a message to the agency and to employers that OSHA’s sole purpose is ensuring that safety of employees through common sense regulation. What better way to do that than to bring the two sides together. The “us against them" mentality doesn’t do anyone any good. My legislation puts both the employers and the stakeholders on an even playing field in order to protect our most valuable resource: our work force.

Please join me in this effort by cosponsoring my OSHA Reform Act of 1997.

RENEWAL ALLIANCE
HON. RON PACKARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my recent participation in the renewal alliance—a unique bicameral Republican group committed to promoting the work of churches, small businesses, and community organizations in helping to solve some of our Nation’s most intractable problems. Our renewal alliance believes that we must focus not just on the failures of Government, but also on the hope of rebuilding strong communities.

In the months ahead, our alliance will promote the many solutions already at work across the Nation, powered by nothing more than a compassionate dedication to lending a hand, spending a few hours a week, or giving charitably to efforts which help improve the lives of those around us. We will highlight legislation to create enterprise zones, tax incentives for charitable giving, educational reform, and removing bureaucratic barriers to problem solving with simple, people-based solutions.

Most importantly, we will ask our colleagues and our community leaders to look not to the Halls of Congress for innovative ideas, but to the streets of our towns, the pews of our churches, and the conversations at dinner tables for the solutions that renew our society by promoting the free exchange of ideas. You can treat the walls of a democracy—not real walls. Yes, artificial barriers do from time to time appear—Rosa Parks being forced to the back of a Birmingham bus; reading “No Irish or Italian need apply”. But such events have been only temporary obstructions to the real positive direction of our democracy. Our system of government has, above and beyond all others, served to include all people without regard to race, creed, gender, or ethnic background. Democracy has no equal in promoting the free exchange of ideas and in safeguarding the civil liberties of minorities. Democracy is, above and beyond all else, about the promise it grants to each of us by our creator. "Liberty and equality" and about those inalienable rights granted to each of us by our creator.

Mr. BALDUS of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This year more than 109,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships distributed among the 54 national winners. The contest theme this year was “Democracy-Above and Beyond.”