

Seashore Farmland Protection Act, to offer willing land owners conservation easements to support agriculture. I made H.R. 1995 one of my top priorities. I will always appreciate Gary sharing his vision with me, and I will always be thankful for his support.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Gary Giacomini. His dedication and success to preserve agriculture in Marin County and fight for the causes he and his constituents believe in is admirable. I wish Gary and his family the best.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SR.
BARBARA DAVIS, SC

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to spotlight a very special lady who has unselfishly given of her time, energy and soul to others in her community. She has earned the honor of being named the 1998 National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Principal for the States of Ohio and Michigan.

She is one of only twelve Catholic School Elementary Principals in the country and the only one from Ohio to be chosen for this honor. The lives of many young people have been deeply touched with the kindness and sincerity that Sister Davis has shown. As principal of St. Mary's School, Shelby, Ohio, she worked to place computers into classrooms so that students will benefit from technological advances such as the Internet and other educational tools.

I extend my best wishes to her as she receives this award, and I urge her to keep up the good work. She truly is a remarkable teacher and role model. Thank you Sister Davis.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. DOUG
BUNGER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Major General Doug Bunker, who currently resides in Duncanville, Texas, upon his retirement this month from the United States Air Force. In his thirty-one years of service to this great nation he has proven himself an extraordinary leader of people, programs, and finances at all organizational levels in the Air Force, and finances at all organizational levels in the Air Force. As a military comptroller, General Bunker directed the financial operation for military airlift command during a period of intense defense military transportation requirements. He subsequently was the Air Force's Director of Budget Operations and then the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the budget. As such he developed, justified, and executed an annual budget of over \$72 billion in support of worldwide air force operations. His record of integrity and accountability was flawless.

To conclude his distinguished career, General Bunker has commanded the Army and

the Air Force Exchange Service, a \$7 billion retail and services organization headquartered in Southwest Dallas. Under his charismatic leadership and efficient management AAFES has performed its mission exceptionally well, with earnings during his three-year tenure of over \$930 million. What is more important is that these earnings have been vital to military personnel around the world, contributing well over \$600 million to supplement the morale, welfare, and recreation programs of the Army and Air Force—thereby ensuring quality of life for service members and their families while reducing the burden of support from America's taxpayers. General Bunker's work force of 55,000 serve every day to provide soldiers and airmen value, service and support in all 50 states and 25 different countries—to include Bosnia, Haiti, Kuwait, Saudi, and Korea—significantly enhancing morale while saving them money.

Throughout his career, General Bunker has been an exceptional steward of defense resources, and his legacy of leadership and dedication deserve our admiration and praise. His numerous awards and decorations—which include the Distinguished Service Medal, two Awards of the Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, four Meritorious Service Medals, and both Air Force Commendation and Achievement Medals—attest to his exemplary professionalism and distinguished service to our nation.

I salute Major General Doug Bunker as he retires from the United States Air Force and wish him and his lovely wife, Sarah, much happiness in their new hilltop home near Hot Springs, Arkansas.

LET CONSUMERS CHOOSE

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, during the arduous legislative process that created the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Members of the Commerce Committee used the basic principle of consumer choice as our guide.

Today, responsibility for implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 rests with the FCC, and I am left to wonder if the same principles that guided Congress' creation of the Telecommunications Act, are guiding the FCC in their implementation of the Act.

When the Federal Communications Commission turned down yet another State Commission's request that the local Bell company be allowed to offer long-distance, the FCC essentially said that local phone customers cannot be trusted to make wise choices. The FCC said that, if we let them, the residents of Oklahoma, Michigan, South Carolina, or Louisiana, for example, might make what the FCC thinks is the wrong decision.

In passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress wanted competition to begin in the telephone services marketplace. It's time to get all parties moving in that direction.

The free enterprise system is built on the belief that American consumers are best capable of making consumer decisions—that they can decide what is good for them a lot better than a Washington bureaucracy.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES CARROLL
PLACE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful man. The kind of man that made this country the great nation it is today. I honor James Carroll Place as he should be honored.

Mr. Jim was one of those pillars of the community that worked hard every day, played by the rules and did what ever was necessary to make himself and his community successful. At the same time he always upheld the highest standards of conduct and integrity.

His tireless work for the community to build the wonderful event that we celebrate annually in my hometown, The Coon Supper, will be long remembered.

We should all hope that his example of high standards and good conduct will be followed by the generations to come. It made no difference if it was for the church, the town, the Farmers and Businessmen's Club, friends, neighbors, or his own family, he gave his all and his best and expected no less from us all.

He was a friend and mentor to me and was a business associate for many years. We never had a dispute. His sense of fairness and honesty was exceeded only by his great good humor. He was a friend, role model, farmer, leader, father, and Christian.

Some say that the measure of success of a man is his children. If so, then Mr. Jim was successful by all standards.

He will be long remembered as the standard for, as we say in my hometown of Gillett, Arkansas, a good man.

Let us today honor this good man and the standard he set for us all.

SALUTING GUAM POWER
AUTHORITY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, It has been more than ten weeks since typhoon Paka struck Guam, causing nearly \$400 million in damage and leaving more than 4,000 families homeless. The damage is still evident in some areas, but typhoon debris is steadily disappearing and the island is turning green again. For the most part, conditions are returning to normal, although life remains difficult for those who lost everything. But even for those enduring folks, things are improving day by day. Despite the many discomforts we continue to bear, we remain tremendously grateful that no lives were lost in this disaster. On February 16, we marked another reason for gratitude and appreciation. Just two months to the day of Paka's passing, Guam's electrical power system was fully restored.

The speed of this particular recovery is unprecedented in the annals of Guam's typhoon-prone history. It is a testament to the determination and dedication of the staff and management of the Guam Power Authority and the dozens of line crews from off-island who rushed to Guam's aid.

As in previous typhoons, Guam Power Authority crews were positioned and ready to battle the elements in order to keep the island's power system up and running. But Typhoon Paka was not a typical storm. As winds grew in intensity, and conditions grew increasingly more dangerous, the GPA crews were forced to ride out the storm at their respective worksites until the all-clear signal. The task that faced them the next morning was gargantuan. Power lines were dangling in the streets, in parking lots and in people's yards all over the island. They were tangled in wreckage and lying in broken pieces across roadways and along roadsides. Hundreds of transformers and thousands of street lights were ripped from their perches and scattered everywhere. Many were smashed beyond repair. Throughout the island wooden and concrete power poles broken, bent, tipped and even uprooted.

After assessing the damage, GPA announced that it would take at least three months or longer to restore service islandwide. The lengthy repair time was disheartening but not unreasonable given the immensity of the task. With Christmas around the corner, the sadness and disappointment in the faces of the people of Guam must have inspired the men and women of the Guam Power Authority to rise to the challenge. Instead of three months, GPA set an ambitious new goal of eight weeks.

With help from as far away as Hawaii and California, and from as close as the Northern Marianas, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Guam Power Authority worked long and hard to make Guam's holiday season as bright with light as possible. The Air Force also came to Guam's rescue with military line crews, heavy equipment and supplies, as well as providing nine C-5 flights to transport these and other personnel and materials to Guam. Our neighbors in the region also sent barges loaded with wooden and concrete poles, as well as transformers, electrical wire and other electrical supplies. All in all, 95 line personnel, 34 bucket trucks and 63 auxiliary line vehicles were brought in to augment GPA's equipment and 200 line personnel and 100 contractor crews. Priority was given to Guam's pumps and water wells, and running water was restored within days of the storm's passing. In the days that followed, GPA replaced nearly 700 transformers, nearly 100 concrete poles and some 800 wooden poles. Crews also re-strung hundreds of miles of primary and secondary electrical lines. At this time, GPA is concentrating on replacing nearly 3,000 street lights island wide and reconnecting residential power as homes are repaired.

In the ten weeks since the storm, the line crews have been most visible to the public. They and their heavy equipment have been seen all over the island, working around the clock to restore the system. GPA General Manager Ricardo Unpingco also did a commendable job of keeping the public informed, delivering daily progress reports and fielding questions from the public via the news media. But Mr. Unpingco and the line crews were not alone in this massive and ambitious endeavor. Behind the scenes, many other employees of GPA worked just as long, just as hard, often attending to tasks that were not in their job descriptions, to support the restoration work. Lastly, the biggest, most understanding and most loyal supporters of GPA's restoration

work have been the families—the wives, husbands, sons, daughters and loved ones of GPA employees, many of whom were also typhoon damage victims.

I rise today on behalf of the people of Guam to commend and to thank all the men and women of the Guam Power Authority, the personnel from the Saipan Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Belau Public Utilities, Yap State Public Services Corporation, Pohnpei Utilities Commission, Hawaiian Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and the United States Air Force, and especially the families of all these fine people, for all the efforts and sacrifices they made to restore electrical power to Guam. Si Yu'os ma'ase hamyu todos; si Yu'os en fanbendis.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the City of Los Angeles has designated the week of March 1, 1998 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week." In honor of this proclamation, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling attention to the tragedy of childhood cancer and in working to defeat this debilitating enemy of our children.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States today. Each year, approximately 10,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer. Moreover, it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. While great strides are made each year in research, treatment, and prevention of childhood cancer, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to search for cures and more effective treatments.

I ask my colleagues to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating childhood cancer and to take a moment to express their appreciation to the devoted individuals working in the fight against this dreaded disease.

HONORING SALINE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WINNERS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about a group of constituents in Saline, Michigan whose contributions to their community merit respect and recognition.

Tom Kirvan is managing editor of the Reporter newspapers. His friends and colleagues have named him their Citizen of the Year for his tireless work on behalf of others. Through his involvement with Big Brothers/Big Sisters or the Council on Alcoholism, Tom has been in every way a true public servant.

Rick Kuss is Saline's mayor and is well-known for his work on historic preservation and his efforts to improve Saline. Rick is a person with a great sense of community. The Chamber has rightly recognized his contributions by awarding him the Georgia A. Anderson Vision Award.

Dale Rothfuss is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Saline Chamber.

A retiree, Dale has spent his free time helping others at the area Senior Center, the American Legion, and Saline Community Hospital.

Joann Steiner has also been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. A dedicated public servant, Joann has served the Department of Public Works for 35 years. I am proud to join the Chamber in commending her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, one of the hallmarks of good citizenship is the willingness to take of your own time to devote to others. I therefore think it fitting that we recognize these four people for their significant achievements.

THE AVENUE OF THE PINES

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, one of the most attractive streets in New York State will soon be a virtual monument to the work of one of the state's finest companies, Finch, Pruyn & Company, Inc. It's not only one of the most famous tree-lined avenues in the Capital District, but in my opinion one of the most beautiful in the country. It's the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park.

My primary district office is in Saratoga Springs and I always look for an excuse to take Avenue of the Pines whenever I visit a neighboring community. That's why I'm glad to see that the avenue's priceless stand of more than 150 white and red pines is getting such attention from a company well-qualified to render it.

Finch, Pruyn & Company has long been an outstanding corporate neighbor in my hometown of Glens Falls. Its president and CEO, Dick Carota, is a real up-from-the-ranks kind of guy who knows every job description in the company from personal experience. He's a real All-American success story, and Finch, Pruyn is an All-American kind of company, providing not only employment, but a nicer place to live for everybody.

In addition to being a giant in the paper industry, Finch, Pruyn directs a nationally-recognized forest management program. In partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the company will do borings near the site to determine the age of the trees. Finch, Pruyn will then conduct further research on the effects of vehicular traffic, snow and ice maintenance practices, road salt, wildlife, pests, and diseases.

Four rows of trees were first planted in 1912. Six years later, the walkway was widened and paved for use by vehicles. There have been some modifications since then, but the avenue remains what it always was, one of the most enjoyable stretches of driving in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, Finch, Pruyn's scientists are the best, and the people of our district can be sure the study will be as thorough as it is interesting. Finch, Pruyn was a pioneer in the field of sustainable forestry as far back as the last century, and later hired the country's best professional foresters. The company is equally advanced in protecting the environment. The company has invested more than \$100 million in the last three decades, including \$10 million