

A third reason to support a larger NATO is that the very promise of it has given the nations of Central and Eastern Europe an incentive to solve their own problems. Aspiring allies have strengthened democratic institutions; made sure soldiers serve civilians, not the other way around; and resolved virtually every old ethnic and border dispute in the region.

I have been a student of Central European history, and I have lived some of it myself. When I see Romanians and Hungarians building a real friendship after centuries of enmity; when I see Poles, Ukrainians and Lithuanians forming joint military units after years of suspicion; when I see Czechs and Germans overcoming decades of mistrust; when I see Central Europeans confident enough to improve their political and economic ties with Russia, I know something amazing is happening. NATO is doing for Europe's east precisely what it did for Europe's west after World War II.

I know that there are serious critics who have had legitimate concerns about our policy. We have grappled with many of the same concerns. Some revolve around the cost of a larger NATO, which will be real. But NATO has now approved estimates which make clear that the costs will be manageable, that they will be met, and that they will be shared fairly.

I certainly understand the concern some have expressed about Russian opposition to a larger NATO. But as Secretary of State, I can tell you that Russia's disagreement on this issue has not in any way hurt our ability to work together on other issues. On the contrary; we have made progress on arms control; Russia now has a permanent relationship with NATO; it has improved its ties with the Baltic states, even as those nations have made clear their desire to join NATO. Russia has a better relationship with Central Europe now than at any time in history; and the differences we still have with Russia would certainly not disappear if we suddenly changed our minds about enlargement.

We need to keep Russia's objections in perspective. They are the product of old misperceptions about NATO and old ways of thinking about its former satellites. Instead of changing our policies to accommodate Russia's outdated fears, we need to concentrate on encouraging Russia's more modern aspirations.

Others have argued that we should let the European Union do the job of reuniting Europe, or at least tell Central European countries that they cannot join NATO until they join the EU. I want the EU to expand as rapidly as possible. But the EU is not in the business of providing security; NATO is. And we saw in Bosnia what a difference that makes.

As for tying membership in one institution to membership in another, it is not in America's interest to subordinate critical security decisions of NATO to another institution. We are a leader in NATO; we're not even members of the EU. The qualifications for joining the EU are vastly different from the qualifications for becoming a member of NATO. Forcing the two processes to move in lock-step makes no sense, neither for the EU nor for NATO.

Others ask why we need to enlarge NATO when we already have NATO's Partnership for Peace. When the Partnership for Peace was established in 1994, I went to Central Europe with General Shalikashvili and with my good friend, Charles Gati, who is with us here today, to explain its purpose. I can tell you the Partnership was never intended to be an alternative to a larger NATO. On the contrary, it has always provided both the opportunity to cooperate with NATO, and a program for preparing to join. That is why so

many nations have participated in it so enthusiastically, whether they aspire to membership or not. If we want the Partnership to thrive, the last thing we should do is to tell some of its members that they can never be allies, no matter how much progress they make.

NATO is a military alliance, not a social club; but neither is it an in-bred aristocracy. That is one reason why today every NATO ally agrees that NATO doors must remain open after the first three new allies join. Let us be clear—we have made no decisions about who the next members of NATO should be or when they might join. But let us also have some humility before the future.

How many people—even in this room of experts—predicted in 1949 that Germany would so soon be a member of the Alliance? Who could have known in 1988 that in just ten years, members of the old Warsaw Pact would be in a position to join NATO? Who can tell today what Europe will look like in even a few years? We should not erect artificial roadblocks today that will prevent qualified nations from contributing to NATO tomorrow.

This Administration opposes any effort in the Senate to mandate a pause in the process of NATO enlargement. This would be totally unnecessary, since the Senate would, in any case, need to give its advice and consent to any new round of enlargement. It would also harm American interests by surrendering our leverage and flexibility, fracturing the consensus NATO has reached on its open door, and diminishing the incentive Central European countries now have to cooperate with the Alliance.

Some critics have said NATO enlargement would draw a destabilizing dividing line in Europe. A larger NATO with an open door will not. One round of enlargement with a mandated pause would. President Clinton and I will keep on addressing these concerns, and others, in the days ahead. The debate has been joined, and it will continue.

But already an extraordinary coalition has come together to say NATO enlargement is right and smart for America. It includes American veterans, who do not want their country to have to fight another war in Europe; American business, which understands the link between security and prosperity; American labor, which aided freedom's victory in Europe and wants it to endure. It includes every living former Secretary of State, a half a dozen former National Security Advisors and five Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs.

The debate about a larger NATO might easily have provided an opportunity for skeptics to praise isolationism. Instead, it has given the American people and the Congress an opportunity to bury it. And I have confidence that is what will happen.

If the Senate says yes to a larger NATO—and I believe it will—that will be a vote for continued American engagement in Europe. It will be a signal that America will defend its values, protect its interests, stand by its allies and keep its word.

We'll need that same spirit to prevail when the Congress faces its other foreign policy tests this year. For example, the President and I are asking the Congress to pay what our country owes to the International Monetary Fund and to the United Nations. At issue is a very simple question. Will we stand alone in the face of crises from Gulf to Rwanda to Indonesia, asking American soldiers to take all the risks and American taxpayers to pay all the bills? Or will we support organizations that allow us to share the burdens of leadership with others? This is not least an issue in our relationship with Europe. When we challenge our allies to meet their responsibilities to us, it hurts our

case when we are seen as not meeting ours. . . .

It is my great hope that Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will be part of a transatlantic partnership that is not only broader, but deeper as well; a partnership that is a force for peace from the Middle East to Central Africa; a partnership that has overcome barriers to trade across the Atlantic; a partnership strong enough to protect the environment and defeat international crime; a partnership that is united in its effort to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the overriding security interest of our time.

However old or new the challenges we face, there is still one relationship that more than any other will determine whether we meet them successfully, and that is our relationship with Europe. The transatlantic partnership is our strategic base—the drivewheel of progress on every world-scale issue when we agree, and the brake when we do not.

In cultivating that partnership and extending it to those free nations that were too long denied its benefits, I pledge my continued best efforts, and respectfully solicit all of yours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fresno Unified School District's Roosevelt High School for winning the California School Board Foundation's Golden Bell Award. Fresno Unified's Roosevelt High School was recognized for this prestigious award for its Family and Community Program. Additionally, Roosevelt High has been successful in creating other programs and activities to draw parents and community members into the school.

The Golden Bell Awards program promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding programs in school districts and county offices of education throughout California. The Golden Bell Awards reflect the importance of the education necessary to address the changing needs of students. This awards program contributes to the development and evaluation of curriculum, instruction and support services. It seeks out and recognizes innovative or exemplary programs which have been developed and successfully implemented by California teachers and administrators. The program also focuses on recognizing and supporting educators who invest extra energy and time to make a demonstrated difference for students.

Roosevelt High, built in 1928 for a student body of 1,700, now houses 3,669 young people of diverse backgrounds. Approximately 60% of the student body is Hispanic, 20% Asian, 10% African American, and 10% are white. The remainder of the students are Native American and come from other countries including India. In 1983, Roosevelt School of the Arts was created for the purpose of desegregation. Roosevelt School of the Arts provides quality visual and performing arts opportunities for nearly six hundred students from all over Fresno. The faculty and administrative staff consist of educators who are also talented artists.

The faculty, staff, students, and parents of Roosevelt High School have received many awards and grants. Roosevelt was awarded the California High Schools Network grant in 1993 and the SB1510 Technology grant in 1994. The School was presented with the National Science Teacher of the Year Award in 1996, the California School Boards Association Golden Bell Awards for parent and community involvement in 1995 and 1997, and the State Board of Education Distinguished Schools Award in 1996. Two student volunteers and one adult volunteer for the school have received Fresno County Volunteer Bureau Volunteer of the Year awards for 1995, 1996, and 1997.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Fresno Unified School District's Roosevelt High School for winning the California School Board Foundation's Golden Bell Award. The students and faculty of this school exemplify a care for the community and a dedication to hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Roosevelt High School many more years of success.

FIGHTING HUNGER 365 DAYS A
YEAR

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with our colleagues remarks made by Wayne S. Bell, who serves as Trustee and Secretary of the Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation. Around the holidays, individuals are much more likely to donate food to the needy, but then contributions typically decrease over the remaining months. This organization works to call attention to the problem of hunger that exists throughout the year. They recently awarded \$100,000 in grants to thirteen recipient organizations that are leading the fight against hunger in Los Angeles. Wayne's remarks reflect the seriousness of this cause and the need for all communities to join together to do more in addressing the issue of hunger.

Wayne's remarks follow:

Thank you Joe [Haggerty],¹ and good morning everyone.

The Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation is proud to join with United Way of Greater Los Angeles in the fight against hunger. Tragically, as the statistics show, over 1 million people are affected by hunger in Los Angeles County on a daily basis. Our partnership with United Way in this effort came about as a result of our independent commitments to address the problem of hunger.

United Way has long been a leader in assessing need and delivering funding to programs that positively and favorably impact the lives of people throughout the Los Angeles community. Joe has told you about United Way's Impact Goals, which are in essence a blueprint to tackling some of the more serious concerns of those who live in poverty.

The Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation established its Foundation Hunger Program with a modest goal of allocating nearly \$300,000 per year to help organizations that serve the needs of those faced with hunger due to poverty, homelessness, emergency circumstances, and/or illness. In the course of

examining the persistent problem of hunger, which, as we all know too well, sadly perpetuates the cycle of poverty, we became familiar with United Way's commitment to institute measurable Impact Goals to increase awareness of the problem and to improve access to available food programs for those in need. It became clear that we could be much more effective in our independent efforts if we combined forces.

The joint program of The Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation and United Way of Greater Los Angeles is aptly called "Fighting Hunger 365 Days A Year" to bring attention to the constant, year round problem of hunger and the additional burden on service providers when donations drop-off after the December holidays. While giving is good at any time, too often it falls off dramatically or ceases altogether following the holidays. We hope to set an example for other corporations, businesses, individuals and foundations, and invite them to join with us and United Way to assist organizations that are on the front lines in the fight against hunger.

Please join me in applauding the 13 grant recipients who are here today. They are truly making a difference by Fighting Hunger 365 Days A Year. Congratulations to all of the recipients.

Thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO A.J. NASTASI:
PENNSYLVANIA'S ALL-TIME
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
SCORING LEADER

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who has made an athletic accomplishment that many people thought would probably not be broken. A.J. Nastasi, a student at Northern Bedford High School located in Loysburg, Pennsylvania, broke the Pennsylvania Boys High School Basketball Scoring record on Saturday, February 7, 1998, with 3,627 points. I was fortunate enough to be in attendance for this historic game, watching A.J. and his teammates take on my hometown's team from Everett, Pennsylvania. A.J. has demonstrated great poise and maturity throughout this exciting basketball season, a trait no doubt attributed to his family. It should be noted that the previous record holder is a former colleague of mine here in the House of Representatives, former Representative Tom McMillen of Maryland. Tom set the state record in 1970 at Mansfield High School, scoring 3,608 points, and went on to a successful college and professional basketball career before coming to Congress. It was a privilege to be invited to honor A.J. and celebrate this momentous occasion with the many fans, friends and family members in attendance. Next Fall, A.J. will be attending West Virginia University as a scholar-athlete. A.J. has become part of an esteemed group of athletes through his accomplishment. I wish A.J. the best in his future endeavors, and hope that he continues his success on and off the court.

TRIBUTE TO PATSY WATKINS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mrs. Patsy Watkins, who is retiring as Director of the Shelby County Board of Elections.

Patsy Watkins has served the citizens of Shelby County on the Board of Elections for the past 17 years. In addition to her duties at the Board of Elections, Patsy has served on Congressman Mike Oxley's service academy review board and as chairperson of the Shelby County Republican Central Committee. On top of all this, she finds the time to be a loving, devoted wife, mother and friend.

Patsy is a quiet leader and confidante to many. While representing Shelby County, I have appreciated her words of wisdom and her friendship. She has never been shy about telling it like it is.

Abraham Lincoln said, "A good leader avoids issuing orders, preferring to request, imply or make suggestions." Like Abe Lincoln, Patsy Watkins attained success, admiration and a positive image by practicing these principles. Patsy proved to be an effective leader; choosing a subtle, softer path rather than a heavy-handed approach. For this reason, among others, Patsy has become the backbone of the Republican Party in Shelby County.

It is no coincidence Shelby County voters are energized. Through Patsy's leadership and hard work, Shelby County has enjoyed Republican success in recent years. She has worked to promote conservative values and elect those who share her vision for better government. Congressman Mike Oxley, who represented the citizens of Shelby County prior to 1992 said, "Patsy epitomizes the Republican Party in Shelby County."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise to recognize Patsy Watkins for her service to the citizens of Shelby County. For those of us who know her for service to her community, we are grateful. For those of us who are fortunate to call Patsy friend, may God bless her with a long and fruitful retirement.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD STATEMENT
UPON THE RETIREMENT
OF JOHN DAPONTE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on December 31, John DaPonte retired from U.S. Government service and returned to his home state of Rhode Island after having served at the FTZ Board since 1968. The retirement of a federal official happens most every day. However, I believe it is important that John DaPonte's career in government be remembered because of the impact that he and the Foreign-Trade Zones Board have made on U.S. trade policy, U.S. companies in the global marketplace, and the economic development of a wide range of communities in the United States. There are

¹ President, United Way of Greater Los Angeles