when they are secured for us by previous generations—we are in danger of forgetting to remain vigilant against those very threats to our liberty. Often, when blessed with peace, memories fade. Sometimes forgotten are those who sacrifice to fight against the tyranny of oppression.

In Odessa, TX, the Desert Squadron of the Confederate Air Force takes to the air in the surviving military aircraft that helped win the peace in World War II. They fly in honor of those who pilots those aircraft, and in honor of those who were supported by the mighty American Air Cover. The fact that these aircraft can fly at all is at the heart of the mission and the message of the Confederate Air Force Desert Squadron: preparedness and vigilance.

For our military veterans, our men and women in uniform today, and the generations who will be entrusted to keep our country strong, keeping these aircraft flying becomes a lesson in history and a means of teaching strength, preparedness, and vigilance in the name of liberty.

IN HONOR OF EL NUEVO HUDSON: CELEBRATING 2 YEARS OF SERVICE TO HUDSON COUNTY’S HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the El Nuevo Hudson edition of the Jersey Journal, a local Spanish language publication in my district, on its second anniversary of outstanding service to Hudson County’s Hispanic community. This newspaper and its distinguished publisher, Mr. Scott Ring, will be honored during a scholarship fund benefit dinner on March 26, 1997, at Jersey City State College in Jersey City, NJ.

In the early 1960’s, large numbers of Hispanic immigrants began moving into the north Hudson area. Few sources of daily news were available in the native language of these new and valued members of the area. Today, Spanish news organizations, magazines, and publications such as El Nuevo Hudson have become the backbone of the Hispanic community, addressing important informational needs and concerns as well as deepening the understanding among Hispanic-Americans from various parts of the world.

In a relatively short time frame, El Nuevo Hudson has established itself as a social, cultural, and political watchdog for the growing Hispanic-American population in Hudson County. Ethnically focused newspapers such as El Nuevo Hudson have helped minority communities flourish in this Nation.

Since its launching, El Nuevo Hudson has proven to be a reliable and valuable medium to Hispanics throughout Hudson County. By keeping people in touch with news and services that affect them, it has contributed to the heightened awareness of the diverse Hispanic community. For this reason alone, I commend the publisher, editor-in-chief, Albert Bermudez, and the talented and hard-working staff for providing a much needed service. I encourage them to maintain their exceptional work for many years to come.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the El Nuevo Hudson edition of the Jersey Journal, a publication that provides a new voice for the Hispanic community. Through the journalistic expertise of its publisher, Scott Ring, it has won acclaim throughout the news gathering sector of our area. I look forward to the continued participation of El Nuevo Hudson as New Jersey approaches a new century.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CENSUS ACCURACY ACT OF 1997

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Census Accuracy Act of 1997. The Census Accuracy Act requires that 3 years prior to the census, the Census Bureau must submit to Congress its plans for carrying out the census. It must report what methods will be used to take the census, including direct counting methods, sampling, statistical techniques, and any other methods to ensure that the census is as accurate as possible. The Census Accuracy Act also specifies that when Congress requires the allocation of funds based on population or housing characteristics, unless otherwise specified, that data should be collected on the census at the same time as the information for apportionment is collected.

Some critics of the Census Bureau’s current plans for the 2000 census argue that title 13, U.F.C., prohibits the use of sampling to derive the population counts used for apportionment. In fact, the record is clear and overwhelming that just the opposite is true. The Department of Justice under Presidents Carter, Bush, and Clinton has concluded that the use of sampling is both legal and constitutional. Similarly, when asked to rule, the courts have consistently upheld the use of sampling. Nevertheless, some observers continue to ask whether section 195 of title 13, U.F.C., permits the use of sampling to derive the population counts used for apportionment, even when read in conjunction with section 141 of the same title. Therefore, the purpose of this bill is to reaffirm the interpretation of the courts and the Justice Department that the use of sampling is both appropriate and desirable in order to make the census more accurate, and ensure that sections 195 and 141 of title 13, U.F.C., are in harmony as originally intended.

In just 3 years, the 2000 census will be under way. The Census Bureau is under a tremendous burden to get it right, and to make the census more accurate and cost effective, it must address the problem of undercount. The Census Bureau must report to Congress its plans for carrying out the census.

In addition to the mail, the Census Bureau will use a variety of methods to make it easier for the public to be counted. Forms will be placed in super markets and community centers, post offices and government buildings, convenient stores and retail stores. Forms will be available in foreign languages, and there will be a toll-free number where people can call directly for help. There will also be a toll-free number where people can call if they have not filled out their census form. There will be a campaign to inform the public that the census is coming, and to explain why the Government is collecting this information.

We need to expand our campaign to inform the public about the census, and we will be in the census. I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the El Nuevo Hudson edition of the Jersey Journal, a publication that provides a new voice for the Hispanic community. Through the journalistic expertise of its publisher, Scott Ring, it has won acclaim throughout the news gathering sector of our area. I look forward to the continued participation of El Nuevo Hudson as New Jersey approaches a new century.

The Census Bureau will use a variety of methods to make it easier for the public to be counted. Forms will be placed in super markets and community centers, post offices and government buildings, convenient stores and retail stores. Forms will be available in foreign languages, and there will be a toll-free number where people can call for help. There will also be a toll-free number where people can fill out their form over the phone. And, if privacy concerns can be addressed, it may be possible to return your form through the internet. There will be an advertising campaign to inform the public that the census is coming, and to explain why the Government is collecting this information.

There will be programs for schools and civic organizations, as well as Census employees whose job it is to work with community organizations to get out the count.

Even with all of these efforts we know that not everyone will send back their form. For every 1 percent of the population that does not mail in their form, or respond over the phone, it costs an additional $25 million to count them. The best estimate of the experts is that even with all of these efforts, nearly 35
percent will not be counted by mail or phone. At $25 million for each 1 percent, that's $875 million to follow up with nonresponding households. And even after hiring a half a million temporary employees, and spending weeks going door to door, not everyone will be counted. No census has ever counted everyone. The difference is that we now have the technology and scientific tools to estimate how many people were missed, and to correct the census so that it is as inclusive as possible.

The 1990 census missed almost 2 percent of the population. If that were spread evenly across groups of people and across the country, not too many stakeholders would care. But the undercount is not random. Less than 1 percent of whites were missed, but over 5 percent of African-Americans were missed. On Indian reservation the census missed 12 percent.

In 1990 the census included an experimental method to correct these mistakes—to account for those who are missed and to correct for those who are counted twice. In the end, the Secretary of Commerce chose not to use those adjustments, and we have lived with those inequities for the past 7 years. Every year millions of dollars are lost by States whose population was undercounted.

The vast body of scientific evidence shows that these errors can be corrected in a way that is fair to all. Three separate panels of experts at the National Academy of Sciences have recommended that these errors be corrected. The techniques for correcting the census have been endorsed by professional organizations like the American Statistical Association and by groups like the National Association of Counties. The inspector general at the Commerce Department has endorsed correcting these errors, as has the General Accounting Office.

Well, you must be asking yourself by now, just who opposes a more accurate census. Unfortunately, some Members of this body will pay any price to get the wrong answer. They argue that we should throw more money at the old methods of doing the census, even though they will produce a count that is less accurate. Of course, the Members making this argument are not on the Appropriations Committee. The members of the Appropriations Committee have yet to fund the census at the requested level, much less, give the Census Bureau more money.

One of the objections they raise to the methods proposed for the 2000 census is that they are not allowed under current law. I disagree with their interpretation of the law. This bill makes it clear that once the Census Bureau makes a good faith effort at an enumeration, the count can be supplemented by other methods to achieve a more accurate count.

Mr. Speaker, we must all work for the most accurate census possible in 2000. If we do not, it will be the American public who loses. My bill will make a more accurate census possible, and ensure that any confusion over current law is eliminated. I urge that it be passed quickly.