spared countless families the crippling disabilities, and even death associated with this disease.

I commend Chairman PORTER in his commitment to NIH research. I am pleased that he joins me in recognizing the important NIH's support to thousands of scientists and research institutions throughout the country.

A TRIBUTE TO SHELTER ISLAND
POLICE CHIEF L. GEORGE FERRER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late L. George Ferrer, a selfless, dedicated law enforcement officer who for nearly 20 years served the town of Shelter Island, Long Island as its chief of police.

A 26-year veteran of the Shelter Island Police Department, George suffered a fatal heart attack while hard at work at his desk early on the morning of Thursday, June 27. Despite the quick reactions of Police Officer Jack Thilberg, who administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and Sergeant Jeffrey Brewer that enabled ambulance crews to transport the chief safely to the hospital, George Ferrer passed away at Winthrop University Hospital at 3:09 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2.

With George Ferrer's passing, not only has the community of Shelter Island lost a faithful protector, but Long Island's entire law enforcement community has lost one of its finest members. With an unyielding devotion to the badge he wore, and all that it represents, Chief George Ferrer set an example of professionalism and commitment for the officers of his department, for law enforcement officers everywhere and for the public he served so well.

The example George Ferrer provided will live on because it will be carried forward by men like Shelter Island Police Sergeant Jeffrey Brewer, who served under the chief for nearly 20 years. Delivering the eulogy at his chief's funeral service, Sergeant Brewer talked about the steadfast devotion to professionalism that George Ferrer brought to the job every day and how it shaped him and the other officers.

Though, as chief of police, George was the administrative head of the department, he was not afraid to do the routine police work, whether it was directing traffic or gathering evidence. "George led us past our feelings and emotions and into the trenches. For he was

spit and polished to most—to us he was never afraid to roll up his sleeves and get dirty, to get the job done," Brewer eulogized.

The greatest tribute that could be paid George Ferrer's legacy as chief of the Shelter Island Police Department are the police officers who mentored under his command and took to heart his dedication and who will continue to protect and serve the community. The Shelter Island police officers you see in front of you today are a product of George's legacy. They have all been with me in body and George in spirit since last Thursday morning. They have been away from their families for days on end. When the news came of George's passing, they knew what they had to do. I never told them—I didn't have to. They just knew they had to be spit and polished," Brewer told those who gathered to mourn George's passing and to comfort his family.

It was not just the law enforcement community that appreciated George Ferrer's dedication and commitment. Shelter Island Town Supervisor Huson "Hoot" Sherman described the chief as "very professional, very dedicated to Shelter Island and to the police work on Shelter Island. Whenever we had any kind of emergency or an accident, whenever there was somebody in distress in any way, George was always there on the scene, taking charge of the situation." Part of George Ferrer's duties was to act as Shelter Island's Emergency Management Coordinator during any sort of hurricane or winter blizzard.

Supervisor Sherman praised his ability as a law enforcement officer, but also an administrator, saying that "George ran a very tight department. He did a terrific job, his whole life was wrapped up being the Shelter Island Police Chief." As Supervisor Sherman also recalled, George was a very industrious man who was always working to supplement his police salary, doing carpentry work or selling real estate around the Island.

All who knew George Ferrer praised his dedication to the Shelter Island Police Department, his tireless devotion to the island's residents and to the police officers under his command. As impressive as his commitment to the police force, none of it surpassed George's love for his family. They were always his first consideration. Chief Ferrer leaves behind his wife Shirley, son Christopher and daughters Lori and Danielle, as well as his granddaughter Rebecca. He is also survived by his mother Cecelia Glas and stepfather, Adolph Glas, his brother Robert and sisters Celia and Elisa.

And as the Shelter Island Reporter, Chief Ferrer's hometown newspaper, put it, "We'll miss his professional energy and his enthusiasm, his personal honesty and his fairness with us. We'll miss him as a person. We'd be honored if he misses us when Tuesday mornings roll around."

For his many years of selfless, dedicated service to the community, we all owe Shelter Island Police Chief L. George Ferrer a great debt of gratitude and thanks. May his spirit of public service and professionalism live on in all our hearts. He was a class act and will be sorely missed by all who came to know him personally and professionally across eastern Long Island.

Sergeant Jeff Brewer's entire eulogy speech on Chief Ferrer follows:

To those of you who don't know me, I am sergeant Jeff Brewer of the Shelter Island

Police Department. For the past 19 years and 3 months, I have had the privilege to serve under Chief George Ferrer, first when he was sergeant then as a chief. We have been through a lot together. When I was a "rookie" we laughed as I fumbled over my own two feet. Then as time moved on, much like a teenager feeling his oats, I challenged some of his ways not knowing why. He always got the last word in by saying, "This is my sandbox." Through the years I learned to understand the meaning of that and from that grew a strong respect. The Chief was more like an older brother to be than a boss. We shared the private pain of losing longtime fellow officers and friends to retirement and injuries. Still we remained, Chief Ferrer, Detective Springer, and me. Over the years, oddly as it seems, George and I arrived at an ironic balance; similar to the odd couple, George with his unyielding serious side and me with my more witty approach. This combination seemed to get us through the daily occurrences from the trivial and mundane to the serious and the grotesque. George led us past our feelings and emotions and into the trenches. For he was spit and polished to most, to us he was never afraid to roll up his sleeves and get dirty to get the job done.

The Shelter Island Police Officers you see in front of you today are a product of George's legacy. They have all been with me in body and George in spirit since last Thursday morning. They have been away from their families for days on end. When the news came of George's passing, they knew what to do. I never told them what to do; I didn't have to. They just knew they had to be spit and polish. They spent hours and hours of their own time putting this together. They spent hours practicing every step for today. It had to be right.

I have heard through the grapevine that this is just a big show! They cannot understand! These fine officers and the rest of you in blue know this is no show! This how our family shows our respect to a fellow officer and his family. And it shows how law enforcement is not just a job but rather a way of life and Chief George Ferrer demonstrated it every day.

As in life as we know it, there are beginnings, endings, and new beginnings so let me finish by going back to the beginning. To Shirley and the Ferrer family, I am personally honored and privileged to have served under such a fine leader like Chief L. George Ferrer. We will do our best to keep his legacy of pride and professionalism alive in this department that he so proudly served. God bless the Chief in his new tour of duty.

ROBERT C. NELDBERG

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of this body and the entire Nation the retirement of Robert C. Neldberg. A native of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Mr. Neldberg has been chief executive officer and administrator of the Marquette General Hospital in Marquette, MI, since October 1973.

After studies at Northern Michigan University and in the St. Louis' University Hospital Executive Development Program, Mr. Neldberg began his administrative career in August 1968 when he was hired as the director of personnel and public relations at St.