

Puerto Rico deserve the opportunity to become economically solvent and self-sufficient. We must work hand in hand with the island to develop a sound economic development program that helps achieve those goals. I believe we must consider improvements and expansion of a wage credit for Puerto Rico under existing legislation. I urge my colleagues to give prompt attention to this issue early next year.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF WICH RADIO

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of WICH Radio 1310 in Norwich, CT. Known as WNOC at its inception, WICH operates out of 91 Main Street, and transmits from its facilities off of Lucas Park Road in the Second Congressional District. Today, WICH is the hub of a four-station radio system.

While, as we might expect, personalities and formats have changes over the years, WICH has throughout its tenure on our airwaves maintained its commitment to community service. The radio station's history is replete with example of having contributed to the public good of eastern Connecticut.

During times of emergencies natural disasters, and the like, WICH has provided special and exemplary service to its listeners and has most appropriately received several awards for its work.

Since its beginning under the guidance of the late Ross Perkins of Essex, CT, through the extraordinary contributions of Dick Reed, WICH has made extraordinary contributions to the radio industry.

Congratulations to WICH of Norwich on its 50 year anniversary and best wishes for another 50 years of future service and great programming.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR BAY
CITY: CITIZENS, LABOR, AND
UNITED WAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, in addition to keeping full-time jobs, volunteers spend long tireless hours helping others while in return they are not paid and receive no financial gain. Volunteers selflessly sacrifice their free time. Organizations would not be nearly as effective without volunteers who are essential to the success of achieving their goals.

Today I would like to congratulate and recognize some dedicated volunteers from my hometown of Bay City, MI, whose efforts earned them the Model City in Community Service Award. One of five model cities nationwide, the citizens of Bay City, the United Way, and the Central Labor Council should be proud of their accomplishments. By working together they improved their community and serve as a model for other communities to follow.

Under the capable leadership of Steve Rajewski, labor liaison for the United Way of Bay County and coordinator for community service programs through the United Way of Bay County, the volunteers have provided many valuable services to the community including: union counseling, blood drives, service for retirees, food drives and many other valuable programs aimed to improve the quality of life for citizens of Bay City.

Established in 1991, the AFL-CIO Model City in Community Service Award recognizes outstanding community service activities and programs provided by the AFL-CIO and developed in cooperation with the United Way. The programs are designed to give union members the opportunity to serve, support, and improve human services in their communities.

The selection is based on a detailed survey and application process that focuses on health and human service programs that work in the local communities. Volunteer activities on the boards and committees of the United Way and its member agencies are an important criterion for model city consideration.

The United Way, the Central Labor Council, and citizens of Bay City deserve recognition for their cooperation which resulted in their being honored with this prestigious award. The loyal volunteers represent the spirit of volunteerism and community service which makes our county one of the greatest national in the world. I am proud to be a son and product of the great city and I ask my colleges to join me in wishing the citizens of Bay City a hearty congratulations for a job well done.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
H.R. 2092

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the gentleman from Georgia in support of the Private Security Officer Quality Assurance Act, a bill which we jointly introduced last year. Mr. BARR deserves enormous credit for his diligence, skill, and hard work in bringing this important measure to the floor.

The public deserves the assurance that the security guard they meet in the mall, the bank, or at school is not a felon or a person who has a history of violent behavior. Recently, USA Today printed a story about the tragedies which can occur when inadequate background checks are made—tragedies that involved security guards who committed murder, rape, and theft.

Mr. Speaker, there are now thousands of security companies employing close to 1.8 million guards. The vast majority of these security guards are professionals, many acting heroically in performing their duties. However, right now, we cannot be sure that the security officers that we meet in virtually every facet of our lives are not armed and dangerous.

H.R. 2092 will provide an expedited procedure for State officials to check the backgrounds of applicants for guard licenses. A similar procedure is in place for the banking and parimutuel industries. Currently, it takes up to 18 months to complete background checks in some States. This bill can reduce

that time to the approximately 3 weeks it takes for banks to get results under their expedited process.

H.R. 2092 contains no mandates of any kind. No State or individual is compelled to use it. Fees will be paid by the applicants or their employers. There is no cost to the FBI.

H.R. 2092 has broad support. Most notably, the National Association of Security and Investigative Regulators has endorsed the bill as well as representatives of the guard, alarm, and armored car industries.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a bipartisan effort which has the support of Members on both sides of the aisle. Security should not be a partisan issue. By establishing an expedited procedure for State regulators of security guards to receive FBI background checks in a timely manner, H.R. 2092 will greatly improve the safety of the public.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this straightforward, modest, and reasonable bill that will improve public safety where ever security guards are present.

HEALING VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the brutal and violent practice of torture is a critical issue; yet, there is little information on the subject and even less action in the fight against it. For some governments, torture is used as a matter of policy where low-level functionaries carry out high-level orders of state violence. During the mid-1970's, core-Communist countries such as China, Cuba, the Soviet Union and Vietnam relied on torture as a most effective tool against democracy. As recently as 1995, there were 72 governments who systematically implemented the practice of torture.

For victims of torture, however, there is hope. Dr. Inge Genefke is a Danish doctor who has devoted her career to the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of torture. She began her career in this field in 1973 after Amnesty International issued a plea to physicians throughout the world to assist those who had been tortured. As director of both the Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Dr. Genefke keeps an impressive schedule speaking in countries where victims of torture are receiving medical attention.

Earlier this year, Dr. Genefke testified before the House International Relations subcommittee on international operations and human rights. Her testimony included basic information on the issue and stressed the need for increased American awareness of torture victims and their struggles. Dr. Genefke believes that through greater understanding and awareness, we can make gains in the fight against torture.

I commend to Member's attention the following column on this remarkable woman by the respected Colman McCarthy which appeared in the Washington Post on September 3, 1996.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 3, 1996]

FIGHTING TORTURE WITH MEDICINE

(By Colman McCarthy)

As a young physician earning her medical degree from the University of Copenhagen in