

have been able to float on a jetski, his experience demonstrates that there could well be a time when someone must survive in the icy cold of Lake Michigan waiting the hour it takes for the Coast Guard to fly from Muskegon to Chicago.

According to July 1996 Census Bureau statistics, the population of counties bordering Lake Michigan in Indiana and Illinois is 6.4 million people. Michigan's shoreline population in the counties south of Muskegon is only 715,748. It stands to reason that the more populated areas of the Lake Michigan shoreline are at greater risk for boating accidents. In addition, Northwest Indiana's casino boats, which carry thousands of people each year, Chicago's dinner and sightseeing boats, which carry over 1 million passengers each year, and the over 1,000 flights a day which make their final descent over Lake Michigan accentuate southern Lake Michigan's need for Coast Guard helicopters that can respond very quickly to emergencies.

On an average day in the summer, there are roughly 2,000 boats in the water along the 70 miles of shoreline from Gary to Waukegan. This tremendously heavily traffic gives rise to an average of 10 to 20 Coast Guard search and rescue boat missions a day within 3 to 5 miles of the Waukegan/Gary shoreline. These overburdened Coast Guard boats are responsible for not only the shoreline, but also the Chicago River, the Calumet River, and the Cal-Sag Channel west to Joliet. The increased risk to boaters due to this situation was brought to light by a recent Chicago Sun-Times article which reported that almost seven times more people have died in the lake waters near the Gary to Waukegan shoreline or connecting rivers in the past year than that in the previous year. Twenty-six people have died since October 1, 1996, compared to just four during the previous fiscal year. Even the Coast Guard's acting commander of the Chicago area has remarked that this number is, "extremely high." Nine of these deaths were the result of plane crashes, 11 deaths involved boating incidents, and 2 people died in jet skiing accidents.

Gary, IN, which is only 10 minutes flying time from Chicago, is ideally situated to provide the quick emergency response service needed in southern Lake Michigan. While some have suggested Waukegan as an alternative site, it takes a helicopter 19 minutes to fly from Waukegan to Chicago—9 minutes longer than from Gary. At the same time, a helicopter based in Gary can reach Chicago's north shore communities in 26 minutes—almost half the time as a helicopter flying from Muskegon. Moreover, with a control tower operating 24 hours a day and the second longest runway in the region, the Gary Regional Airport is already equipped to handle a helicopter station and would need no expensive improvements to maintain an air facility. Moving the Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter from Muskegon to Gary has the support of a majority of the Chicago and Indiana congressional delegations, including Senators DURBIN, MOSELY-BRAUN, COATS, and, LUGAR, as well as Mayor Daley, Governor Edgar, Governor O'Bannon, and Illinois Secretary of Transportation, Kirk Brown.

Mr. Speaker, although it may cost slightly more to locate a Coast Guard helicopter in Gary, the question before us is about saving lives, not about saving money. Clearly, a heli-

copter based in Gary has the potential to save more lives than one which sits over 45 minutes away in Muskegon, MI. This is why I, along with Representatives VISCLOSKY and LIPINISKI, requested the GAO to conduct an independent, nonparochial assessment of which location best protects the safety of those who live and recreate in southern Lake Michigan. It is my hope that the results of this study will impress upon my colleagues the need for more timely Coast Guard search and rescue helicopter response service in southern Lake Michigan. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue in the days ahead.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it has now been over 100 days since the July 4 deadline that President Clinton set for consideration of campaign finance reform. We still have not been given the opportunity to debate any legislation that would change the current campaign finance system. Time is running short as we near the end of our legislative year, it is vital that we take action immediately on campaign finance reform.

Today an effort by Democratic Members of the House to force a vote on campaign finance reform failed. This vote occurred during debate of legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Coast Guard, an important bill that deserves our consideration and support. Unfortunately, those in this House, Democrats and Republicans, who support reform have been forced to use parliamentary tricks and delaying tactics in an attempt to force a vote on legislation. Other parliamentary tricks are expected this week. It is sad that we have come to this point.

Mr. Speaker, over 300 Members of the House of Representatives have signed on to some piece of legislation to reform the campaign finance system. By failing to even consider this issue on the House floor you are rejecting the will of a majority of the House. More troubling, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that you are rejecting the will of the people of this Nation who want the Congress to fix the broken campaign finance system. The time for action is now.

## RECOGNIZING WOMEN VETERANS AND CURRENT FEMALE SERVICE MEMBERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to participate in the celebration of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial on Friday, October 17, when I attended a moving reunion of women veterans and current service members at the DC Armory. I ask unani-

mous consent to insert my remarks on that occasion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In recognition of all that women service members have done for our country, I would also ask unanimous consent to insert the attached profile of six courageous veterans that appeared in the Washington Post on Saturday, October 18, 1997.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE JANE HARMAN TO THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA REUNION RECEPTION, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1997

Tomorrow, with the official dedication of the Women in Military Service Memorial, America recognizes—and remembers—women who have given so much to our country. I am inspired by your service to the cause of freedom and honored to be with you tonight. This extraordinary gathering is getting the word out. Women in all walks of life are finally learning of your sacrifices, your dedication, and your accomplishments.

You and your predecessors have contributed immeasurably to the defense of our country and the preservation of our liberties. You worked as nurses and doctors, as logisticians, trainers, mechanics, pilots—and more. You did this in the face of overwhelming odds—often not enjoying the recognition you deserve. And you paved the way for other women to break into other unconventional roles in our society. For this, we are all indebted to you.

As one of three women on the House National Security Committee, I have witnessed first hand the impact you pioneers have had in the military and society at large. I was there when my friend, the late Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, opened vast new roles to women in the military. His courageous act was the right thing to do, and it was because of the groundbreakers here.

Now women have achieved highly visible leadership roles: I was there when Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy received her third star—and rightly so: she is indeed a star. I am proud to point to the role of women in developing key programs that support our military. A woman is in charge of the precision-guided munitions program for the B-2 bomber. A woman heads the Tactical High Energy Laser program which protects Israel's northern border and our troops from Katyusha rockets.

As a co-chair of the National Security Committee's investigation of sexual harassment and misconduct in the military, I want to ensure that women serve in safety and can contribute to their full potential. This is not about political correctness. It's about combat readiness. Unless we include women as full partners in the military, we are not fielding the best team we need to fight and win our nation's next war. I salute Brigadier General Pat Foote who played a key role in the Army's recent groundbreaking report on gender issues.

I have read many moving stories of women veterans, including one of a woman who resides in the California district I represent—Gaylene McCartney. Gaylene was a medic at Oakland Naval Hospital in 1965, caring for the wounded from Vietnam, but that is only the beginning of her inspiring story. She became an attorney and then suffered a painful disability that led her to curtail her legal activities. Yet she says she wants to volunteer on behalf of veterans and others—once a leader, always a leader.

I am equally inspired by the efforts of the women whose work made this week's celebration possible. First and foremost is Brigadier General Wilma Vaught. General Vaught had the herculean task of turning the dream of the first major memorial honoring all military women into a reality. With uncommon determination, imagination, and initiative she and her team have been able to