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 employees 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 charities, 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 providing hope and opportunity.

DE and Philadelphia to hear about various DE and Philadelphia to hear about various solutions with the people of his community and his children, but Lolly recognized Al's heart was also as she and her husband raised their five children. Certainly, he could have chosen a less difficult path to retirement and probably could have made more money in the process. However, I think it's clear that what motivates Al is not the trappings of political power, but the earnest desire to serve.

I am certain that Al's wife, Lolly, would have preferred to see more of him over the years as she and her husband raised their five children, but Lolly recognized Al's heart was also with the people of his community and his State. That shouldn't surprise anyone. Lolly served her community as well and developed a distinguished career herself as an administrator at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

I thank my friend Al Baldus for a lifetime of public service. We have lost a great public servant and a distinguished career, so does their career in public service. I am certain that Al's wife, Lolly, would have preferred to see more of him over the years as she and her husband raised their five children, but Lolly recognized Al’s heart was also with the people of his community and his State. That shouldn’t surprise anyone. Lolly served her community as well and developed a distinguished career herself as an administrator at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

I thank my friend Al Baldus for a lifetime of positive contributions to Wisconsin and the Nation. And I hope you’ll join me in congratulating Al and wishing him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

HON. CURT WELDON
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that Ms. Natalie Bucciarelli from my congressional district in Pennsylvania won the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for Pennsylvania. Natalie, a resident of Broomall, is a senior at the Academy of Notre Dame de Manur in Villanova. A graduate of Notre Dame de Manur in Villanova, PA, I extend to her my heartfelt wishes for success as she continues her education in college next year.

Natalie's script is filled with enthusiasm for the spirit and promise that democracy holds for each individual. It is encouraging to see our young people continue to cherish the gift of democracy. That's why once we take democracy for granted—or begin referring to it as simply a “slogan”—then democracy will truly become endangered.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share Natalie's award-winning script with my colleagues in the Congress.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"—1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(By Natalie Bucciarelli)

Mikhail Gorbachev, former General Secretary of the Soviet Union, not too long ago proclaimed that democracy was nothing—only a slogan. And he believed then that democracy, like other slogans, was empty and worthless. Mikhail Gorbachev wrongly believed that our American democracy would become thin and faded and soon crumble like a rotting wall. But democracy is not a wall. Walls, by their nature, keep people out. As Mikhail Gorbachev learned, such walls do come down.

The spirit of our democracy is not about walls. It is not about barriers that separate one race from another, male from female, white, young against old, female against male. Democracy is not about the promise it achieves for each individual. It is encouraging to see our young people continue to cherish the gift of democracy. That's why once we take democracy for granted—or begin referring to it as simply a “slogan”—then democracy will truly become endangered.

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