

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 115th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, a spiritual community dedicated to their church, to their neighborhood and to each other.

In the mid 1800's the Bohemian community in Cleveland was thriving. Industrialization and the Civil War created a need for skilled laborers. The original Rockefeller Refinery and the Standard Oil Company were among businesses in the area that recruited immigrants from Europe to work in the refineries. By 1882, it was evident that a new parish needed to be founded to serve the growing number of immigrants from Bohemia and Slovakia in Cleveland. Father Stephen Furdek responded to the need and made the journey from his native Prague to establish Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Subsequent pastors have continued the work of Father Furdek by building a first-rate Catholic School, Renovating the church building and guiding the parish through good times and bad.

The parish family has survived epidemics, wars, the Depression, and changing demographics in the neighborhood. Throughout the years the church, although of Bohemian ancestry, has developed into a congregation of Americans. Parishioners of various races and ethnic backgrounds are united by their common faith and dedication to their community.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating the 115th anniversary of a truly great and devoted parish, Our Lady of Lourdes.

SELECTIVE AGRICULTURAL EMBARGOES ACT OF 1998

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Selective Agricultural Embargoes Act of 1998, which my good friend Representative CONDIT and myself introduced today. This bill would require the approval of the House and the Senate if the President decided to impose an agriculture-specific embargo on a foreign country. This legislation would not interrupt embargoes currently in place, nor would it impede the President's authority to impose cross-sector embargoes.

The Soviet Grain Embargo is still very fresh in the minds of grain farmers throughout America. In the midst of an already poor overall economy the imposition of the Soviet Grain

Embargo triggered the worst agriculture economy in America since the Great Depression. With the enactment of the Freedom to Farm Act, our farmers are depending more and more on foreign markets for an increasingly significant portion of their income. Our farmers are marketing themselves as reliable suppliers of food and fiber to the world markets. Agriculture has a unique position in the U.S. export portfolio. While the overall trade balance has been in deficit since 1970, U.S. agriculture exports have consistently been in surplus. Our farmers are so productive and so efficient that the American market cannot possibly consume all that is produced. Because our farmers depend on foreign markets more than any other sector of our economy, they have the most to lose should an agriculture embargo be imposed. Congress should have input into any process that threatens the incomes of our farmers. This bill would allow the Congress and the American people a chance to fully debate the merits of any future agriculture-specific embargo. We owe it to our farmers to make sure that they do not bear a disproportionate share of the burden for U.S. foreign policy decisions. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Selective Agricultural Embargoes Act of 1998.

TRIBUTE TO BETH KING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise an individual in my district who has worked tirelessly in her community and devoted much of her time to helping others. This individual continually strives for excellence and is willing to take on any project that comes her way. Her abilities to succeed and make a difference are matched by her compassion and kindness. This dedicated individual is Beth King.

Beth King is a member of the Board of Directors for the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation and, as such, is co-manager of its gift shop where she oversees purchasing, merchandising, bookkeeping and coordinating the staff of volunteers. She is also very active in the community and participates in several organizations. She is a member of the American Cancer Society Board of Directors, the Settlement House Board of Directors where she serves as treasurer, and the Circle Club Rotary Club where she serves as the Board of Directors member who serves as the Community Service Director.

Her time and energy have been well spent as a dedicated leader in fundraising on several committees, such as the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation which hosts the Annual Gala, co-chaired by Beth in 1997. For three years, Beth has co-chaired the American Cancer Society Dinner Dance and Auction. These events have become two of the largest in Corona.

I would like to thank Beth for her innumerable contributions in her community. I encourage her to continue in her efforts to make the city of Corona a better place and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 836, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. Ever since Thomas Jefferson first framed these words together—all men are created equal—men and women of all shapes, sizes, shades and statures have repeatedly maintained, declared, claimed and even believed that this nation is truly “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” Unfortunately, even the most rudimentary historical research would reveal a less favorable assessment on this claim and aspiration of ours. This United States face daily challenges to live up to the Jeffersonian precept that “All men are indeed created equal” and, as in the past it seems we still are not doing what we should. As a second-class American citizen, a delegate, not quite a full Member of Congress hailing from an unincorporated territory with an unresolved political status, I am all too familiar with our nation's failure to live up to the true meaning of this declaration and our democratic creed. Today, I would like to share my views on another member of the club, second-class veterans.

In addition to being the congressional district geographically situated closest to the Republic of the Philippines, Guam and its people share deep cultural and historic ties with the Philippines. The people of Guam, as with Filipinos, have, for hundreds of years, endured occupation, colonialism and second-class treatment by others who were not indigenous to their homeland. Having also suffered through three long years of painful and brutal occupation under the Japanese, we, the people of Guam, understand and appreciate the sacrifices and plight of Filipino World War II veterans.

Comprised mainly of Filipino volunteers and recruits augmented by American soldiers, the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor delayed the Japanese effort to conquer the Western Pacific. This enabled U.S. forces to adequately prepare and launch the campaign to finally secure victory in the Pacific theater of World War II. Filipino veterans swore allegiance to the same flag, wore the same uniforms, fought, bled and died in the same battlefields alongside American comrades but were never afforded equal status. Prior to mass discharges and disbanding of their units in 1949, these veterans were paid only a third of what regular service members received at the time. Underpaid, having been denied benefits they were promised, and lacking proper

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

recognition, General MacArthur's words, "no army has ever done so much with so little," truly depict the plight of the remaining Filipino veterans today as they did half a century ago.

Although long overdue, the President's budget for this year includes funding for Filipino World War II veterans. Unfortunately, the \$5 million dollar yearly provision earmarked for a selected group of Filipino veterans for the next five years is too little, and for many who have since passed on, too late. In anticipation of this, Mr. Filner, who introduced H.R. 836, recently made a motion to increase the amount in the President's budget request in order to fund health care for Filipino veterans. This would not fulfill the promises made and reneged on 50 years ago, but it would ensure that surviving veterans would, at least, be provided the adequate medical care and treatment they deserve for their last few years.

I would like to recognize the members of the Guam Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Veterans Association, whose names I am submitting for the RECORD, for introducing and providing guidance to me on the issue. Along with Mr. Cornelio "Corky" Tapao, the man responsible for getting me acquainted with the association, these people made me recognize and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions of these heroes who fought and died for our cause in World War II. In the past, this country has considered Filipinos as "little brown brothers." Let us take an extra step and go a long way toward recognizing them as equals by recognizing their service. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 836.

PHILIPPINE SCOUTS VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Federico Antolin; Jesus Armigos; Julio Balidio; Simeon Bautista; Albert Calub; Abraham Cancino; Antonio Catbagan; Alfredo De Jesus; Monorario Demasino; Avelino Espulgar; Cesar Estillore; Celestino Franco; Gavino Gonzales; Ross Gonzalo; Hermongenes Guanga; Marciano Iglesias; Bonifacio LaPuebla; Conrad Loreque; Constanancio Madeloso; Gerry Magpale; Gordon Mailloux; Norbert Mallorca; Pete Mandapat; Ignacio Manuel; Pacifico Muyco; Estelito Papa; Andres Placides; Ignacio Manuel; Artemio Razalan; Teofilo Robeniol; Juanito Roldan; Joe Redonia; Hipolito Sarmiento; Fred Somera; Mercedes Yara; Efen Zabala

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BREL"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the most successful theatrical production in Cleveland, Ohio, "Jaques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris."

During the 1970's racial tensions in Cleveland were high, suburban shopping malls were gaining popularity, and interest in the downtown area was dismal. Shops and restaurants were closing and once magnificent, busy buildings were abandoned. Ray Shepardson, a guidance counselor from Seattle, had the foresight to recognize the potential of the theaters of Playhouse Square, the forgotten gems

of downtown. He organized support in the community to save the theaters from scheduled demolition and to restore them to their original grandeur. He was determined to prove that downtown entertainment in Cleveland would thrive.

After restoration of the theaters, the show that brought people who hadn't been downtown in decades back was "Jaques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," created and directed by Dr. Joseph Garry. The cabaret-style show features 4 extraordinary singers performing 26 songs by Jaques Brel, a contemporary French poet, philosopher, troubadour, artist, rebel, lover, cynic, and sentimentalist. In the Director's words, "Brel" is more than a cabaret show, "it is a series of impressions, perceptions, and truths. It is bitter, it is sweet, it is agonizing, it is loving. It is the mind, heart and soul of a sensitive contemporary man."

On April 18, 1973 "Brel" opened for a planned three-week run to an audience of 300 people who fell in love with the show and with the vision of a revitalized downtown Cleveland. A record-breaking two years and 600 performances later, the show had a recording, a national reputation, and sometimes an even bigger crowd than the Indians. It proved Ray Shepardson correct—people really would come downtown to the theaters at Playhouse Square.

Twenty-five years after that opening night, the historic theaters of Playhouse Square and downtown Cleveland continue to draw great crowds, and "Brel" is the musical phenomenon that started it all. I would like to salute the Director, Joseph Garry, the Musical Director, David Gooding, the original cast, Cliff Bemis, David Frazier, Providence Hollander, and Theresa Piteo and everyone involved in carrying on the legacy of "Brel."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ALFREDO A. XERES-BURGOS, SR.

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Alfredo A. Xeres-Burgos, Sr., a Philippine National who has helped preserve a valiant moment in American history on the island of Corregidor, Philippines. Colonel Burgos has demonstrated unique perseverance and deserves our gratitude and recognition.

May 6, 1998, will mark the 56th anniversary of the fall of the Corregidor to Imperial Japanese forces. For those who fought under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the heroic defense of Bataan and Corregidor against Imperial Japan and who survived the infamous Bataan death march and captivity in Japanese prison camps these memories have not faded. During these historic events and throughout the war, U.S. Marines and Filipinos displayed selfless sacrifice rivaling any other military units.

Filipino and United States defenders of the Philippines engaged Japanese forces from the beaches of the Philippine islands to the last defense of Bataan and Corregidor in a grueling battle lasting 150 days. That defense compelled Japan to divert thousands of additional

troops to the Philippines. In that defense, the members of the Filipino forces and their United States counterparts struggled against difficult odds and desperate circumstances and faced, with indomitable spirit, fortitude, and loyalty to America, powerful Imperial Japanese forces.

Today, the island of Corregidor is a superb living monument to the courage of the American soldiers, sailors and Marines who defended it, and to the horror of war. Thanks to the initiative taken by Colonel Burgos, Corregidor is one of the most impressive of all WWII memorial parks to be found anywhere in the world.

Colonel Burgos has repaired the battered road linking the gun batteries and bomb-shattered buildings of this fortress, Fort Mills. He has created informative signs, trained guides and organized tours and transportation while walking a fine line between preserving historic relics for the benefit of posterity and a benefit for tourists from all over the world. In 1995, Colonel Burgos served as the personal guide to President Clinton when he visited Corregidor. Most amazing is the way Colonel Burgos has persevered over the years in preserving this WWII island fortress despite a number of difficulties and inadequate funding.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a member of my constituency who has worked hard to honor the legacy of Colonel Burgos: Robert F. Reynolds. Through his efforts, Mr. Reynolds has ensured that Colonel Burgos is recognized for his hard work and dedication to Corregidor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Colonel Alfredo Xeres-Burgos for his dedication to Fort Mills and Corregidor. The American veterans who survived the Fall of Bataan and the Fall of Corregidor can be proud that we have not forgotten the battlefield where they so valiantly fought. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Burgos and wishing him many more years of success.

SALUTING THE FIRST TIME VISIT OF A JOINT DELEGATION FROM THE MERCOSUR COUNTRIES

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in the history of the United States a Joint Delegation of the Parliamentary Committee of MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market), comprised of both Senators and Representatives from the Congresses of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, recently visited Washington, DC to meet with their United States counterparts.

The visit of the Delegation emphasizes the transformation that has taken place in the last decade and a half in these four South American countries. Understanding the need to decentralize their economies, these countries worked together to establish policies and regulations that have resulted in successful market-oriented economies.

The fifteen legislators from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay participated in several working sessions, met with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the House Committee on International Relations, and with

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC). During their meeting with the CHC, we had the opportunity to discuss the political and economic integration process of MERCOSUR and the effects of this free-trade pact on the United States economy.

Data from the Department of Commerce on the current balance of trade between MERCOSUR and the United States shows that the United States not only enjoys a surplus in trade with MERCOSUR, but also reveals that exports to MERCOSUR countries are significantly larger than those to China and Russia together, \$23.3 billion versus \$16 billion. This is an important fact we should remember as we continue to develop relations with these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to the Joint MERCOSUR Parliamentary Delegation for visiting Washington and extend my congratulations to the MERCOSUR countries for their achievements.

WOMEN'S HISTORY COLLECTION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute the establishment of a Women's History Collection at the Jackson County Historical Society Archives and Research Library. Two remarkable women, Barbara Potts, former Mayor of Independence, and Jane Flynn, former administrator of the Landmarks Commission, have researched and preserved the lives of leading Kansas City women and their history.

Last weekend this exhibit was launched with a celebration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City entitled "Give Children the Gift of Women's History." As we salute Women's History Month we must remember the importance of passing on our heritage to new generations.

During the 20th Century a great deal of significant change has taken place for women. The institution of Congress has evolved from 1917 when Jeanette Rankin was the first woman Member of Congress to the 53 women who currently serve in the House. There is respect for the contributions made by women Members of Congress who are playing a significant role in establishing sound public policy.

It is important that young women know who their Founding Mothers are. This exhibit exemplifies what pioneering women have done to move our community forward. This array of women include the women who started Children's Mercy Hospital, Dorothy Gallagher, whose family built what is now the Guadalupe Center, and Linda Hall, whose library researchers depend on worldwide. Sharing the history of important Kansas City women with subsequent generations will be made possible by this exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to applaud Barbara Potts and Jane Flynn for their initiative to establish the Women's History Collection and all the women whose lives comprise it.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS.
CHARLES AND REBECCA GUNNOE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, throughout this country of ours there are a few individuals who, because they contribute so generously of their time and talents to help others, are recognized as pillars of their community. Charles and Rebecca Gunnoe are two individuals who have combined their forces over the past 25 years, both in medical practice and in the community. I would like to take this opportunity to honor and praise them for their commitment to family, community, and the well-being of the Nation as a whole.

Early in his career, Dr. Gunnoe began the practice of advocating quality care for patients and firmly believes that it is possible for one physician to make a difference. He moved to Corona in 1954 and quickly became involved in many community activities. He began by serving as co-chairman on a committee of Corona citizens to recommend specialized needs and priorities for the future of Corona. He was also the Charter President of the Corona Junior Chamber of Commerce and helped develop and dedicate the first Boys Club of Corona. In addition to establishing a family life in Corona, Dr. Gunnoe founded the Circle City Hospital which is now part of the Corona Regional Medical Center. He also built the Corona Clinic where he continues to practice today.

Along with working on a daily basis with her husband, Mrs. Gunnoe too has demonstrated a commitment to the community in the development and funding of the Corona chapter of the Trauma Intervention Program, or TIP. This volunteer based organization assists families of victims in tragic situation.

Together they have provided funds and assistance in the development of a Christian school library, supported community resources such as the YMCA, Lion's Club, and other service organizations such as the Cancer Society, Foundation of Circle City Hospital and Corona Regional Medical Center, United Way, and Police and Sheriff Relief Funds.

I am fortunate to have Chuck and Becky Gunnoe as members of my district and personal friends. Their commitment to family and community is one that should serve as a model for others to follow. I thank them for their innumerable contributions and wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT FIDEL
VALDEZ RAMOS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, hailing from the congressional district geographically situated closest to the Republic of the Philippines, Guam and its people share deep cultural and historic ties with the Philippines. It is, therefore, with great anticipation and pleasure that I join Filipino communities all over the

country in welcoming His Excellency, Fidel Valdez Ramos, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, to the United States as he visits our nation's capital next week.

As with the island of Guam, the rest of the United States have for over a century shared historic, cultural, political and economic ties with the Republic of the Philippines. President Ramos is the embodiment of these ties. He comes from very respected and prominent families in the Philippines. His Father Narciso Ramos was a lawyer, crusading journalist, and five-term member of the Philippine House of Representatives, who was later appointed Secretary of Foreign Affairs. His mother, Angela Valdez, was a suffragette and public school teacher.

Destined towards greatness, President Ramos exhibited dedication to excellence even in his formative years. He graduated valedictorian at the Lingayen Central School prior to being accepted to the University of the Philippines High School in Manila. In 1946, he was chosen to receive a Philippine government scholarship to attend the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. As one of the top graduates of West Point's Class of 1950, President Ramos was invited to join the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Upon graduation in 1950, President Ramos' desire to help rebuild his country from the ruins of World War II led him to pursue a master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Illinois. He served alongside American servicemen as a Second Lieutenant in the Philippine Expeditionary Force during the Korean War and, later, as Chief of Staff of the Philippine Civil Action Group in Vietnam.

The culmination of his illustrious military career came when he was appointed Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1986. True to his commitment to duty, honor, and country, he joined forces with former defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile during the 1986 EDSA "People Power" Revolution, a coup d'etat designed to restore democracy to the Philippine Republic. He was later appointed Secretary of National Defense under President Corazon C. Aquino and, in 1992, the people of the Philippines gave him the mandate to be twelfth in a succession of Philippine presidents since the proclamation of the First Philippine Republic in 1898.

During his visit I am sure that President Ramos will take some time to focus upon an issue which has been of importance to him for some time now. While still a West Point Cadet in the 1950's, President Ramos became interested in bells left by the Army 11th Infantry at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, the Bells of Balangiga. These church bells were taken from a Catholic church in the Philippines by U.S. military forces in 1901. As Philippine Defense Secretary and later as President of the Philippine Republic, he repeatedly worked toward the return of these bells.

There was a time when officers at F.E. Warren wanted to get rid of the bells. The brass relics seemed to have no relevance for a modern missile base. Few people seemed to know or care about these bells—that is until the Filipinos requested their return.

Vocal opposition from a number of Cheyenne residents has prevented any progress on this issue. The bells are currently part of a monument which supposedly memorializes American soldiers who died in Balangiga, a small town in Central Philippines. However,

our failure to resolve this matter is slowly transforming this monument into a symbol of inflexibility and false pride.

On November 7, 1997, I introduced H. Res. 312 to remedy the situation. Along with members of the Wyoming State Legislature and Philippine Ambassador Raul Chaves Rabe, I propose a compromise whereby this solitary and isolated memorial will be converted into fitting monuments located on both sides of the world dedicated to the peace, friendship and cooperation that have existed between the United States and the Filipino people. This compromise calls for the United States and the Republic of the Philippines to share the bells. The bells will be recast and duplicates made. The United States and the Philippines will each keep an original and a duplicate. The Philippine government has even expressed willingness to absorb the costs involved. H. Res. 312 would facilitate this proposal, which I hope my colleagues will take the time to reconsider.

As we welcome President Fidel Ramos to our country, let us honor this man whose career and accomplishments has been a manifestation of Philippine-American friendship and cooperation through the years. Let us not dwell upon long forgotten conflicts and altercations. Instead, let us move forward and, as we have always done in the past, work together in the promotion of our mutual goals.

KING ON THE HILL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the House a story about one of my most accomplished constituents from Colorado. Thirteen year old Kyle King of Limon, Colorado stopped by our Congressional office in Washington, D.C., last week. It was my last appointment before returning home to Colorado for a few days of town meetings on the eastern plains.

Kyle was accompanied by his parents Deb and Greg. Limon Jr. Highschool recessed for spring break giving Kyle and his folks a perfect chance to visit the nation's capital.

By the time we met up, the Kings had already seen the most prominent sites, shrines and monuments to our country's history. But the real reason they came to Washington was to see Kyle's big sister Amanda.

Amanda's been in Washington now for nine months. She's sixteen years old, has never before been so far away from home, and she's certainly never been away for such a long time.

A couple years back, Amanda made up her mind that she wanted to be a Congressional Page—not an ordinary sort of ambition, especially for a youngster growing up on the high plains. But to Deb and Greg, Amanda has never been anything short of extraordinary. They encouraged her to apply.

The Page Program is extremely competitive. Several thousand high schoolers from across America apply for the honor of serving on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

The first requirement for consideration is to secure sponsorship by a Member of Con-

gress. I receive dozens of applications per year out of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. For the full-time position, I may sponsor only one, which only means the applicant I choose will then be considered by the Speaker of the House.

Since time away from home entails a disrupted academic calendar, only the best and brightest are accepted. Successful applicants enter an alternative education program built around a busy and unpredictable work schedule. Pages are housed in college-style dormitories one block from the Capitol building.

There are 435 Members of Congress. This year, only 66 Pages were selected.

Being a new Member of Congress, I was told any applicant from my district was a long shot. I lobbied hard for Amanda King anyway, betting the strength of her resume would compensate for my lack of seniority.

Naturally, I was as excited as Amanda upon receiving the news she had been accepted into the Page Program.

Amanda is too modest about the significance and importance of her position. It's much more than a nice recognition for a country girl done well.

She is an ambassador for Colorado and specifically for the City of Limon. It's a role she fulfills exceptionally well. Her peers joke that they can't get her to stop talking about life out West.

A few months back, I visited Limon Elementary School to talk to students about my job as a Congressman. My presentation covered the usual topics of taxes, education, agriculture and so on. But the first question from Principal Valerie Bass was, "How often do you get to see Amanda King? How's she doing?"

Similarly, last month, I spoke at a dinner in Hugo, Colorado, commemorating Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Again, the people in the hall asked for an update on Amanda. I was proud to provide it.

Amanda is clearly one of the House's favorite Pages. She's one of the most reliable. In addition to fetching documents, and relaying messages, Pages make the actual floor work run smoothly. They greet many of the tourists and visitors at the Capitol, and they must know the intricacies of House procedures in order to do their jobs. Amanda knows the process better than most senior Members.

During moments of down time, I sometimes rehearse portions of my speeches before walking onto the floor and I seek out Amanda for her opinion. Her advice has always been useful and I'm convinced that her grammatical suggestions have made me more persuasive.

Most of all, Amanda's enthusiasm for America is infectious. She is optimistic about the nation's future and her role in shaping it. I've spoken with her about her personal goals and dreams, and I know she views herself within a patriotic context.

Last week's meeting in the office with the King family was one of the most inspiring I've had so far as a Congressman. It shifted my perspective somewhat.

Usually I think my success in Congress is measured by my effectiveness with legislation and budgeting the public's funds. And although I'm encouraged to have accomplished more than most of my colleagues on behalf of the people I represent, it became even more clear that one of the most rewarding things I've been able to do is sponsor Amanda King as a Congressional Page.

The eyes of Amanda's parents revealed the love and affection they hold for her. Though they miss her terribly they are thrilled by her accomplishments. Furthermore, their time on Capitol Hill with their daughter confirmed she's doing quite well.

Kyle learned much watching his sister serve her country. Deb's and Greg's pride is certainly well placed.

RECOGNIZING THE 1998 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the 1998 University of Illinois men's basketball team. Under the stewardship of Coach Lon Kruger, a team that was predicted to finish in the middle of the Big Ten in the most optimistic pre-season polls, the Illini men finished the season tied for the best record in the Big Ten. The sportswriters said that they didn't have any big name stars to lead them much further than mediocrity. What the sportswriters failed to understand was the determination and heart that this team would display throughout the season. Coach Kruger never doubted his team and his players never doubted themselves or their ability to compete against other Big Ten schools. The Illini had a precious commodity that many other schools lacked: Senior Leadership. Led by a group of Seniors that I have had the opportunity to watch evolve from wide-eyed freshman to steely veterans, the Illini shocked the Big Ten. Senior Kevin Turner exemplifies that evolution, as he led the Illini in scoring and was named to the All-Big Ten Conference team. However, I was disappointed that Lon Kruger did not receive the Big Ten Coach of the Year award, because he has done such an outstanding job. Coach Kruger, along with Seniors Turner, Jarrod Gee, Matt Heldman, Jerry Hester, Brian Johnson and Jelani Boline led the Illini to their best Big Ten record in recent memory. They then participated in the NCAA Tournament and beat a solid team from South Alabama in the first round. Although the Maryland Terrapins put an end to their incredible season in the second round, the Illini fought to the bitter end before falling in a close contest. Coach Kruger and the entire University of Illinois men's basketball team deserve the recognition of the House of Representatives for their incredible season. I would like to remind the Speaker that Midnight Madness and the start of the 1999 NCAA basketball season is only 198 days away.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SOCIAL SECURITY SUNSHINE ACT OF 1988"

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, without question the national dialogue to save social security is

under way. But what good is a national dialogue if the participants do not have all the information they need to participate in an informed and meaningful debate? Today I am offering legislation to help foster a genuine dialogue about Social Security. As we thoughtfully look at ways of personalizing and modernizing our current system, we need to ensure that the discussion is a careful one, and we need to include those most affected by the program—current beneficiaries. My legislation will help educate seniors about their status in the current system by providing them information about their current benefits. As the Ways and Means Committee today holds a hearing on a proposal to conduct a National Dialogue on Social Security in 1998, my legislation is designed to build on this idea by helping Americans understand the problem this system faces and design a long-range program to modernize Social Security.

This legislation is a sunshine bill, much like my pilot program enacted into law in the 104th Congress. It is designed to assist seniors better understand their contributions and benefits under the social security system. *Beginning January 1, 1999, beneficiaries of Social Security will receive two annual statements detailing: (1) The total wages and self-employment income the individual has earned; (2) the total contributions of the employer, employee and self-employment from wages; (3) the total amount paid to the individual as benefits, and; (4) an explanation of the statement in easily understood terms.*

Numerous seniors in my district find it ironic that other retirement benefit programs like mutual funds, IRAs and the like, provide this type of information, in writing, on a quarterly basis—and many provide participants direct 24-hour access by telephone. My bill would require that the Social Security Administration provide reasonable information in a reasonable timeframe.

As we know, Social Security is an unfunded pay-as-you-go system. Today's benefits to the elderly are paid by today's taxes from the young. Recently, the government's own actuaries reported that Social Security's Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Trust Funds will go broke in 2030. By that time, payroll taxes on fewer than two workers will support each retiree, a sharp decline from 1980 when the ratio was 3.5 to 1—and an even further decline from 1950 when the ratio was 16 to 1. This will occur as a result of demographic factors in the system and is not the fault of seniors.

Short-term fixes of the past to increase revenue or reduce benefits will be unsuccessful in postponing insolvency. Furthermore, the Social Security Administration's own pessimistic estimates indicate that by 2040 a combined employer-employee payroll tax of 40 percent could be required to pay benefits. Raising the already burdensome payroll tax for the 18th time in the history of the program is simply not an option.

Unfortunately, many seniors, including my own mother, are not aware of the state of the system or the impending crisis. The lack of information provided to them and every other senior is simply unacceptable. Seniors across the country have a desire—indeed, a right—to know about the status of their participation in the Social Security system. My bill would guarantee seniors access to this important information and include them in our national dia-

logue. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF IRENE SILLIMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

STEVE C. LaTOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. LaTOURETTE, and I rise today to honor a woman who is truly dedicated to our nation's troops, Irene Silliman. Mrs. Silliman is a harbinger of goodwill and warmth to the United States Navy, providing them with slippers to keep them warm on the decks of their cold ships.

A 72-year-old grandmother from Madison, OH, Irene Silliman started what has turned in to a national project by providing hand-knitted slipper socks to sailors on her grandson's vessel. After receiving a letter from her grandson requesting a pair of the socks, Silliman determined that she would make extra pairs for his shipmates. She organized a group of friends and began a phenomenon called "Operation Toasty Toes" that has engulfed the senior population of Northeast Ohio.

After receiving several calls from interested volunteers, Silliman spearheaded an effort to make these Toasty Toes slipper socks for the entire crew of the U.S.S. *Corney*, the destroyer on which her grandson is stationed. National newspapers have picked up the story and a multitude of citizens nationwide are now feverishly working on new pairs of slippers to send to the troops.

Irene Silliman is truly devoted to her country and the well-being of our servicemen and women. Her selfless effort to organize a crusade to provide warmth and comfort to our soldiers is truly a testament of her patriotic spirit. Mrs. Silliman wished to show our American troops that she and others cared about them and through their efforts, this has been accomplished.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a true patriot whose selfless devotion to our American troops is evident through her efforts, Irene Silliman.

SALUTING CEASAR CHAVEZ

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to rise and salute one of the most inspirational leaders of our country, Cesar Chavez. Cesar Chavez is a legend within the Latino community and our nation. He is one of my heroes as well. This past Saturday, March 28, 1998, I had the pleasure of participating in a street dedication ceremony renaming a street in the predominantly Hispanic community on the west side of Kansas City in my Congressional District, Avenida Cesar Chavez. The festive atmosphere of the ceremony was enhanced by the presence of Richard Chavez, Cesar's younger brother,

who has continued the work which Cesar started to benefit all working men and women. Visiting with Richard and listening to his experiences demonstrated the extraordinary nature which one, and later many, dedicated individuals can have on bettering our community and nation.

In 1962, when Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), his purpose was to unite all of the Mexican farm workers in California in their struggle for better wages and working conditions.

Cesar Chavez was a very charismatic leader, who headed a movement that used only nonviolent tactics. Cesar Chavez used strikes and boycotts as leverage in applying economic pressure on the employers to settle wage disputes and improve the work environment.

Cesar Chavez was a visionary who built consensus. He realized that the existence of oppression towards any group of people was wrong, so he joined the fight to help further the cause for Filipino farm workers. In 1965, during the Grape Boycotts, Filipino and Mexican workers united and protested the low wages and poor working conditions. In 1970 this remarkable effort resulted in an amicable resolution. For nearly a decade like many of my generation, I refused to consume grapes to show solidarity.

Muchas gracias otra vez por permitirme esta oportunidad compartir mi sentimiento sobre un grand heroe Americano, Cesar Chavez.

Mr. Speaker, I salute and applaud the efforts of Cesar Chavez and the community leaders in my Congressional District who have the vision to ensure that his memory and works will permanently be remembered for future generations, not only through the dedication of Avenida Cesar Chavez, but by the historical translation passed on from generation to generation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARIBBEAN
THEATRE WEEK APRIL 5-12, 1998

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inaugural celebration of Caribbean Theatre Week. This unique week was made possible through the diligent efforts of persons at the Daily Challenge, and WLIB Radio, special community leaders and performers who have tirelessly committed themselves to developing events that celebrate the entire spectrum of Caribbean creativity. Caribbean Theatre Week, which will be held in New York on April 5-12, 1998, is a magnificent forum for presenting the significant artistic contributions made by Caribbean performers.

In reviewing the history of the Caribbean, one can ascertain the importance of theatrical production in the Caribbean region. The advent of the Caribbean theatre contributed to the increase in national independence in the Caribbean islands. The theatre often served as a powerful tool for political communication that both defined and reflected the island's culture and identity.

Caribbean Theatre Week is the brainchild of Mr. Dawad Philip, a poet, artist, and editor of

the Daily Challenge in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Philip and other organizers had the vision to develop an annual arts performance week that would bring a sharper focus on the depth and scope of this burgeoning theatre movement. They hope to bring the natural beauty of the Caribbean islands and the rich variety of cultures in the Caribbean islands to the theatre audience.

The event was developed more than two months ago with just one event. Caribbean Theatre Week developed a momentum of its own, resulting in a week of culture-driven events and activities. WLIB Radio and the Daily Challenge have convened an impressive gathering of Caribbean playwrights, actors, producers, writers, and performance artists—representing the English, French and Spanish Caribbean—to help celebrate the week-long series of events. Such a fascinating spectrum of the arts and theater during Caribbean Theatre Week will help the residents of New York deepen their appreciation for the vitality of the Caribbean island traditions.

The organizers of the event have created a multi-dimensional showcase of Caribbean culture. Caribbean Theatre Week will showcase a Children's Storytelling Festival, Oral Folk Tradition, a Poetry Festival and poetry reading, a celebration of Caribbean dance, a symposium examining the state of Caribbean theater in New York, and Caribbean Street Theatre. The event will conclude with the grand finale, the New York Premiere of "Jean and Dinah," performed by the Lord Street Theatre Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

As we approach the new millennium, the ties that bind nations globally are becoming more apparent. Events such as Caribbean Theatre Week serve as the perfect vehicle to understand and embrace the various cultures of the world. I applaud Mr. Dawad Philip, WLIB Radio and other organizers of Caribbean Theatre Week for celebrating the beauty, culture, warmth, and diversity of the Islands and its people. I also salute the artists and performers; their work exemplifies the wide range of talent in the Caribbean community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CDR.
GEORGE W. HOOVER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Commander George W. Hoover, who passed away last month and now lays at rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Commander Hoover was a friend to me, a friend of America, and one of the greatest intellects the country will ever produce.

It is one thing to briefly summarize his life: born April 24, 1915, in New Kensington, Pennsylvania; joined the Navy in 1934 and served a distinguished career as an aviator and an engineer; married, father of two children; consultant to numerous government agencies and leading engineering and aviation firms; and responsible for several innovations critical to the progress of aviation engineering and instrumentation. I want to focus on a couple of things that were particularly meaningful to me.

First, in 1945, Commander Hoover was designated Navy Helicopter Pilot Number 10.

Today as we take for granted the availability of helicopters for military and civilian use, Commander Hoover ranks among the pioneers of aviation as one of America's very first helicopter pilots.

Second, Commander Hoover was responsible for bringing the Martin Baker Ejection Seat from Great Britain into the United States. On my 300th air mission in Vietnam, May 10, 1972, my RIO Bill Driscoll and I rode the descendants of the Martin Baker seat to safety upon the explosion of my F-4 Phantom. Thanks to Commander Hoover, the availability of this seat, and the improvements he and others made to it, ensured that a pilot could eject safely from a disabled airplane, even from an altitude of zero, on the carrier deck.

No remarks I make can possibly pay appropriate tribute to Commander Hoover's remarkable career. It should be noted that in 1999, Commander Hoover will be nominated for induction into the National Museum of Naval Aviation "Hall of Honor" at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida—the cradle of all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviators, and the place where a worthy memory of his many accomplishments can be kept.

His memory will also be kept by his widow, Lona, and his two children. The life of a Navy wife is hard. Her husband is sent on deployments for months at a time. For the decades that Commander Hoover served his country in the Navy, I want it to be recognized that his wife Lona served America and the cause of freedom with vigor and distinction just the same.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States now pay tribute to Commander George W. Hoover, and to his widow Lona and his family. God bless them for their service to America and to one another.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 30th, Tuesday, March 31st, and early Wednesday, April 1st, I was unable to be present in Washington, D.C. due to other business of a personal and family nature and therefore missed several recorded votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted:

"No" on rollcall number 81: passage of H.R. 3581, the Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 82: passage of H.R. 34, the Illegal Foreign Contributions Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 83: passage of H.R. 2608, the Paycheck Protection Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 84: passage of H.R. 3582, the Campaign Reporting and Disclosure Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 85: providing for consideration of H.R. 3579, the FY 98 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"No" on rollcall number 86: motion on ordering the House to proceed in secret session.

"No" on rollcall number 87: a motion to recommit H.R. 3579 with instructions.

"Aye" on rollcall number 88: final passage of H.R. 3579, the FY 98 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 90: Providing for consideration of H.R. 2400, BESTEA.

"Aye" on rollcall number 91: Providing for an adjournment of the two Houses.

I ask that this be recorded in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

COMPREHENSIVE COAL ACT
REFORM ACT (H.R. 2231)

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my name as a cosponsor of the Comprehensive Coal Reform Act Reform Act (H.R. 2231), a bipartisan bill introduced by Representative DEBORAH PRYCE (R-OH) on July 27, 1997.

This bill seeks to address certain inequities created by the reachback tax provisions of the Coal Industry Health Benefit Act of 1992 (the Coal Act) while protecting the health benefits of retired mine workers. Under the Coal Act, former employers of retired coal miners are required to pay assessments to a Combined Fund to finance retiree benefits. I believe it is appropriate for former employers to bear this financial responsibility. However, in some cases, the reachback tax is applied unfairly, requiring employers with limited liability to pay large assessments while employers with significant liability pay a lower assessment.

H.R. 2231 attempts to correct these inequities while ensuring that the Combined Fund has adequate resources to pay retiree benefits. The language of H.R. 2231 may or may not be the perfect means to achieve these goals. However, I believe that the bill represents an honest attempt to reach a compromise on this important issue.

THE MEDICAID CHILD ELIGIBILITY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Medicaid Child Eligibility Improvement Act of 1998, to help more children obtain the health care they need through Medicaid. There are currently three million children in our nation who are eligible for Medicaid but are not receiving the care they need because they are not enrolled in the program.

This legislation would allow public schools, child care resource and referral centers, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) workers, and child support agencies to make the preliminary decision that a child is eligible to enroll in Medicaid so that they can receive coverage while waiting for a full Medicaid eligibility determination. Schools and these other agencies are on the front lines of caring for children and can help to educate their families and enroll them in Medicaid.

Under the Balanced Budget Act enacted last year, States received a new option under Medicaid to grant "presumptive eligibility" to certain children on a temporary basis as their

Medicaid eligibility is determined. My legislation would expand this presumptive eligibility option to make it more flexible and attractive to the States. The presumptive eligibility period is normally sixty days and gives States sufficient time to complete the Medicaid eligibility determination process. If a state ultimately determines that the child is not eligible for Medicaid, none of these entities would be penalized or lose funding due to a negative determination. Under this legislation, we would be enrolling children on an expedited basis and could reach some of those three million children who are eligible but not enrolled.

While some would argue that there will be a cost associated with increasing participation in the Medicaid program, it is important to remember that when Congress enacted Medicaid, it assumed that these children would be covered. I would argue that adding these children is not only morally right, but also cost-effective in comparison to letting these children receive health care on an ad hoc basis. Many of these children will simply go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment and will not be able to pay for these services. In the end, we will pay the cost. With Medicaid coverage, our public institutions will be reimbursed and these children will receive better care through primary care providers instead of high-cost, emergency-care based services.

This legislation is also fiscally responsible in that it would require a state to deduct from their state allotment any funding used for this program. I believe that the small cost associated with this outreach effort will not adversely impact States' ability to provide health care for low-income children and in fact could reduce the States' disproportionate share expenditures.

We know that these children are not being properly served now and we must find innovative way to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid. My legislation would simply accelerate the application process while maintaining sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would give States greater flexibility to determine which entities can make these determinations, and States are authorized to apply certain limitations in order to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would also permit the Secretary of the Health and Human Services to review States' decisions and ensure that the appropriate entities are allowed to enroll these children. None of these entities could immediately offer these services until their state and the federal government has deemed them to be eligible to undertake preliminary determinations.

I believe this is an important public policy matter which we need to address. My legislation would enroll more children in Medicaid while ensuring that appropriate entities are reviewing the applications. I believe it is more cost-effective to enroll these children and ensure that they are receiving the primary care services they need, rather than sending these children to emergency rooms where they will be sicker and taxpayers will end up paying more. I also believe that we need to improve our current Medicaid presumptive eligibility law by including these new entities which were not included in the Balanced Budget Act. I strongly urge my colleague to support his critical legislation.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is truly tragic that some Members of this body do not fully recognize the outstanding record of contribution of the AmeriCorps program.

In community after community, across the entire nation, AmeriCorps volunteers are providing a wide range of essential services that are truly making a difference in people's lives. And, at the same time, these young people are making a difference in their own lives. They are becoming leaders who understand the importance of giving back to the community around them. They are earning a valuable educational benefit that will help them achieve their goals for the future.

Yesterday, we saw another unconscionable attack on AmeriCorps' funding by Members who have yet to acknowledge AmeriCorps' record of success. I am confident that these Members would not launch these politically motivated attacks if they would simply look at the successes around them—and admit to the important contributions that AmeriCorps is making in almost every community in the nation.

These members should talk to their local nonprofits. They should talk with their community leaders. And they should read their local newspapers. Because all around them is the evidence that AmeriCorps is making this nation a better place to live in and is cultivating an ethic of civic responsibility and community.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record one piece of this evidence—a news article from one of my local newspapers, the San Rafael/Terra Lina News Pointer, from February 4, 1998. This article demonstrates, once again, how AmeriCorps has become an important community resource in Marin County, California, which I am privileged to represent.

Recently, a bipartisan group of Members of Congress joined First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in endorsing new legislation to reauthorize our nation's national service programs, including AmeriCorps. I urge all members of Congress to join together, in a bipartisan fashion, to reject politically motivated attacks on AmeriCorps' funding, and to pass essential reauthorization legislation that will preserve AmeriCorps and other essential national service programs well into the future.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT PAY OFF

MARIN.—AmeriCorp, praised by President Bill Clinton in his 1998 State of the Union address, is an important community resource in Marin. The Marin Conservation Corps (MCC) is one of 1,500 designated AmeriCorps sites nationwide. To date MCC has trained and graduated three classes of AmeriCorps volunteers who have in turn provided valuable volunteer service to Marin's non-profit agencies.

Full-time corpsmembers commit to one-year of service to their community in exchange for job training and employment opportunities. Ten individuals, who worked at least 1,700 hours, participated in the Marin Recycling-Education and summer camps programs. These AmeriCorps volunteers taught environmental education, mentored kids

after school and served as role models for at-risk youth. Hand-on activities included bottle biology, reusable art projects, a peek at packaging, and making your own paper.

Ardis Ashton, Ricardo Diaz, Juanita Edwards, Ryan Holland Russel Lamerson, Erick Linares, Beau Siebler, Buna Soma, Gina Watkins and Walter Williams gained valuable job skills and work experience. In addition, they received \$4,725 education scholarship, which they can use to pursue educational goals or vocational training.

And thousands of Marin school children learned the "three r's"—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BUTTON

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles (Charlie) Button who is leaving the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the state agency that is overseeing the clean up of the Boston Harbor. The \$3.7 billion project is near completion and has been extremely successful in cleaning-up the harbor.

Over a decade ago, the harbor was so dirty it smelled like rotten eggs. But today, people have returned to the beaches to fish, swim and sail. The harbor has been successfully transformed from one of the dirtiest harbors in our nation to a sparkling body of water. Much of the success of the clean up of the harbor can be attributed to tireless efforts of Charlie Button.

In 1988, Charlie Button joined the MWRA's Program Management Division as the Director of Construction for the harbor project. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Tufts University and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Connecticut. Prior to joining the MWRA, he served as Chief Engineer for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and helped to develop wastewater treatment projects in Hartford, Connecticut.

Charlie has done an incredible job managing the project. He oversaw the construction of a state-of-the-art sewage treatment facility for 2.5 million residents of 43 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The court-ordered project was completed on-time and under budget. That is what I call success!

Doug McDonald, MWRA Executive Director, said,

Charlie Button is extraordinary at moving complex projects forward in a logical, cost-effective, and smooth fashion. In addition to possessing the engineering skills and knowledge of the finest tradition he also showed poise and grace under pressure. Everyone here admires and respects Charlie Button.

Charlie Button has been in the public sector for the entire engineering career. He has given some of the best years of his life to the harbor project, and as a public spirited kind of guy, more than a few others to coaching Little League and youth hockey. I know that I speak for all of Charlie's colleagues, at the MWRA, and throughout the project, when I say thanks for everything, Charlie, the best of everything to you and Godspeed.

DEFENSE OF IWO JIMA GAINS
UNEXPECTED SUPPORT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, an article in today's *Saratogian*, a newspaper that reaches some of my constituents in Saratoga County, New York, eloquently expressed the intense pride our courageous veterans, who put their lives in harms way for this great nation and all it stands for, have for the Iwo Jima Memorial. That monument has come to represent so much to so many people around this country and the world, and in many ways is one of the most famous monuments in our history. This article's author, David Rossie, has repeatedly made disparaging remarks about me. Yet, even he, who is embarrassed to agree with me, has endorsed my attempts to defend the importance and significance of the Iwo Jima Memorial. This just demonstrates how offensive J. Carter Brown has been to every American across the political spectrum.

[From the *Saratogian*, Apr. 1, 1998]

ARTS COMMISSION LEADER SHOWS ELITISM
WITH 'KITSCH' REMARK

(By David Rossie)

I have never met J. Carter Brown, chairman of the U.S. Commission of the Fine Arts. Chances are I never will. Probably just as well. For openers, I'm a bit leery of people who insist on being referred to by their first initial and middle name. They tend to be a bit pretentious. But the main reason I detest J. Carter Brown, sight unseen, is that he has put me somewhere I don't want to be—on the side of Rep. Gerald Solomon, (R.-N.Y.)

Solomon is an East Coast version of Bob Dornan, a Republican clown who was ousted from the House in 1996. Solomon is an embarrassment in a legislative body that is virtually embarrassment proof. But now, thanks to J. Carter, I find myself muttering, "Go get him, Gerald." Solomon wants J. Carter booted from the Art Commission because of disparaging remarks he made about the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Va. The monument is a sculpted bronze reproduction of Joe Rosenthal's photograph of Marines raising the U.S. flag atop Iwo Jima's Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

J. Carter thinks the memorial is, to use the term attributed to him by the Associated Press, "kitsch." My dictionary describes kitsch as "artistic material of low quality" meant "to appeal to popular taste and marked by sentimentality, sensationalism and slickness." J. Carter, former director of the National Gallery of Art, didn't say why he thinks the Iwo Jima memorial is kitsch.

A little background: On the morning of Feb. 23, 1945, Lt. Harold Schrier, 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, led a platoon to the crater atop Suribachi where the Marines raised a small flag that Schrier's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Chandler Johnson had given him hours earlier. The flag, attached to a piece of metal pipe, went up about 10:30 a.m. Sgt. Louis Lowery, a Marine photographer, captured the moment on film. The ceremony, such as it was, was interrupted by a small group of Japanese defenders, who began throwing hand grenades from a nearby cave. Perhaps they were art critics, with an aversion to kitsch. Who knows? In any event, Lowery was knocked about 50 feet down the side of the crater. He was unhurt, but his camera was broken. Three hours later, the first flag was replaced by a larger one

brought from a ship lying offshore. This time the raising was captured on film by Rosenthal, an AP photographer.

The guess here is that when Rosenthal's photo of the flag raising made it into newspapers in the United States, people found it inspiring.

I suspect they saw the picture as a metaphor for the unconquerable spirit of the young men fighting in the Pacific. Fighting and dying. Two of the Marines who first raised the flag, died before the island was secured more than a month after the picture was taken. So, too, did Col. Johnson.

When the fighting ended on Iwo Jima near the end of March, more than 6,800 members of the invading force were dead or missing and 18,000 had been wounded. Twenty-six Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz said after the battle: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue." But then Nimitz was just an old sentimentalist.

What J. Carter doesn't seem to understand is that the Iwo Jima memorial isn't just about Iwo Jima. It is a memorial to every Marine, living and dead, who fought on all those islands in the Pacific against an enemy who seldom surrendered and was fanatical in his bravery.

IN SUPPORT OF ALCOHOL AWARE-
NESS MONTH AND TAKE A STEP
DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Alcohol Awareness Month and Take a Step Day, a nationwide campaign developed by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The goal of this national campaign is to draw attention to the problems of alcoholism and work for solutions to this disease. The campaign focuses public awareness on the widespread effects and damage associated with alcohol problems. It heightens the awareness of community residents and students in our schools about the monumental risks and consequences of alcohol abuse and misuse. In my district on Long Island, this important campaign is sponsored by the Long Island Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence.

Unfortunately, this type of awareness is all too necessary. Alcohol is the third leading cause of preventable death in our nation, killing nearly 100,000 Americans every year. 13.8 million Americans suffer from alcohol-related problems, including 8.1 million alcoholics. Over 43% of Americans have been exposed to alcoholism in their families and 13 million Americans drink heavily, which means they consume five or more drinks at a time on five or more days a month. These heavy drinkers are five times more likely to use illicit drugs and are more likely to require extensive medical care. Nearly one-fourth of all Americans admitted to general hospitals have alcohol problems or are undiagnosed alcoholics who are treated for the consequences of their drinking. Alcoholism and alcohol-related problems cost the American economy at least \$100 million health care and lost productivity every year.

During April, alcohol awareness month, I call upon my colleagues in Congress, along

with all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals and schools to join me in fighting America's number-one drug problem by pledging to support research, education, housing, intervention and treatment for alcoholism and alcohol-related problems.

IN RECOGNITION OF J. DANNY
COOPER'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of J. Danny Cooper on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday.

A native of Chilton County, Alabama, Danny has been an active member in both his community and the state. Earning both a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a masters in education administration from the University of Montevallo, Danny has utilized his talents and his education for the good of all those around him. A former school teacher, Danny Cooper has also served as the Veterans' Affairs director, the community bicentennial chairman, and the county cancer crusade chairman.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Danny Cooper has been active in national politics. Danny served as the executive director of a state political party, state campaign manager for a successful presidential candidate and state director to a U.S. Senator. Mr. Cooper's experience, however, has not been limited to this country. Danny attended, as the U.S. representative, a disaster preparedness conference of NATO nations in Brussels, Belgium.

In 1990, Danny was named Vice President of the Alabama Association of Realtors. He is a board member of the Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee and the Alabama Council of Association Executives. He also is an active member of the American Society of Association Executives and Alabama's State Action Legislative Team Chair representing realtors. In addition to the above mentioned, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cooper is a member of 107 additional trade and professional associations in the state of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, the list of accomplishments continues. Danny is one of those individuals who doesn't sit back and let others make decisions for him. He is one of those people who is determined to make a difference and help those around him. I am proud to know Danny and am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his accomplishments.

It is my hope that my fellow colleagues will join with me in wishing Danny Cooper a Happy Birthday.

IN HONOR OF JAMES LEONARD
FARMER, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the contributions of a distinguished American citizen, Dr. James Leonard Farmer.

As we pay homage to our forbearers for their courage, wisdom, perseverance and overall contributions to America, I'd like to formally salute Dr. Farmer for his efforts as a Civil Rights Activist. He has been instrumental in the struggle to remove legal, social, and political barriers which continue to impede the progress of African-Americans.

James Leonard Farmer was born in Marshall, Texas, on January 12, 1920, the son of a scholar, grandson of a slave, and one of three children. As the son of a faculty member of various southern black colleges, the young James Farmer led a somewhat sheltered life. But as the old adage reminds us "to whom much is given, much is expected". Dr. Farmer has not only lived up to, but has exceeded, all anyone had a right to expect of him.

The young James Farmer attended public schools in the south. He earned his B.A. degree in chemistry from Wiley College at the age of 18 and obtained a divinity degree from Howard University, graduating in 1941. Dr. Farmer refused ordination because of the segregation then practiced by the Methodist Church. Instead of entering the ministry, he turned his energies to social action, with the goal of destroying segregation. In 1942, along with a group of students at the University of Chicago, Dr. Farmer organized the first chapter of the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE). The interracial organization's purpose was to apply a direct challenge to American racism by using Grandhian tactics of non-violence.

Dr. Farmer also organized the first Civil Rights sit-in in American history at a Chicago donut shop called Jack Spratt's in May of 1942. As a someone who grew up in segregated Virginia, I am particularly thankful for Dr. Farmer's organization of the "Pilgrimage of Prayer" to Richmond, Virginia. The "Pilgrimage" protested the closing of Virginia's public schools to avoid complying with the United States Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in public schools. More than 2,000 persons joined in the "Pilgrimage of Prayer", which has been credited with a significant role in bringing about the weakening of Virginia's "massive resistance" program.

By 1961 Dr. Farmer was the National Director of CORE. During this crucial time in our history, Dr. Farmer and CORE received national exposure by organizing the "Freedom Ride". The "Freedom Ride" was a bus trip through the deep south designed to desegregate interstate buses and terminals. Despite countless arrests and other harassments, the "Freedom Riders" persevered in their efforts and were eventually successful in the desegregation of 120 interstate bus terminals in the south.

Since 1985, Dr. Farmer has been teaching Civil Rights at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the Distinguished Professor of History and American Studies. He continues to do so at the age of 78.

On Jan 15, 1998, Dr. Farmer was bestowed the country's highest civilian honor by President Bill Clinton: the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I can think of no individual more deserving of such an honor.

Frederick Douglass once said "Men may not get all they pay for in this World, but they must certainly pay for all they get." Mr. Speaker, Dr. Farmer may not have gotten all that he paid for, but with the life of service and commitment he has given us, I have no doubt that he has paid for all that he has gotten.

Thank you, Dr. James Leonard Farmer, for all that you have given us.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THE HUNGARIAN CROWN—REPLICA IS PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS A SYMBOL OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND HUNGARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 18 in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, just a few steps from the Chamber of the House, the President of the Republic of Hungary, His Excellency Árpád Göncz, was joined by a number of our distinguished colleagues from both the House and the Senate and by a distinguished group of current and former Administration officials, members of the diplomatic corps and a large number of other Hungarians and Americans in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the return to the people of Hungary of the Holy Crown of Hungary, the Crown of St. Stephen.

It is one of the significant and curious aspects of the nearly one thousand year history of the Hungarian Crown that, for a third of a century, the United States government was custodian of this most important symbol of the Hungarian nation. In 1945 the troops guarding the Crown handed it over to United States Army troops in Germany to prevent its falling into the hands of the Soviet military. First in Germany and later at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the United States safeguarded this Hungarian treasure for 33 years. It was clearly the intention of American officials to return the Crown to the Hungarian people, but the communist coup d'etat in 1947 and the unsuccessful Hungarian revolution of 1956 prevented that from happening.

By the late 1970s, Hungary had shown its independence from the Soviet Union in a whole range of domestic policies. In 1978 in a courageous decision, President Jimmy Carter, with the strong concurrence of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, decided to return the Hungarian Crown to the people of Hungary. The Crown was a powerful symbol of Hungary's links with the West and a potent emblem of Hungarian national identity. The decision to return the crown was based on the desire to encourage the reality of both of those elements.

The rightness of the decision to return the Crown has unquestionably been confirmed by events since 1978. Hungary was instrumental in the opening of the Iron Curtain. In the fall of 1989, thousands of East German citizens were camped on Hungary's border with Austria seeking to leave the East bloc and flee to the West. At that critical moment, the Hungarian government made the fateful decision to open its borders, and thousands of East Germans fled to West Germany and to freedom and opportunity. That was a dramatic and fateful decision which hastened and precipitated the collapse of the Iron Curtain.

Since 1978, our relationship with Hungary has progressed from being members of opposing alliances to partners and now to be-

coming full allies. Today, Mr. Speaker, Hungary stands at the door of NATO. It was symbolically significant that on the day before our ceremony in Statuary Hall, the Senate began debate on the admission to NATO of Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

In recognition of the significance of the return of the Crown twenty years ago and as a symbol of the friendship of the Hungarian and American peoples, the Hungarian government has presented to the American people a magnificent replica of the Holy Crown of Hungary. That replica was presented to the American people at the conclusion of the ceremony in Statuary Hall in the Capitol, and the Members of Congress who were present symbolically accepted it on behalf of the American people. Appropriately, the replica of the Crown was taken to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta later that same day, where it was placed on permanent display. It is most appropriate that the replica of the Crown is housed there, since President Carter made the courageous and controversial but correct decision to return the Crown to Hungary two decades ago.

Mr. Speaker, this Crown has a long and important legacy that is highly significant to the history of the Hungarian people. In the year 896 the seven Hungarian tribes crossed the Carpathian Mountains and occupied the Hungarian plain. In the year 1001, Stephen was crowned King of Hungarians with a crown given him by Pope Sylvester II. That moment signified Hungary's decision to be an integral part of western culture and civilization, and throughout the entire past millennium this hope and dream and struggle of the Hungarian people was frustrated every step of the way—in the 13th century by the invasion of the Tartars, in the 16th century by the Turks, in the middle of the 19th century by the forces of the Tsar putting down Hungary's freedom revolution, and, of course, in recent times by Soviet domination.

For Hungarians this is a historic moment when we celebrate the friendship of the United States and the Republic of Hungary, and when the Hungarian people thank the American people by giving them in perpetuity this replica of the crown which symbolizes for Hungarians all that is good and decent and civilized. It is significant that just a few steps away from where we met for this ceremony, the debate was underway on admitting Hungary to NATO, and the vote is not too far distant when Hungary will also be made a part of the European Union. These great events mark a fulfillment of this millennium-long yearning of the Hungarian people to be linked with Western civilization and culture.

The cosponsors of the event marking the 20th anniversary of the return of the Crown were Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH, Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT, Senate Democratic Leader TOM DASCHLE, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, Senator JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., Senator GORDON SMITH, House Democratic Leader RICHARD GEPHARDT, Congressman BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, Congressman LEE HAMILTON, and Congressman TOM LANTOS.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank those speakers who participated in this happy and historic event: Dr. James Ford, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, who offered the invocation; Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH; Senators RICHARD LUGAR, GORDON SMITH, JOSEPH BIDEN, JR., PAUL SARBANES; Congressman LEE HAMILTON, Congressman BENJAMIN

A. GILMAN; representing the Administration were Dr. Joseph Duffey, Director of the United States Information Agency, and Ambassador Marc Grossman, Assistant Secretary of State for Europe; representing the government of Hungary, in addition to President Árpád Göncz, was Ambassador to the United States, Gyorgy Banlaki. The benediction was offered by Pastor Stephen N. Mustos.

Also making an important contribution to the ceremony were the United States Army String Ensemble, which played the national anthems of the United States and Hungary as well as other music, and the Joint Forces Color Guard, which presented the colors at the opening of the ceremony. I also want to thank the members of my staff for their role in this ceremony, and in particular, I want to thank Dr. Kay King, who was responsible for organizing this event and who made all of the arrangements.

I ask that excerpts of the remarks of several of those who participated in this event be placed in the RECORD. I am including those who had written remarks, and I regret that excellent remarks from a number of participants which were not available in writing are not included in this statement.

REMARKS OF HON. GORDON SMITH, UNITED STATES SENATE

Senator SMITH. Congressman Lantos, thank you for your efforts in organizing this event honoring the 20th anniversary of the return of the Hungarian Crown by the United States. The Crown of St. Stephen is a powerful symbol for the Hungarian Nation. Legendary as the crown that Stephen used in his coronation in 1001, it was last used by the Hapsburg King Franz Joseph II in the 19th century and by his successor Karl IV early in this century.

More than a simple crown of kings this has been a symbol of Hungary's strong links with Western Europe. It was this strong kinship with the West that finally led President Carter to return the crown to Hungary twenty years ago. Twenty years ago, American leaders were proud to return this important artifact to a Hungary that was taking a slightly different economic road than the rest of the Communist bloc. It gave the West hope for Hungary.

Now twenty years later, Communism has fallen and again Hungary is taking a different road. This time its preparation for membership in the NATO alliance gives us pause to celebrate a new ally. Yesterday, the Senate began an historic debate that will, I am confident, end in an overwhelming vote to accept Hungary as a new member of NATO.

I am happy to vigorously support Hungary's membership and I look to this crown, the replica of which will go to the Carter Presidential Library, as an enduring symbol of Hungarian Pride and also of the strong bond between our two countries, now about to become allies in Europe.

Thank you for inviting me to take part in this ceremony.

REMARKS OF HON. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

Senator BIDEN. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be with you today as a co-sponsor of this remarkable event.

Twenty years ago the Government of the United States under the wise leadership of President Carter and Secretary Vance made the courageous decision to return the Crown of St. Stephen, the first Christian King of Hungary, to the Hungarian people. We commemorate that event today—and what a difference twenty years makes.

In 1978, Hungary was ruled by communists. Today it is a vibrant democracy. In 1978, Hungary was a member of the Warsaw Pact. Today, I am happy to report that in the next few days, the United States Senate will almost certainly ratify the Protocols of Accession of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to NATO. And today, as a gesture of friendship, Hungary is presenting a replica of the Crown to the American people.

It is fitting and proper that following today's ceremony, the Crown will be taken to Atlanta, presented to President Carter, and then will be housed permanently at the Carter Presidential Library and Museum.

Not often can we celebrate an event with such unambiguous joy. I am delighted to be a part of today's ceremony, and, Mr. President, I wish Hungary continued prosperity and success.

REMARKS OF HON. LEE H. HAMILTON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. HAMILTON. I am pleased to attend this celebration of the 20th anniversary of the return of the Crown of St. Stephen to the Hungarian people by the United States government on January 6, 1978.

President Göncz, I join in welcoming you to the United States Congress. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, we welcome you back to these halls. You can be proud of your exemplary service to the nation and your strong leadership. I would also be remiss if I did not use this occasion to commend Tom Lantos for his distinguished service and all he has done to enhance Hungarian-American relations. Finally, I want to thank Dr. Robert King, who traveled with the delegation back in 1978 and who has ably served Mr. Lantos for many years.

I served on the Special President Delegation to the ceremony commemorating the return of the Crown of St. Stephen to Hungary, ably led by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. I shall not forget that experience. Its impact on me was all the greater because I simply did not initially understand the importance and significance of the Crown of St. Stephen to the Hungarian nation.

I first encountered the Crown of St. Stephen in hearings by the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in 1977. Hungarian Americans were divided on the question of the return of the Crown. Some argued passionately for the return; others, with equal passion, argued against the return. I learned in those hearings about the Crown and its important role in Hungarian history.

I preserve as a special memory the deeply symbolic and emotionally-charged moment when, in the dark of night, the Crown of St. Stephen was lifted off the delegation's U.S. Air Force aircraft and returned, for the first time in 33 years, to Hungarian soil. The emotional reaction of the airport crowd when the crown touched down was simply astounding. Some cheered lustily, others wept tears of joy, and others stood in silence and reverence. Then and there I felt directly the profound significance of the crown's return.

To this day, I recall Secretary Cyrus Vance's moving remarks at the formal return ceremony at the Hungarian Parliament. That entire day, reinforcing the strong bonds between our two countries and two peoples, is etched in my memory.

President Carter and Secretary Vance deserve enormous credit for their foresight and courage in understanding the great historical importance and significance of the return of the Crown of St. Stephen to Hungary. Therefore, it is entirely fitting that a replica of this magnificent crown will soon sit in the Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta.

But, what strikes me most this day is what has happened since the return of the crown.

The return of the Crown of St. Stephen twenty years ago was the beginning of the reaffirmation by Hungary of its strong links to the community of western nations. This process continued with the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, which came about in no small measure because of the courageous leadership of the Hungarian people and government. When Hungary opened its border to Austria in the summer of 1989, the world changed forever. Once there was an opening for human freedom, the Iron Curtain and the Warsaw Pact could no longer endure.

These intervening years have brought Hungarian-American relations full circle. We have witnessed dramatic and positive changes that have taken place in Hungary and in Hungarian-American relations. We are now strong friends and partners and will soon become NATO allies. A gesture of friendship and reconciliation in 1978 has blossomed into a partnership and one of the world's most enduring and powerful alliances.

Twenty years ago, I did not imagine so desirable a result. What better outcome could we have hoped for? From its very beginnings, the Crown of St. Stephen linked Hungary to the western world. Today, the Crown of St. Stephen links Hungary not only to the United States, but to the broader community of freedom-loving democratic nations.

REMARKS OF HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. GILMAN. I am very pleased to be here this morning to join with you in commemorating the return of the Crown of St. Stephen to the Hungarian people twenty years ago. This gift to the American people—the replica of the Crown that we have here today—is a truly generous gift by the Hungarian people.

It was America's honor and privilege to safeguard the real crown for more than three decades. Indeed, we kept the symbol of Hungary and its people safe in the expectation that, one day, Hungary would again be free and would return to its rightful place in the European community of nations—and in the international community of democracies. That day is now here.

The difficult decision to return the Crown to Hungary twenty years ago was an expression of faith that this day would arrive. Even though communism still reigned unchallenged in Hungary in 1978, many of us had faith that communist rule there would not last forever. Even then, there were signs that the Hungarian people wanted—and would one day win—a better life. Our faith was rewarded just a few years later, when Hungary emerged, once and for all, from communism.

I believe that the American people will appreciate this gift from the Hungarian people. But I believe as well that the American people will appreciate even more having Hungary as a democratic ally—and will welcome Hungary into the North Atlantic alliance in the very near future.

As I understand it, the Crown of St. Stephen is no longer used in the coronation of Kings of Hungary. It stands instead as a symbol of Hungary and its one-thousand-year history. I hope that the Crown of St. Stephen will serve as well, from this time forward, as a sign of Hungary's return to the true heart of Europe: to democracy, to peace, and to prosperity.

The presentation of this replica of the Crown to the American people should also now serve as a "coronation" of the faith of those who, twenty years ago, believed that Hungary would see this day come to pass—a day when Hungary would be democratic and free and would be ready to join, as an equal member, the community of European nations and the trans-Atlantic alliance.

REMARKS OF HON. CYRUS VANCE, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Former Secretary of State VANCE. It is a great honor for me to join you today at this important ceremony. I well recall the date some 20 years ago on which I arrive in Budapest heading the delegation that brought the Crown of St. Stephen and the coronation regalia to Budapest.

It was a cold and blustery day, but the atmosphere was warm and hospitable. The return of those important treasures to Hungary was not just the return of important historical items, entrusted to our forces at the end of World War I. It was the opening of a new era in our relationship with Hungary, and a demonstration of how close our peoples could become and would become.

In 1978, you will recall, there were many differences between our two governments, but there was a feeling in Washington that the time had come to break through the Cold War mentality, and reach out to the people of Hungary. In this, the human rights strategy of President Carter was of vital importance, and the return of the Crown of St. Stephen was central.

I want to underscore President Carter's personal support of the return of the Crown, as well as the important work of two officials in the State Department at that time: Ambassador Philip Kaiser, who served us with distinction in Budapest, and Counselor Matthew Nimetz, who coordinated the effort under my direction in Washington.

Let me conclude by saying how deeply touched I am to join you today and to say how important it is to commemorate this memorable event. I shall always treasure that unforgettable day.

REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY GYORGY BANLAKI, AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY

Ambassador BANLAKI. "The magnificent splendor of the moment weighs heavily upon my soul," said a great Hungarian about 150 years ago. You will soon hear more about this man—who was the second foreigner to speak to a joint session of Congress and who gave 600 speeches in 7 months across the United States in 1852.

I am not a fan of flowery language, but when I think of where we are, what we are celebrating, who are present, what are the broader surrounding circumstances, what earthshaking changes this all signifies, then magnificent it is. Splendid it is. And it is a dream come true.

In this majestic Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol, which served as the House of Representatives Chamber for 50 years, the American and Hungarian flags standing together, our national anthems played together, the Hungarian national symbol epitomizing a thousand years of history (with a fascinating American-related chapter in focus fortifying the friendship of the American and Hungarian people), it is a spectacular celebration, another milestone in the process as we shape and transform our relationship from partnership to alliance. As of yesterday, this process is in its last crucial stage.

Tom, amidst all this splendor even within the constraints of just a few moments to speak, I cannot omit to express our institutional and my personal thanks to you for helping this great event come about. You recently received the high honor of being decorated with the Prime Minister's Prize called "For the Name and Fame of Hungary." This newly established prize is given annually to an exclusive little group of very distinguished people who have done a great deal to enhance the reputation of Hungary and Hungarians around the world. It is presented on the anniversary of the day when Albert Szentgyörgyi, discoverer of Vitamin C, re-

ceived his Nobel Prize in Stockholm 60 years ago. He was one of more than a dozen American Nobel Prize winners of Hungarian origin. As we take in the atmosphere, the grandeur, the significance of this event today, we cannot but realize how profoundly well deserved by deeds, not just words, your recognition is.

The crown in an object. A revered and sacred object. But what more than any object has woven the fabric of relations between Hungarians and Americans, what has shaped the sentiments of Americans about Hungary, has been the unique contribution of Hungarian Americans to the development of the United States in every walk of life—in science, the arts, the military, music, journalism, politics and business. On a day like this, at an event like this, they should be recognized and honored.

The man who will follow me in speaking today has consistently been the most popular politician in Hungary since his election as President of the Republic. He is Uncle Árpád to most Hungarians, a hero of 1956, and a distinguished author and writer. If you run a database search across the street from here at the Library of Congress, under his name you find 9 of his works. When I presented the list to him, he was evidently pleased and remarked "Good collection."

Thank you for being a part of today's historic event. Thank you all for writing together another exciting page in the rich book of Hungarian-American relations.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, our concluding speaker on this occasion was His Excellency Árpád Göncz, President of the Republic of Hungary. He is one of the outstanding figures of post-communist Central Europe. President Göncz joined the resistance to communism during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. He was arrested, tried as a revolutionary, and sentenced to life in prison. He spent six years in prison but was released following an amnesty in 1963. During his time in prison, he taught himself English. After his release from prison, he became a translator and produced the definitive Hungarian translations of the works of a number of American authors, including Faulkner and Mark Twain. He is also a distinguished playwright, and has produced a number of profoundly original works of his own. In 1990, President Göncz was elected President of the Republic of Hungary, and in 1995 was reelected to a second five-year term. It was a special honor to have this distinguished leader here for our ceremony.

REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY ÁRPÁD GÖNCZ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

President GÖNCZ. It is with genuine pleasure that I now recall with you two historic moments here in the Capitol—in this magnificent building where the bronze bust of Lajos Kossuth stands as a symbol of a century-long struggle of a small European nation for democracy. This statue also stands for all the values that our two respective countries share.

Exactly one hundred and fifty years ago in the Hungarian capital, Lajos Kossuth took the lead of an uprising, crowning a long political and spiritual reform movement. A couple of years later, Kossuth, the champion of a struggle that was defeated by superior power and external intervention, was welcomed here as a hero by the American people. In addition, many soldiers of the Hungarian freedom struggle were also welcomed here—including General Asboth and General Stahel Szamvrald, at whose grave I had the privilege of laying a wreath yesterday. There were so many unrecorded, nameless soldiers who fought in their new homeland under the

banner of the same ideals, because the values and ideals of the revolution and freedom fight of 1848 were also the fundamentals of the great American political tradition. Democracy and national liberalism are notions that signify attitudes, morals, and values which served then—and which serve even in the twenty-first century—as guides to our civilization, as it faces constantly changing challenges.

The second historic moment was 20 years ago, on the eve of a new outburst of another wave of the Cold War. A country, trying to help herself in the Soviet zone of influence, was given back the Holy Crown, the first and foremost symbol of her national pride and sovereignty after 33 years. As President Jimmy Carter put it, this millennial treasure attached to the memory of our first king, was given back to the Hungarian people by the American people as the reinforcement of the traditional friendship between our two nations.

It was on the 5th of January 1978 when our national relics arrived in Budapest from Fort Knox. In Europe the geographic frontiers were made impenetrable by barbed wires separating peoples and political systems. The everyday relations between the two blocs were shaped by exchanged ultimatums and gestures, but it was in those years when truly remarkable events took place, which influenced the political and spiritual future of the whole continent.

These are but episodes in the recent and not-so-recent past of the European continent—history from the perspective of 150 years and of 20 years. What connects the two? The Holy Crown of St. Stephen and the bust of Kossuth—living tokens that symbolize where we belong and what our commitments are. By the turn of this millennium, Hungary will reach the doors of organizations that have developed in our vicinity, but that are still so very far away from us. Our country is now about to join the democratic community, whose values upheld by so many Hungarian historic figures—values, which, regardless of political systems, have long been leading ideas for the Hungarian people. Now we have a unique chance to become part of the zone of stability and security. By sharing our values and fulfilling our commitments, we can also contribute to the peace and welfare of our region and consequently the whole European continent.

The lesson of our history confirms our conviction that the new challenges, affecting each and every one of us, can only be met by joint efforts, by standing united along the same values and purposes. When we steadfastly commit ourselves to the dissemination of democratic principles, respect for human rights and dignity, and the protection of private property, we really vote for a safe and secure future for new, upcoming generations. When we emphasize the need for genuine unity in Europe and the prevention of isolating nations that have not yet qualified for integration, we do nothing but draw the historic lessons of our region and also outline a vision of our future.

In one of his short stories, John Updike raises the question: "Without the cold war, what's the point of being an American?" Please, let me try to answer this question as a translator of several books of the writer and also in my capacity as a Central European intellectual—the end of the bipolar world does not mean the immediate and complete prevailing of the ideas championed by the United States throughout the past centuries. Your responsibility today is to facilitate the completion of a promising process, a historic chance, that democracy and stability find a home now and forever in the Eastern part of Europe. I am convinced that this expectation is not idealism, that

through advocating our common interests we can effectively contribute to the spread of the values that have been proclaimed so many times by outstanding American politicians within the walls of this historic building.

In conclusion, please allow me to use this opportunity to gratefully thank the American people and their leaders for the steady support they have given to Hungary to achieve as much as possible under the present international circumstances. I am sure if we build upon the legacy of St. Stephen and Lajos Kossuth, Hungary can again join the democratic community of nations.

IN TRIBUTE TO FIRE FIGHTER
JOSEPH DUPEE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I sadly rise today in tribute to one of my community's heroes, Joseph Dupee. A loving father, devoted husband, a Christian servant, and protector of communities are all fitting descriptions of Joseph Dupee. Unfortunately, I rise today because Joseph Dupee paid the ultimate price of duty in service to his community, in his life. On March 8, 1998, Captain Joseph Dupee died in the line of duty. His colleagues all admit that no other honor is more befitting a fire fighter than to give your life to save another.

However, today is not a day to remember Joseph Dupee's death, but rather one to remember his life. And what a life it was, Mr. Speaker. Born February 25, 1960 in Burbank, CA, Joseph Charles Dupee was one of six children of Anna Shaffer. He grew up in Simi Valley and graduated from Simi Valley High School. As early as ten years old, Joe knew he wanted to be a fireman and was "hanging out" at his local station. In 1977, he fulfilled his dream by joining the Ventura Fire Department as a volunteer cadet. In 1981, he graduated from the drill tower and officially began a distinguished 17-year career with the Los Angeles Fire Department. In 1986, Joe was promoted to engineer and served in that position for ten years.

While as impressive as his stellar performance was in his career, his personal life was incomplete until he met the love of his life, Julie, in April of 1991. Through Julie's inspiration, Joe became a disciple of our Lord and joined the Grace Community Church later that very year. After a two year courtship, the two were married and later blessed with two wonderful sons, Lucas Joseph and Caleb Benjamin.

Joe continued to serve the Lord through many avenues, including driving a bus for the handicapped to attend church, playing guitar for Bible study, and general ministry. His faith was so strong that he was overheard telling a friend after a fellow fireman had fallen in the line of duty that he had no fear of death for the Lord has better plans for us all.

While our community has lost a hero, father, husband, leader, and friend, *heaven* has gained a trusted ally. We will miss Joe and the hard work that exemplified his performance, but we applaud him for the work that he did in service to his community. To his wife, Julie, and his two sons, Lucas and Caleb, we hope

that you may find peace in knowing the appreciation your community has for Joe's devotion to us.

Let me end, Mr. Speaker, with the Fire Fighters Prayer:

When called to duty
Wherever flames may rage
Give me strength to save a life
Whatever their age.

Help me embrace a child
Before it is too late
To save an older person
From the horror of that fate
Enable me to be alert and
Hear the weakest shout,
To quickly and efficiently
Put that fire out

I want to fill my calling
And give the best in me
To guard my every neighbor
And protect his property
If according to your will
I must lose my life . . .
Oh bless with your protecting hand
My children and my wife.

TRIBUTE TO DUMONT PRINTING,
HARRIS RANCH INN,
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AND THE CLAUDE LAVAL CORPORA-
TION

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dumont Printing of Fresno, Harris Ranch Inn of Coalinga, WestAmerica Bank-Sanger Branch, Evangelical Free Church of Fresno, The Clovis Independent of Clovis, David & Sons of Fresno, Giannini Packaging Corporation of Dinuba, Producers Dairy of Fresno, Costco Wholesale of Clovis, and Claude Laval Corporation of Fresno for being honored by the Fresno Compact for their dedication to helping students prepare for the increasing demands of society and the work place.

The Fresno Compact is a coalition of community leaders and the area's public schools, committed to a long-term effort to improve achievement levels and skills of young people who leave our schools. Formation of the Compact was initiated in 1990 by businesses and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, who's members were concerned about the difficulty of finding young workers equipped to succeed in entry level jobs. The members were also concerned about the problems young people have in supporting a family, finding satisfactory work and contributing positively to the economy. Schools and the community leaders then joined businesses in organizing the compact. The compact is now involved in coordinating various initiatives by its members, including business participation with the schools. The mission of the Compact is to focus community-wide efforts on preparing students for the increasing demands of society and the workplace.

This year the Compact has honored ten businesses in Fresno County that have been

nominated by the schools for their outstanding contributions to classroom learning. These businesses have contributed everything from time and money to human resources and expertise. Some of the businesses are quite large and some are quite small, but each one shares a common goal—to get involved in Fresno County's education system! In every case, the result is a lasting partnership that has touched the lives of kids.

Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant was nominated by Coalinga High School and Middle School. Harris Ranch personnel have taught Coalinga High School students about economics and marketing. Students have participated in mock interviews with Harris Ranch employees to help prepare them for the world of work. Each year during celebrations and fund raising events, Harris Ranch provides students and parent organizations with necessary supplies and materials. Harris Ranch also creates a positive learning climate in the schools by providing a monthly recognition dinner for employees.

The Giannini packaging corporation of Dinuba, in conjunction with the Trembley family foundation has invested in the area of technology in the Clay Joint Elementary School District. The offices of the foundation, Leroy Giannini Jr., and Jim Burnett has invested over \$150,000 in equipment and materials. In 1993, they began installing 27' TVs, VCRs, cable boxes, personal computers, and printers in each classroom, including the Library. The TVs are networked together enabling instructional TV programming and distance learning.

The WestAmerica Bank of Sanger has been one of the primary catalysts for the successful career preparation program anchored at Sanger High School. WestAmerica employees have been active members of the advisory committee for the Sanger High School Business Department for the past seven years. As a part of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce Employment Competency Program, WestAmerica Bank has been a key business partner. Manager Donna Silva has devoted one to two days a month for instruction, student assessment, and curriculum development focusing on employment competency skills needed for entry-level success in the workplace.

Evangelical Free church in Fresno offers yet another unique partnership that links people from throughout the community to Ernie Pyle Elementary School. Each Year, individuals from the church congregation volunteer to read with first and second graders. This happens as often as three times a week. The Ernie Pyle staff believes children have become much more confident and it has shown in their reading ability.

Dumont Printing Company has been an active partner with Fresno's oldest high school, Fresno High School, since 1994. The owners, Larry and Susan Early, provide visible support for the highly successful marketing academy. As a direct result of the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Early, students as well as teachers have received complimentary tickets to cultural events including ballets, symphonies, and local museums. Dumont assists with curriculum development, field trips, mentors and guest speakers.

The dedicated professionals from the Clovis Independent have personally dedicated their

time and talents to making this vision a reality. Each week, a guest reader volunteers one hour a day to read stories to the primary students. Classroom presentations have also been a strong contribution by the independent. Writers and advertisers provide "hands on" newspaper activities illustrating their job responsibilities at the Independent. Students are taught to see the correlation between mathematical application and advertising sizing and pricing. The Clovis Independent promotes student recognition by printing students of the month, honor students, those receiving special awards, and special interest stories.

The David & Sons-Viking Elementary School partnership is another excellent example of the impact individual employees have on students. Employees participate in field trips, student of the month activities, classroom tutoring and a number of other activities that result in one-on-one contact with kids. As a business, David & Sons is also an important player in the Viking Pen Pal Program. The kids love the letters they receive from the employees. In addition to extensive involvement from employees, David & Sons also contributes financially to after school activities that touch the families as well as the children.

Ericson Elementary School of Fresno is in its second year of an exciting partnership with the Claude Laval Corporation. The primary goal of the partnership is to expose children to an array of career possibilities. Division heads from the Claude Laval Corporation do classroom presentations which often include hands on demonstrations. These department heads talk to kids not only about the intricacies of the industry but about the importance of work ethics, goal setting, and life long learning. Perhaps the most innovative aspect of this process is the interview/resume process. Each student who completes the packet goes to a mock interview, and as a culminating activity, four students are selected to attend a Claude Laval Leadership Training Program which includes a factory tour and lunch with Claude Laval executives. At the end of the year, classrooms prepare presentations on topics such as marketing, finance and manufacturing and present them to the executive team at Claude Laval.

In Clovis, Tarpey Elementary School and Costco have cultivated a partnership that families, as well as students have benefited from. Costco has donated back packs and school supplies to over 1,000 students. Needy families have been the recipients of food and clothing. The annual Tarpey BBQ and carnival has become one the community highlights as a result of Costco's generous donation of food and supplies.

The final business partner award goes to a long standing business partnership and an icon in the community. Producers Dairy was nominated by the State Center Community College District for their contributions to the State Center system for over a decade. Producers is sole sponsor of the "Producers California Community College Baseball State Championships." This event not only touches college athletes but brings thousands of dollars into the Fresno Community. Producers Dairy also provides over \$20,000 in scholarships to students who might not otherwise have the means to go to college.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Harris Ranch, Giannini Packaging Corporation, WestAmerica Bank, Evangelical

Free Church, Dumont Printing, The Clovis Independent, David and Sons, Claude Laval Corporation, Costco Wholesale, and Producers Dairy for the dedication and care that they have exhibited for future education. School business partnerships bring a little bit of hope to a lot of kids, thanks to the commitment of powerful teachers and concerned and dedicated citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these companies many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND THE 50 STATES COM-
MEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM
ACT

HON. CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, today we have introduced a bill to amend the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act that will extend the program by one additional year so as to include the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands within the scope of the program.

The 50 States Commemorative Coin Program, to begin in 1999, allows each of the 50 States the privilege of selecting a design for the reverse side of the quarter coin that commemorates their history. Five States per year will have quarters minted, selected according to the order in which the States ratified the Constitution or were admitted into the Union.

As enacted, the Territories and the District of Columbia were excluded from the original program. This amendment is necessary because as passed, the Act does not truly reflect the strengths of our Nation and the tremendous contributions to American society and American democratic values provided by the United States citizens who reside in the Territories and in the District of Columbia. It is important that the youth of the United States, a large number of whom are expected to collect complete sets of the quarter dollars issued during the program, learn about their national history, geography and heritage.

We supported the program (H.R. 2414) on the House floor last September after it was agreed that we would be included in a subsequent bill. I wish to salute the chairman of the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee, MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DEL), for his support and commitment to ensure that we receive the same considerations as all 50 states.

In addition, I wish to thank delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, of the District of Columbia and my colleagues representing each of the territories. I am glad that we could work together to achieve this important victory towards equality.

THE FIFTY STATE COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would give the District of Co-

lumbia and the four insular areas a privilege the 50 states already have, namely, the ability to choose a design for the reverse side of the quarter coin in order to commemorate our history as part of the United States. After I protested the exclusion of D.C. and the four territories when the original bill came to the House Floor, Congressman MIKE CASTLE, Chair of the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee, agreed to co-sponsor this bill with the other Delegates and me and to allow the District and the four insular areas to participate. I want to thank Chairman Castle for his great cooperation in helping us with this effort that is important to our districts, and I thank the Delegates from the four insular areas who have worked hard on this bill from the beginning.

Although the residents of the District and the insular areas are American citizens, there are some differences between us and the states. However, qualification to be part of a program to redesign quarters to commemorate Member's home districts is not one of them. There is no legal or constitutional reason to exclude D.C. and the territories from this bill. Congress should be at great pains to avoid any appearance of treating the District and the insular areas as colonies. I am sure this initial exclusion was an oversight.

My bill would extend the 10-year commemorative coin program for an additional year to include the District of Columbia and the four insular areas—American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands—in the program. In the District, I am suggesting that we hold a competition to choose the design for our quarter. Although to some American citizens the Commemorative Coin Program may seem like a minor activity, the ability to participate in this program is important recognition to my constituents. I am sure that the same is true for the insular areas.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3633, THE
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
TRAFFICKING PROHIBITION ACT
OF 1998

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, serious concerns have been raised by law enforcement, US Customs, drug abuse prevention counselors and commissions, independent studies and media reports about the trafficking of controlled substances from Mexico.

"Controlled substances" are drugs that the Drug Enforcement Administration has either banned or subjected to closely regulated status because of their danger, addictiveness and potential for abuse. Controlled substances include illegal drugs such as heroin and closely-regulated legal drugs such as Valium.

Currently, it is particularly easy for an individual to purchase dangerous controlled substances in Mexico. These uppers, downers, hallucinogens, and "date-rape drugs" are obtained from so-called "health-care providers" or "pharmacists" in Mexico with no documentation of medical need; then legally imported into the United States; and, according to DEA, frequently sold illegally on the street.

Mexican drug sellers even include detailed instructions to help Americans avoid arrest or

drug confiscation—these instructions tell Americans:

“Don’t use marijuana or cocaine for 2 days before because dogs may smell.”

“Don’t open boxes in Mexico.”

“Customs and Border Patrol don’t care about medication.”

“Medication must be used only in U.S.A. not in Mexico.”

Ironically, while Mexican authorities don’t mind supplying dangerous drugs to American citizens, they strictly prohibit their use in Mexico. In fact, there have been high-profile cases where U.S. citizens have been arrested for opening sealed boxes of controlled substances while still on Mexican soil.

This gaping hole in U.S. drug policy exists because of a so-called “personal use” exemption to the Controlled Substances Act that allows American drug dealers to bring in up to a 90 day supply of such drugs without a legitimate prescription or medical purpose, as long as they are declared at the border. This exemption is so lax that studies along the southwest border have found records of people bringing in thousands of pills in one day—multiple drugs and thousands of pills in a single day for “personal use.”

A 1996 study published in *Clinical Therapeutics*, entitled *Pharmaceutical Products Declared by US Residents on Returning to the United States from Mexico* by McKeithan and Shepherd raises serious concerns about the trafficking of controlled substances along the U.S.-Mexico border. The number and types of pills that the Shepherd study found at a typical border crossing backup DEA’s view that these drugs are being used for illegal purposes.

The Shepherd study estimated that in just one year at the Laredo border crossing, over 60,000 drug products were brought in to the U.S. by more than 24,000 people. All of the top 15 drug products, which represent 94.1 percent of the total quantity of declared drugs, were controlled substances. These dangerous drugs, classified as prescription tranquilizers, stimulants, and narcotic analgesics, are potentially addictive and subject to abuse.

Specifically, Valium was declared by 70 percent of the people, with the average person bringing in 237 tablets. Rohypnol, commonly referred to as the “date-rape drug,” was brought in by 43 percent of those who declared their prescription medication. Over a full year, that means that over 4 million doses of Valium and almost 1.5 million doses of Rohypnol were brought in at a single border crossing. Further, the median age for those who declared Valium and Rohypnol was 24 and 26 years old respectively.

Fortunately, Rohypnol, which is ten times more potent than Valium, has recently been banned for importation into the U.S. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of dangerous controlled substances, readily available in Mexico, that pose similar threats to American citizens.

This blatant perversion of our nation’s drug laws must be stopped. The personal use exemption should allow American citizens who become injured or ill while traveling abroad to bring needed medicine back into the United States—it was never intended to allow drug dealers to legally import large quantities of hazardous, mind-altering drugs into our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working with Customs, DEA, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy to solve this problem. The legis-

lation I have proposed offers a targeted and straight-forward solution to this problem.

My proposal would limit the exemption for individuals who do not possess a prescription issued by a U.S. physician or documentation which verifies a legitimate prescription. An individual without this documentation would be limited to 50 dosage units of a controlled substance. The 50 dose limit would provide those people who have a legitimate need for a controlled substance ample time to seek medical attention in the U.S. while virtually eliminating the abuses that are now prevalent along the U.S. border.

I want to be very clear about what this legislation does and does not do:

The legislation is strictly limited to controlled substances. Again, controlled substances are drugs that the DEA has either banned or subjected to closely regulated status because of their danger, addictiveness and potential for abuse.

The legislation is strictly limited to those individuals that do not possess a U.S. prescription or documentation that a prescription exists. The legislation does not impact the ability of people with a prescription issued by a U.S. doctor to import any medications, including controlled substances.

The legislation does not in any way change current U.S. law as it relates to the importation of prescription drugs that are not considered controlled substances. In other words, this legislation will not make it more difficult for people to obtain drugs to treat heart disease, cancer, AIDS or other serious illnesses, because these drugs are not controlled substances. In fact, none of the top 20 heart, cancer or AIDS drugs are controlled substances.

I would also like to note that although this problem occurs primarily along the Mexico border, it impacts communities well beyond the southwest. The study in Laredo found that residents from 39 states crossed the border and returned to the United States with a variety of drug products in large quantities.

Mr. Speaker, this should not be a controversial proposal. DEA and Customs identified this as a critical problem over two years ago. General McCaffery has written to me and expressed his belief that there is general agreement among my office, ONDCP, DEA, and Customs regarding the scope of the problem and the proposed solution.

Members of this House recognize that prescription drug abuse is a serious problem in this country, and a growing problem among our youth. The purity and low price of prescription pills makes them an attractive alternative to street drugs.

More Americans abuse prescription drugs for non-medical purposes than use heroin, crack and cocaine. Surprisingly, prescription painkillers, sedatives, stimulants, and tranquilizers account for 75 percent of the top 20 drugs mentioned in emergency room episodes in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important issue that must be addressed, and I appreciate the leadership of Mr. McCOLLUM, the Chairman of the Crime Subcommittee, and the other supporters of this legislation on this important issue.

THE TELEPHONE EXCISE TAX REPEAL BILL

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal bill.

Members of the House—if there is one thing that we politicians are experts on, it is talking. Talking on the telephone is not a fit subject for taxes. My word, if there is at least one thing an American ought to be able to do for free—without paying a tax to the Government—it is talking. It is time to repeal the tax on talking.

Under current law, Americans who use local telephone service, toll telephone service, or teletypewriter exchange service—in short, just about every American who uses a telephone—pays an excise tax for using that telephone service. The law requires the phone companies to figure out your phone bill, and then tack on an extra 3 percent to the bill. The Federal Government takes the 3 percent. You can go look at your monthly phone bill, and—right there—you will see what the Federal Government has taken from you because you used your telephone.

For all of you who have advocated higher taxes on tobacco as a public health measure, you ought to be amazed that—here in the land of free speech and the hallowed First Amendment—we tax talking on the telephone more than we tax tobacco. I suppose that means that Congress thinks talking is a greater risk to the public than smoking.

Americans should not have to pay a tax to the Federal Government for the privilege of calling their neighbors to chat, or of talking to Mom on Mother’s Day or Dad on Father’s Day. Our businesses and their customers should be able to talk to each other without sending money to the Federal Government because of it. Telephone service in America today is a basic necessity, a part of daily life.

Congress knows the phone tax is an unreasonable tax. It started out as a war tax many, many decades ago. Maybe it made sense at the time, but it doesn’t any more. Congress knows this is a dumb tax, and that’s why Congress has voted to repeal it several times before. Congress enacted a law that established a schedule for this tax to expire in the 1970’s. But the Federal Government later wanted more revenue so it changed the law and kept the tax. In the 1980’s, Congress again passed a law that provided for this tax to expire, and again thereafter changed the law because the Federal Government wanted more revenue. Yet again, Congress passed a law scheduling this tax to expire in the 1990’s, but then changed the law to keep the tax. Congress knows this is a bad tax—that’s why it has voted to repeal this tax so many times, just to let it live when a quick fix of revenue was needed to float a huge deficit.

It is time to bury this phone tax once and for all. By repealing this tax, we put the money of Americans back into the pockets of Americans—every American who uses a telephone. We eliminate a highly regressive tax that hits lower-income people proportionately harder than others.

For every American who uses a telephone, this legislation cuts your taxes and cuts your phone bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

THE VETERANS BURIALS RIGHTS
ACT OF 1998

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, America has a sacred trust to honor the sacrifices made by our veterans—the men and women whose military service, both in wartime and in times of peace, has kept us free and strong. One of the most important and symbolic ways our country has historically recognized honorable military service is by providing military honors at veterans' funerals.

Traditionally, the Department of Defense (DOD) has provided the honor guard details. Unfortunately, DOD has determined that, because of the downsizing of America's Armed Forces, this type of assistance can no longer be provided. I believe this is a mistake and that, in the zeal to cut costs and squeeze savings at every possible opportunity, appreciation has been lost for the significance and meaning associated with paying final tribute to a veteran's military service.

Those who have attended a funeral with full military honors remember it as a uniquely profound and moving experience—an experience that vividly expresses our nation's gratitude to those whose sacrifices have protected and preserved our liberty and freedom. I have also been told by the loved ones of deceased veterans that the beauty and solemnity of the military funeral, the report of the rifle salute, the haunting sound of Taps, provided them extraordinary comfort and consolation. A military funeral also reinforces a principle that is important for all Americans; that our nation must never forget our veterans' service, sacrifice, and love of country. As we strive to recruit and retain motivated men and women for military service, it is important that we remind our society that duty and sacrifice must always be remembered and honored. Because of the symbolic importance of military funerals, many of the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) have attempted to provide honor guards, and we should all commend and thank them for their dedication and commitment. However, in spite of their efforts, limited resources have made it impossible for them to fulfill the requests for their services. Additionally, many VSO members have told me that they simply cannot perform the ceremonies with the military bearing of military service personnel.

I believe that our nation can—and must—do better. Our military must recognize and honor the sacrifices made by our citizen-soldiers. Accordingly, I am today introducing the Veterans Burials Rights Act of 1998, legislation that requires DOD, upon request, to provide military honor guards for veterans' funerals. Additionally, my bill would require that the honor guards include no fewer than five members of the armed forces, including a bugler.

Representative SUE KELLY from New York is the principal co-sponsor of my legislation, which is the companion bill to S. 1825, introduced on March 25, 1998 by Senator PATTY MURRAY. Senator MURRAY has been a true leader on veterans' issues and has shown

great commitment in pushing for recognition of their accomplishments and needs. She should be applauded for her authorship of the legislation as well as her work to bring this issue to the attention of our nation.

I hope we will act quickly on this legislation so that we can once again properly honor the sacrifice and service of our deceased veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this important effort.

HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE
FRANK ALCALA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when crime concerns are on every citizen's mind, those who have dedicated their lives to law enforcement are to be commended. It is my distinct pleasure to call to your attention an outstanding law enforcement official, Chief of the East Chicago Police Department, Frank Alcala, on his receipt of Twin City Community Services' 9th Annual "East Chicagoan of the Year" Award. The Twin City Community Services Board of Directors will bestow this award upon Chief Alcala at a benefit which will take place tomorrow, April 2, 1998, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago, Indiana.

Frank Alcala began his distinguished law enforcement career in 1970, upon his graduation from the police academy at Indiana University in Bloomington. His initial position, as Patrolman, was the beginning of his 27-year career with the East Chicago Police Department. He served the department in this capacity until 1975, at which time he was promoted to Traffic Investigator. In 1981, he became Sergeant in the Patrol Division, where he served until he was promoted in 1990, to Traffic Sergeant. In 1991, he was promoted to Lieutenant in the Service Division, and, in 1994, he was appointed Chief of Police by East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick.

During his four years as Chief of Police, Frank has made numerous contributions to law enforcement in the City of East Chicago. In 1994, he hired 12 community police officers, one full-time Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer, and provided police security to East Chicago Central High School. Also in 1994, he established a Special Operations Section Team, a unit comprised of volunteers from different areas of the police department, which trains in the handling of raids and hostage situations. In addition, Chief Alcala implemented the first ever K-9 unit in East Chicago in 1995, and provided an extra division of Gang and Narcotics Officers to the police department in 1997. Also under Frank's supervision, a Cadet Program, which will afford graduating high school seniors an opportunity to work for the East Chicago Police Department while enrolling in criminal justice courses at a local university, will be implemented this year. Chief Alcala's strong commitment to crime prevention is exemplified by his significant expansion of the police force. In 1994, there were 105 officers with the East Chicago Police Department; today there are 135.

In addition to his many law enforcement efforts within the City of East Chicago, Chief

Alcala participates in numerous law enforcement and community service organizations throughout Northwest Indiana. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Lake County Drug Task Force and the Executive Committee of the Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and Estella Smith Memorial Crime Prevention Foundation. Some of the community service organizations he assists include: the East Chicago Exchange Club, an organization devoted to a variety of youth and community service programs; Christmas in April, a program that provides volunteers for the building of homes for low-income families; and the St. Catherine's Hospital Foundation Annual Support Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Frank Alcala on his receipt of the East Chicagoan of the Year Award. His wife, Suzanne, and their children, Doug, Frank Jr., and Brian, can be proud of his devoted service to the citizens of East Chicago and Indiana's First Congressional District.

CONGRATULATING THE ILLINOIS
STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Illinois State University Men's basketball team for a truly memorable season. Coach Kevin Stallings and his group of young men epitomized all that is good in college athletics. Led by seniors Rob Gibbons, Dan Muller, Jamar Smiley, LeRoy Watkins, Steve Hansell, Skipp Shaeftbauer and the outstanding junior Rico Hill, the 1998 Redbirds won 16 Missouri Valley Conference Games on their way to a second consecutive Missouri Valley Conference Championship. The Redbirds went on to win the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament. They advanced to the NCAA Tournament where they beat a quality Tennessee squad in overtime in the first round. While the defending national champion Arizona Wildcats eventually ended their season, the Redbirds played tough for the entire 40 minutes and should be proud of their remarkable season. In addition to the extraordinary accomplishments of the Redbird team, the ISU program was the recipient of a number of Missouri Valley Conference individual awards. Rico Hill was named Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year. Senior Dan Muller was named to his third consecutive Missouri Valley All-Academic Team with a grade point average of 3.77 in business management. Muller was joined by Skipp Shaeftbauer who earned a 3.29 in Sports Management. The Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year was ISU's own Kevin Stallings. The 1998 Redbird season adds another string of accomplishments to the already impressive career of Coach Stallings, solidifying him as truly one of the best young coaches in America. While I am sure other schools will try and lure him away, all of his fans join me in hoping this native Illinoisan will choose to stay at Illinois State University. Mr. Speaker, the Illinois State Redbirds deserve the recognition

of the House of Representatives for their wonderful 1998 season. I would also like to remind the Speaker that Midnight Madness and the start of the 1999 NCAA basketball season is only 198 days away.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM W. SUTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise here before you today and acknowledge the retirement of one of Mississippi's greatest college administrators. Dr. William Sutton has announced his retirement as President of Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Dr. Sutton has held his position for nearly a decade. Since assuming the presidency, Dr. Sutton has overseen a multimillion dollar renovation of the school's physical plant. During the same time, the school's fiscal deficit has been eliminated and financial flexibility has been achieved. Since the fall of 1989, enrollment has increased by ten percent and new academic programs have been added.

Dr. Sutton was educated at Dillard University in New Orleans, he went on to receive his master and doctoral degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Sutton began to advance his administrative career from instructor to full professor and Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences at Dillard in 1979. He left there to serve as Academic Vice President, Provost and Professor of Biology at Chicago State University from 1979 to 1985. In 1985, Dr. Sutton was named Vice President for Educational and Student Services at Kansas State University before assuming the Presidency at Mississippi Valley State University.

Dr. Sutton has been very active in the community serving on a variety of civic and educational boards in New Orleans, Chicago, Manhattan, and Kansas. He is an active member of the Greenwood-Leflore Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood-Leflore-Carroll County Economic Development Foundation, and the Greenwood Rotary Club. He serves on the Advisory Board of Deposit Guaranty National Bank in Greenwood, Mississippi, and the Professional Advisory Committee of Mid Delta Home Health, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Governors of Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and the Board of Directors of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sutton has been a catalyst for change and growth in higher education in Mississippi. His knowledge and expertise will be truly missed and always appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed roll call votes number 87, 88, and 89 on Tuesday March 31, 1998, due to the memorial service that was held in Jonesboro, Arkansas for the victims and survivors of last week's tragic shooting.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yes" on roll call vote number 87; I would

have voted "No" on roll call vote number 88; and, I would have voted "Present" on roll call vote number 89.

I request that this be included in the RECORD immediately following these votes.

HONORING MAYOR CARL J. MATT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl J. Matt, Mayor of Jeannette, Pennsylvania. Mayor Matt has been a public servant of the residents of Jeannette for over 41 years and will continue to serve them in the future.

Carl J. Matt joined the Jeannette Police Department in 1956 and served the community for the next 41 years. Nine of those years were spent as the Chief of Police. During his years in law enforcement, Carl Matt worked under 12 different mayors of Jeannette. He saw both the successes and the failures of these mayors. Eventually Carl Matt decided to run for mayor himself and won.

As mayor, Carl Matt vows to return to the days when all citizens of Jeannette worked together with the government to accomplish their goals. Another goal of Mayor Matt is to make himself readily available to his constituents at all times. As a police officer, he always kept his phone number listed and hopes to do the same as mayor.

Mayor Carl Matt has always been a tireless public servant and a pillar in the community. Through his efforts, the citizens of Jeannette are able to build for the future. I ask my colleagues to rise and pay tribute to Mayor Matt. His history of service to Jeannette is unparalleled.

WOMEN OF CONGRESS' MEMORIAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you a historic event I convened yesterday so that my colleagues and I could celebrate Women's History Month. I would like to share with you my remarks at the first Women of Congress' Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery:

Good afternoon, I'd like to thank my friends and colleagues Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, Congresswoman BARBARA KENNELLY, Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN for being here at the Women of Congress' Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony. We have come today to honor the brave women who served in our Armed Services and to recognize their outstanding service to this country and the ultimate sacrifice that was made to enable us to have the freedom we so much enjoy as a country. It seems fitting that we pay homage to them during Women's History Month and to salute them for their contributions as patriots of this great nation. So we have come to this shrine that was built as a lasting memorial of their service, bravery

and sacrifice during military conflicts dating back to the founding of America. Without the heroic efforts of American service women, we would not be here today.

Women In Military Service for America Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997. This is the first major, national Memorial honoring all military women of all eras, past, present and future.

Women have served in all of America's major conflicts. Beginning with the American Revolution—when some women disguised themselves as men to join the Continental Army.

In the wars of the 18th and 19th centuries and during the Civil War women were hired to provide medical care, forage for supplies, cook, make clothing, engage in sabotage, scout and serve as couriers. Dr. Mary Walker, an Army physician who served during the Civil War, was the first and only woman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her work in treating patients.

Women were first recruited as members of the armed services in World War I. With more than 35,000 women having served in roles ranging from nurses to telephone operators. It was the first war in which American women served overseas.

More than 350,000 women served in World War II, which included the first female officers. More than 200 military women of the Women's Army Corps and Women Air Force Service Pilots died in action overseas or ferrying aircraft; and 88 were held as prisoners of war.

In the Gulf War (July 2, 1990 to April 6, 1991), women accounted for 35,000 of the 540,000 U.S. troops. Although they were not assigned to combat by law, these women ferried fuel, food and troops into combat areas. Two women were taken prisoner and 11 died.

The Number of Women Who Served in U.S.

Military Conflicts are:

Persian Gulf—41,000

Panama—770

Grenada—170

Vietnam—7,500

Korea—48,000

World War II—350,000

World War I—35,000

Spanish-American War—1,500

As we lay this wreath, may it symbolize the appreciation we have for the courageous servicewomen who dedicated their lives for their country.

We appreciate the service and the lives of these noble women. May they always be remembered for their bravery.

MERCY HOSPITAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Mercy is celebrating its centennial with a mass and a reception on April 19, 1998. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this milestone event.

Founded by Mother Catherine McAuley in Ireland in 1831, the Sisters of Mercy nursed the poor in Irish slums plagued by cholera. They marched with Florence Nightingale to Crimea and to Constantinople to tend to the

wounded. In America, the Sisters served in the Civil War nursing wounded on both sides of the conflict.

In March 1898, the six original Sisters of Mercy, or the "Hospital Sisters" as they were known, opened the doors of the original Mercy Hospital, in the former Haines House on Hanover Street in Wilkes-Barre. Before the end of that summer, the hospital provided care for seventeen wounded veterans of the Spanish-American War.

The Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre flourished immediately, tending to the region's injured coal miners. Donations to support their effort poured in; wealthy individuals donated fuel and money and the poor shared their food with the Sisters. Only the coal companies failed to offer support, refusing to even offer a discount on coal for heat.

Mr. Speaker, over the last hundred years Mercy Hospital has suffered the wrath of nature several times. In the Flood of 1936, the Hospital was almost destroyed. Again in 1972, when Hurricane Agnes caused the Susquehanna River to inundate the Wyoming Valley, the hospital sustained six million dollars of damage. In 1996, the hospital was forced to evacuate once again as the Susquehanna reached flood stage.

Undaunted by economic hard times, changes in health care, nature's wrath, and the staggering growth in new technology, Mercy Hospital has not only survived but grown into a state-of-the-art facility. Expanding and providing services that no other local health facility has undertaken. From the McAuley House, a shelter for women and children, to a special and innovative clinic for expectant mothers, Mercy Hospital has contributed to the community for 100 years. The state-of-the-art hospital of today owes its success to the vision and perseverance of a handful of dedicated Sisters.

I am extremely pleased to join with the community in thanking Mercy Hospital for its dedication and service and send my very best wishes for continued prosperity.

REGARDING IRAN

HON. BOB NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 1998, the Iranian government was quoted in considering the proposal to set up an American office at the Swiss embassy. The office would be held by an official from the U.S. Information Agency. In light of this possible ease of tension between the U.S. and Iran, I would like to submit an article from the Middle East Insight regarding the Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and the United States.

IRAN: THE INADEQUACY OF LABELS

(By George A. Nader)

This past December, I had the opportunity to attend and observe first-hand the 52-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Tehran. The summit clearly demonstrated both the failure of U.S. efforts to isolate Iran and the emergence of a strong and popular political leader. Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has not only emerged as a significant force within his own country but has inherited the leadership of

the OIC—which represents the world's 1.2 billion Muslims—for the next three years. This is another indication that Iran—whether the United States is ready for it or not—has positioned itself as a leader of the Islamic world into the new millennium.

The election of President Khatami in May 1997 was facilitated by a 70-percent landslide comprised in large part of the middle class, women, and young voters (half of Iran's 60-million population were not even born at the time of the Shah's overthrow in 1979). Notably, among Khatami's supporters was the group that took over the U.S. Embassy in November 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

One dramatic change clearly evident at the OIC summit was the absence of the old banners touting "Death to America". Instead, foreign visitors were warmly welcomed. When Iranians became aware that I had come from the United States to observe the summit, they responded positively and with great enthusiasm. Though some of the old rhetoric remains, it is fading, and few among the population take it seriously.

Unfortunately, the dialogue among Western media analysts, political pundits and other so-called experts—both preceding and following the OIC summit—regarding the new status of President Khatami has been simplistic and misleading. The notion that we are currently witnessing a 'struggle for the soul of Iran' or that 'moderates and conservatives' are battling for supremacy in Iranian political circles fails to recognize the complex interplay between various personalities and factions within Iranian society. The question posed in the West of whether the moderates or radicals are now on top assumes a paradigm of political dynamics in Iran which is simply false. Iranian political culture today is more subtle, multi-faceted and intricately interwoven than many seem to realize. When asked in a January 6, 1998, CNN interview about the supposed factions in Iran, President Khatami responded that "terms such as conservative, moderate and the like are more often meaningful in the West."

Khatami enjoys the full blessing of both Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and former President Hashemi Rafsanjani. All three get along well, and their congenial relationship was obvious during the OIC summit. Both Khatami and Khamenei are clerics and descendants of the Prophet, and wish to strengthen the country's Islamic system of government. Their respective families are close. In fact, as a religious student in Mashad, Khamenei became a disciple of Khatami's father who was a highly respected ayatollah. Similarly, both Khatami and Khamenei are products of Iranian society and were educated exclusively in Iran; Khatami studied religion in Qom and philosophy in Isfahan.

President Khatami's perceived overtures to the United States have been mistakenly contrasted with comments by Khamenei. Khatami has prompted much speculation concerning Iranian relations with the United States during both his December press conference after the OIC summit in which he referred to a "thoughtful dialogue with the American people" and his January 6 CNN interview in which he called for cultural exchanges between the two countries. After his December press conference, Khamenei—who has opposed any improvement in U.S.-Iranian bilateral relations—expressed satisfaction with Khatami's address.

When Khatami says he wants dialogue with the United States, he means with the American people and not the government. When Khamenei says that America is bad, he means the government and not the people. We in the West are looking for dichotomy

and division. But both Khatami and Khamenei have said that none of their comments contradicts the other's. Khatami proposes cultural exchange as a means of building bridges between civilizations, but has ruled out—at least for now—any direct dialogue with the U.S. government and stated that there is no need for political ties. Equally important, Khatami has never called into question the core belief of the Iranian political system that the supreme spiritual leader should be selected by a group of clerics—and not "elected by the people"—to be the representative of God in the temporal order.

The Islamic Revolution has reached an advanced phase in its development. In this stage, much consideration is being given to defining Iran's relationship with the Arab world and the West. This is a new beginning for Iran and thus it may not be very helpful to take its ideological pulse too quickly or frequently. It may also be helpful to remember that, while the Islamic Revolution dates back only 19 years, its Persian underpinnings stretch back to the dawn of civilization.

In 1992, in an earlier stage of the Revolution, Khatami was driven from his position as minister of culture because he relaxed press and media censorship rules. In 1997, these same forces supported his candidacy for president. Khatami's agenda did not change in the intervening years, but the Islamic Revolution did progress. This is also demonstrated by the fact that his entire government was endorsed by the Islamic establishment—a virtually unprecedented phenomenon. Iran's revolution has moved into a more advanced stage, with multiple forces coexisting within a common framework.

Acknowledging this reality is important for the opening of a dialogue between the United States and Iran. If Washington is sincere in its desire to open up lines of communication, then the Clinton administration must reach out to the whole political spectrum in Iran and not just to specific elements. This may be a slow and excruciatingly deliberate process, but in the end it is the only one that can bear fruit.

There are two things Washington can do to move this process forward. First, it can tone down its belligerent rhetoric (as President Clinton has recently begun to do); harsh rhetoric only tends to alienate. In addition, the United States should revisit the issue of frozen Iranian assets seized after the 1979 American Embassy takeover. This may make it easier for the Iranians to address U.S. concerns regarding weapons of mass destruction and support for international terrorism.

The United States may be the only remaining superpower, but it still must be very careful when dealing with Iran. Western ideological paradigms, on which we rely so heavily to understand political dynamics overseas, are predated by 4,000 years of Persian culture. The application of superficial political labels will neither illuminate nor elucidate Iran's complex decision-making matrix.

CHILD SURVIVAL, TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AND MICROCREDIT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit my testimony which I presented this week at the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs into the RECORD of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to come before you today to speak about the important programs contained in your foreign assistance bill. I am a strong supporter of a number of these programs, including child survival, tuberculosis control and microcredit.

I want to begin by thanking you for your unwavering protection of child survival programs over the past few years. I know that it is thanks to you and this Subcommittee that each year this program has been specifically protected and expanded. Child survival programs provide life-saving vaccinations and micronutrients to millions of needy children in the developing world. I know that I do not have to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that child survival programs mean simple, cost-effective solutions like oral rehydration therapy, which prevents 1.5 million child deaths each year, and five cent capsules of vitamin A, given to children three times a year, which reduce child death rates by as much as twenty-five percent in affected populations. The vaccinations that are funded each year, Mr. Chairman, are a large part of the reason that three million children are immunized from diseases and, therefore, able to escape death. I am aware that you have had to push hard for the protection of child survival programs, and I commend you for your dedication to these children.

I would also like to thank you for expanding your Child Survival and Disease Account by \$50 million in FY98 to include more funding for infectious diseases. I thank you for that increase, because I know how critically important such funding is, especially in terms of our global fight against the disease of tuberculosis.

The spread of TB concerns me, because it is often considered a disease of the poor and a problem of the developing world—and yet, we are all in danger of contracting it. It is on the rise around the world and here in the United States, where it is estimated that fifteen million Americans are infected with the bacteria that causes TB. This city of Washington, D.C. where you and I spend so much of our time, is one of TB's "hot zones" in the United States—and my own district in Southern California is at risk, as people travel back and forth across our international border. With two million people crossing international borders each day, stopping this threat at the border is not a realistic option. This disease is a danger to the health and economic well-being of all Americans, and we must do more to control it.

According to the World Health Organization, infectious diseases cause nearly thirty percent of deaths in poor countries, and they receive only 1.5 percent in foreign aid. I know that you are doing your part to see that the percentage of aid going to infectious diseases is increased. Thanks to your \$50 million "set-aside", the Administration increased its funding for tuberculosis control programs from roughly \$1 million a year to \$15-20 million. This is a significant increase, but I am still concerned that it will be insufficient to keep up with the spread of tuberculosis—and so I urge you to do more. You have my full support for a significant increase in funding within your legislation for tuberculosis control programs for FY99.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support for microcredit programs in the past, and I ask that you expand and specifically protect this successful and proven program in your foreign assistance bill next year. I understand, according to a recent USAID report,

that funding for microcredit has declined between 1994 and 1996. In addition, AID has not achieved a goal that it set for itself in 1994 to spend half of overall microcredit funding on programs serving the poorest people. Only \$42 million went to poverty-targeting of a very reduced overall level of \$111 million for 1996. Given the positive effects of this program on the lives of poor families and poor children, I believe that the United States should be doing more in this area. Just as with the child survival program, however, I think that without your direction, USAID will continue to underprioritize this program which is capable of changing the lives of millions of people. Therefore, I request that you significantly expand and protect this program which does so much for poor families in the developing world.

Thank you for considering these requests as you draft your legislation this year. I appreciate this opportunity to apprise you of my interest in the child survival program, in tuberculosis control, and in microcredit.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF REVEREND
DOCTOR C. WILLIAM BLACK

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Texas' great contemporary leaders, the Reverend Doctor C. William Black. On Sunday, May 1, 1998, Dr. Black will officially end nearly 50 years of pastoral service to the Mount Zion First Baptist Church in San Antonio. He is a living testament to the dictum that "one man can make a difference;" he has made a great and positive difference to his church and to the entire community he serves.

Dr. Black is an icon, a preacher with a fiery delivery and a mission of positive change. Neither his mission nor his ministry ends inside the four walls of the historic church building. Dr. Black has taken his message out into the community to lift up the broken hearted and to proclaim the fundamental equality and liberty of all persons.

An African-American born in San Antonio in 1916, Dr. Black learned at an early age that his inalienable right to liberty had not yet become a living reality. He began his quest for freedom for those trapped in post Civil War segregation. The harsh laws of a "separate but equal" society greatly restricted opportunities for African Americans. Even in those dark days of overt discrimination, Dr. Black earned great respect. In his role as minister, he served as the preacher, the civil rights leader, the business leader, and the community leader.

Dr. Black lives up to the high expectations of his community and congregation. He is well educated. He holds a masters degree and two honorary doctoral degrees. He is an Alamo Community College Foundation Board Member and a founder of San Antonio Mothers' Service Organization. Dr. Black initiated this organization, over 50 years ago, to raise money for scholarships to give to deserving students who were not likely to be recognized for their scholastic achievements in a segregated society. He founded the Mount Zion Day Care Center in 1957 in early recognition of the need for quality child care.

Despite racism, he gained a seat on the San Antonio City Council and served with

great distinction. While at that post Dr. Black distinguished himself as the first African American Mayor Pro Tem. The Eastside Y.M.C.A., the Carver Cultural Center, and the Eastside Boys and Girls Club continue to thrive today thanks to his successful battles many years ago. The Eastside Multi-Purpose Center, part of Saint Paul Square, and a street near his church bear the name of this vibrant leader.

In his role as business leader, Dr. Black organized the Mount Zion Federal Credit Union giving his congregation and members of the community access to alternative offerings for automobile loans, other types of loans, and various financial transactions. His concern for the housing needs of his community led Dr. Black to acquire financing for the building of the Mount Zion Sheltering Arms Senior Citizen Complex. In 1984, he organized the New Community Builders, a non-profit housing corporation.

Reflecting on Dr. Black's years of leadership and accomplishments I know that his wife ZerNona was always there for him, as a friend, sounding board, consoler and mother of their two children. Ms. ZerNona Black is the epitome of King Solomon's words about the treasured wife. I admire her quiet strength of character, and celebrate with her the many accomplishments she made possible.

We need more leaders like Dr. and Mrs. Black who showed with their actions, and not just their words, how to be good citizens. We need leaders like them who display integrity while forging more paths to accessible education, housing, and economic mobility. We look forward to their continuing mission as drum majors of positive change, understanding, and creativity showing us the way of making our community a better place to live.

HONORING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Labor Council of Beaver County and their efforts to raise public awareness of the discrimination toward women in the workplace. On April 3, 1998 they will be holding their Equal Pay Day rally to show their support for this important issue.

Equal pay has been the law since 1963, but today, women still receive less pay than men for comparable work. Over the past few decades, women have been given many opportunities for education and employment. They have also made contributions in quite a few career fields that were once almost entirely closed to them. With all the progress women have made, it is truly a tragedy that they are still being discriminated against in terms of equal pay.

The Labor Council of Beaver County is putting forth a great deal of effort in combating this discrimination in the workplace and trying to change the current system of gender inequity in terms of pay. Equal pay is an issue for all working women to address. The current status of their careers and their daughters' future careers depends on a change in the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to applaud the Labor Council of Beaver County for their efforts in bringing this issue to the public's attention. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the seriousness of this issue and the

efforts of the people fighting against this discrimination.

ILLEGAL FOREIGN
CONTRIBUTIONS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Illegal Foreign Contributions Act, H.R. 34.

This bill, if enacted, would ban contributions to federal election campaigns by legal permanent residents. I believe this would be a colossal mistake and a constitutional blunder. This bill would restrict the First Amendment free speech rights of Legal Permanent Residents. These residents are required to perform citizenship obligations, such as registering for the military draft and serving in the armed forces, but we would deny them the basic citizenship rights we require them to defend.

Consistently throughout federal constitutional law, Legal Permanent Residents have all First Amendment freedoms of full U.S. citizens. This has been consistently upheld by the federal courts and the Supreme Court. H.R. 34 would deliberately abridge and deny those rights in the name of campaigning finance reform. It would trample on the constitutional rights of hundreds of thousands of people without justification. The bill picks out a specific group of people and says we are going to prevent you from expressing your political views.

This bill is a gag of political expression in the disguise of campaign reform. The reality is that hard-working, tax-paying, military-serving individuals are being told they can have no say over who is elected to determine the policies that determines their fates and lives.

Mr. Speaker, I also fear that legislation that singles out specific groups of people for treatment different than that of citizens will lead us down a road to finding scapegoats when there are failings in our government and society. This is a dangerous precedent, and I urge my colleagues to think carefully before they cast their vote on H.R. 34, and to vote against this ill-conceived "reform".

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, MORRISTOWN,
NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Neighborhood House in Morristown, New Jersey.

The Neighborhood House, known as the "Nabe" among its clients, began in 1898 as a one-room mission dedicated to easing the daily hardships of immigrant life among a growing number of Italian-American families in Morristown. The building housing the mission burned down in 1901, and activities were soon moved to a more spacious, donated home.

The larger accommodations allowed the mission to expand its work, and by 1908, then officially named the Neighborhood House, these activities included tutoring in English, providing help in finding affordable housing, and classes in music, carpentry, and crafts.

While continuing its community outreach with the opening of Morristown's first baby clinic in 1915, the Nabe was also instrumental in the development of several local non-profit organizations. These included such groups as the Urban League of Morris County, the Colonial Little Symphony and the New Jersey Choral Society. By the 1930's, the Neighborhood House expanded its work to accommodate newer immigrant groups that had settled in the Morristown area, and in 1936 there were 46,016 individuals affiliated with the House, a record number at that time.

In 1953, in response to concerns that the House's building was potentially unsafe due to overcrowding, more than \$200,000 was raised for a new building on the original lot. Construction of this building was completed in 1957, and additional renovations have included several new wings, which have vastly increased the space available for classes and other activities.

The Neighborhood House has been blessed with strong and caring leadership since its inception. From 1912 to 1938, the Neighborhood House was run by Aldus and Marie Antoinette Pierson, a couple deeply committed to the community, who oversaw much of the House's expansion in activities. Ten years after the Pierson's retirement in 1938, Carmeta Meade became the House's first African-American Executive Director. Mrs. Meade was among those who recognized the need for a new Neighborhood House building and in 1985, after serving the Neighborhood House for thirty-four years, retired with a sterling record of service.

The Neighborhood House is led today by Sam Singleton, who had been active as a young man for ten years before returning to become Executive Director in 1991. As Mr. Singleton lays the foundation for the Neighborhood House's continued success, ensuring, in his words, that "the Neighborhood House [becomes] a model of the community center of the future," I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to join with me in commemorating the Neighborhood House on this special anniversary year.

YOUTH TOBACCO POSSESSION
PREVENTION ACT OF 1998

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Youth Tobacco Possession Prevention Act of 1998. I did this because, as we consider the best way to reduce the youth smoking rate, we have neglected one of the most obvious and appropriate solutions—making tobacco possession by people under the age of 18 illegal.

It is estimated that 3,000 young people start smoking every day. Worse yet, one third, or 1,000, of these people will eventually die from tobacco related disease. Consider the emotional and financial strain these horrible situa-

tions will place on American families in the future. In response to this national crisis, the public health community, State attorneys general, the U.S. Congress and even the tobacco industry have proposed a variety of methods to reduce youth smoking rates.

Most of the proposals would spend money on counter advertising, tobacco cessation programs and tobacco education programs—all worthy and necessary components of comprehensive tobacco legislation. However, the leadership of the American government has been sending mixed signals to America's youth and nothing in the proposed settlement would change this.

Under current law, it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18 in all 50 States. However, if a person under the age of 18 is somehow able to obtain tobacco products—which, it is painfully clear, they are easily able to do—there are only a few States that have enacted laws regarding the possession of tobacco by these young people. I find it incredibly hypocritical that we, as a government (either Federal or State), are so willing to make buying tobacco illegal but are virtually silent on possessing tobacco.

Following the lead of my home State of Texas, I have introduced the Youth Tobacco Possession Prevention Act of 1998. This bill would encourage States to pass legislation making it illegal for a person under the age of 18 to possess tobacco.

There are two key components to this bill. First, in dealing with the youth, it focusses on education rather than punishment. For first and second time offenders, youth will be required to complete tobacco education and cessation programs, as well as tobacco related community service. If they continue to disregard the law and their health, their driver's license would be suspended from three to six months. This last resort was suggested during one of our Subcommittee hearings by a local teenager, who told the Commerce Health Subcommittee that kids would only respond to this type of approach.

Second, the bill would require States to enact stern punishments for people over the age of 18 who provide tobacco products to youth. At that same hearing, many of our teen witnesses admitted one of the primary sources of tobacco are older people who buy for teens. This is simply not acceptable. I believe every adult has the responsibility and moral obligation to do whatever we can to prevent our nation's youth from starting this deadly habit.

Unlike many proposals, this bill will not punish States who choose not to enact the outlined legislation. It will, however, reward those States which act responsibly and do. Each State that passes the provisions outlined in this bill will receive 5 additional points on their Health and Human Services competitive public health service grant applications. This incentive will hopefully encourage States to take action and do the right thing.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING
THE IRANIAN WRESTLING
TEAM

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Iran has announced its twenty-one member delegation, which includes eleven wrestlers that will compete at the 1998 World Cup of Freestyle Wrestling on the Campus of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on April 4–5, 1998; and,

Whereas, this annual freestyle dual meet championships is behind only the World Championships and Olympics in importance; and,

Whereas, the Iranian lineup includes Gholam Reza Mohammadi, Bahman Tayebikermani, Ali Reza Dabier, Abbas Haji Kenari, Massoud jamshidi, Majied Khodae, P. Dorostkar, Ali Reza Heydari, Davoud Ghanbari, Abbas Jadidi, and Ali Reza Rezaie; and,

Whereas, the tournament marks Iran's first competition in the United States since the 1996 Olympic Games; and,

Whereas, in February, the United States participated in the Takhti Cup wrestling tournament in Iran, the first U.S. team of any sport to compete in Iran in almost twenty years; and,

Whereas, I join the citizens of Southeastern Ohio, with distinct please, in honoring the Iranian wrestling team for their participation in the 1998 World Cup of Freestyle Wrestling in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

REPEALING THE MARRIAGE
PENALTY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the reason I'm cosponsoring the Marriage Tax Elimination Act in Congress is because I believe marriage is an institution that should no longer be discouraged by federal tax laws.

At a time when various government chief executives, in Colorado and in Washington are exhibiting confusion about the importance of marriage and the meaning of fidelity, few people are aware that there are several of us in Congress actually making progress toward strengthening families and honoring the integrity of these sacred unions.

The current tax law punishes married couples who file income taxes jointly by pushing them into higher tax brackets. The marriage penalty taxes combined income at higher rates than if each salary were taxed individually.

For example, an individual with an income of \$24,000 would be taxed at 15 percent. But a working couple, each with an income of \$24,000 or a combined income of \$48,000, would be taxed at 28 percent on a portion of that income. They would pay \$600 more in taxes simply because they are married.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated over 21 million couples are affected by the marriage penalty, averaging \$1,400 in additional taxes. Indeed, I've heard from many of them, and I'm quite sympathetic since, for twelve years, I have been a victim of the penalty myself.

Rarely does the marriage penalty subject fail to come up as I listen to taxpayers. Every week I conduct a public town meeting here in Fort Collins, and I hold several more throughout the Fourth Congressional District. Last month during a local hearing held specifically to discuss education issues, a state Board of Education member cited the marriage penalty

as an example of anti-family policy that ultimately hurts schools and children.

More recently, I conducted an additional series of live electronic town-hall radio call-in programs. Callers demanded the marriage penalty be lifted. Also, my Web page has been inundated with support for the marriage tax repeal.

The marriage tax penalty is not new, nor are efforts to repeal it. But previous efforts ran into stiff opposition in Congress from those who believe the government needs the money more than the families who earn it.

Fortunately, with the current Congress, those placing the priorities of government above the needs of families have finally been outnumbered by those of us who are serious about tax reform, tax relief, and more robust family budgets.

Since Republicans earned the majority at the Capitol, We've delivered more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half-century. And in Colorado, the Republican state legislature has produced even more prosperity for us all.

In December, the Coloradoan reported a study by the Center on Budget Priorities revealing the average income of Colorado's poorest families increased faster than all other income categories over the last decade Colorado's low state tax rates, frugal spending habits, and favorable economic policies have provided that needed hand-up to those of formerly meager means.

On top of the pro-family tax relief bills passed last year, we're moving ahead in Congress on a second package of tax proposals, the cornerstone of which is marriage penalty elimination.

As a general goal, I believe the total tax bite for American families should be no more than 25 percent of income. Of course, the current burden is much higher than that and we have a long way to go.

But, while we tackle the more sweeping objectives of IRS reform and overhauling the tax code, Congress ought to move swiftly and reaffirm its commitment to American families by repealing the marriage tax penalty.

THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
DOVER, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW
JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 105th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Dover in Morris County, New Jersey.

The First Baptist Church has been serving the Dover community since 1893, when thirty-nine Dover residents, all members of the neighboring Netcong Baptist Church, came together to establish a church in their own town. While on the date of its establishment the church had no building of its own, by 1895 the cornerstone of a new building was set and, one year later, a dedication service for the church was held.

As the church continued to attract new parishioners over subsequent years, it soon became clear that there would not be enough space to house the entire parish. By 1966, the First Baptist Church purchased 12 acres of land on which to build a newer, larger building

for worship. Construction of this building was completed on Easter Sunday, 1975, and recent renovation of the church's interior has included a complete overhaul of the church's main auditorium.

Continuing its long tradition of social outreach, the First Baptist Church today supports close to sixty-seven missionaries, who extend the good works of the church throughout New Jersey and in countries overseas. The church has also been blessed with strong leadership over the years, and has seen thirteen pastors since its inception in 1893. It is led today by Reverend John L. Hackworth, Senior Pastor.

On Sunday, April 5, 1998, Reverend Hackworth, with the assistance of the church's parish and clergy, will lay the foundation for continued success into the next century. On this momentous occasion, I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to join with me in commemorating the First Baptist Church of Dover on this special anniversary year.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
IS NOT "WAR ON THE WEST,
PART TWO"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, recently, some of my colleagues on the Resources Committee have been trying to convince the public that the Administration is placing an unfair burden on western property owners by deliberately implementing the Endangered Species Act more harshly in the western U.S. The facts simply do not support the allegations. While no one can argue that California has far more endangered and threatened species than most states (Hawaii has the most), my colleagues have confused the simple logic of cause and effect.

The western and southern states are the most biologically diverse and unique regions in the nation. In California alone, we have an extraordinary range of coastal and upland forests, deserts, grasslands, and shrublands—all with large numbers of rare and endemic species which are vulnerable to the effects of our economic prosperity. While my colleagues would argue that environmental protection laws like the Endangered Species Act inhibit economic growth, the facts lead to a very different conclusion. In 1996, the average number of housing starts per month were 661,000 in the southern states. In the western states, they averaged 361,000 a month, while there were only 132,000 a month in the Northeast. Florida's growth rate is legendary; Texas is growing at a rate of about 6 million new people per decade; and California is expected to have 18 million more people by the year 2025. The reality is that the West, and California in particular, are at the forefront of the ongoing battle between development and open space.

What is really needed in the West is a means of addressing the loss of family farmland and open space while we address the needs of endangered species and their habitats. Any rewrite of the Endangered Species Act must contain incentives for small, private

landowners—not loopholes for large corporate landowners. We should require that all federal actions be consistent with the recovery of endangered species. Only then can we get landowners and farmers out from under regulatory control and back to the business of driving the economy.

H.R. 2351, the Endangered Species Recovery Act, which I authored and which currently has 102 cosponsors, seeks to address these concerns by establishing incentives for private landowners and local governments that will allow economic planning and development to move forward while recovering the imperiled species that are under federal protection. H.R. 2351 was not written with large corporate landowners in mind, but strives to provide something for everyone, whether they reside in the East or the West, and regardless of whether they own a small family farm or a suburban development.

I am inserting in the RECORD today two editorials from the Casper, Wyoming, Star-Tribune championing H.R. 2351—evidence that support for the Endangered Species Act is alive and well west of the Mississippi River.

SENATE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT BOWS TO INDUSTRY

(By Charles Levendosky)

When the Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Sen. Dirk Kempthorne, R-Idaho, work together on a piece of environmental legislation, warning sirens should pierce the air. Kempthorne is one of the Senate's top recipients of donations from the timber industry.

Last year, Kempthorne introduced the Endangered Species Recovery Act of 1997 (S. 1180)—a bill that would reauthorize but significantly change the original Endangered Species Act of 1973, one of the most important environmental and ecological laws our nation has enacted.

Kempthorne was first elected to the Senate in 1992. In the years from 1991 to 1996, he has received \$341,216 in campaign funds from forestry and forest products, oil and gas, and mining industries. He votes logging.

A glance at other co-sponsors of S. 1180 tells the same story: Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., who gathers in even greater amounts of timber PAC money than Kempthorne; Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, who never saw a tree that wasn't timber and has the money to show for it; and Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who took in more than \$200,000 in campaign funds from timber and mineral industries in the span from 1991 to 1996.

The Natural Resources Defense Council calls S. 1180 an industry bill: "It gives big developers and multinational mining, timber and oil corporations a . . . loophole . . . that lets them destroy endangered species habitat."

In an interview Friday, Babbitt wasn't shy about admitting his role in the creation of the Senate bill: "I don't think it's any secret that I participated pretty intensively in the drafting and the negotiations that led to 1180. It's obviously a consensus product designed to appeal across the center, as much as reasonably possible. I've indicated it's an excellent start. It's the only starting place."

"If we're going to re-authorize this act, we have to move this bill out for discussion on the floor of the Senate. . . . Is it perfect? No. But it's got a lot of good things in it. It incorporates most of the innovations that we spent so much time on, kind of inventing over the last five years.

"These are ideas that ought to be specifically laid out in legislation, because they're not there now. That would be Habitat Con-

servations Plans, the species conservation agreements, the safe harbor concept, no surprises, all important concepts. And they're all in this bill."

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, approximately 80 percent of endangered species live on private lands. In order to protect those endangered species, some incentives had to be offered to private landowners.

A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) allows a landowner whose lawful activity might harm an endangered or threatened species to negotiate with the Department of the Interior to mitigate and minimize that impact.

The "no surprises rule" means that once a landowner has made a commitment to an HCP, there is assurance that the government won't make additional requests or restrictions. The Senate bill would lock in those agreements for 100 years.

Species conservation agreements protect rare species through a program of inventory, monitoring, research and public education.

"Safe harbor" allows land developers to set aside a portion of their property to provide habitat for threatened or endangered species in that area. In exchange, the government allows them to develop the rest of the land without legal restrictions.

These policy developments have been helpful in gaining the cooperation of private landowners. The Senate bill will put them into law.

Critics, like the National Center for Public Policy Research, contend that it will codify these policies and "extralegal arrangements large timber companies have negotiated with federal officials that are currently vulnerable to legal challenge."

Babbitt recognizes that the Senate bill currently has two major problems—the appropriation level is much too low to make the law effective in achieving its intent, and it "has a very complex set of procedural requirements for recovery plans—in some respects it's overly complex."

The positives, according to Babbitt, are "giving legislative sanction and predictability" to policy innovations.

Babbitt didn't mention a competing bill with the same name introduced in the U.S. House by Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., (H.R. 2351).

The bill has 101 bipartisan co-sponsors. Miller receives most of his campaign donations from unions and lawyers, nothing from the timber industry and only \$6,000 from the oil and gas industries in the 1995 to 1996 election cycle.

The House bill also codifies the on-the-ground policies that have helped protect endangered species on private lands—however, the bill's landowner incentives contain provisions to ensure wildlife protection.

Asked about H.R. 2351, Babbitt responded, "I haven't looked at it carefully. I really haven't . . . I guess I'm trying to do one thing at a time."

Environmentalists, conservationists and sportsmen like the House bill. Almost without exception, they consider the Senate bill a sell-out to industry.

Bill Snape, legal director of the Defenders of Wildlife, considers the differences between the House and Senate bills to be a part of a philosophical debate: "The Kempthorne bill is sort of the 'same old business as usual; let's just sort of keep species hanging on by a thread and that's OK. While the Miller bill actually tries to put in place some sort of recovery process to get species doing well and doing what we need to do to protect species.'"

Snape hit the Senate bill's jugular vein: "The biggest problem is the fact that they're going to authorize these 100-years no surprises permits and agreements. They are essentially locking in land management prac-

tices for huge chunks of time in a way that defies every scientific point of view there is. It just doesn't make any sense. They're doing it because that's what industry says they need to commit to any type of conservation."

Babbitt's work with Kempthorne may have been an attempt to keep the Senate bill from being too tilted toward industry and to gather industry support for Interior initiatives, but there aren't enough protections for endangered species in this bill.

It should die in committee.

CONGRESS PLAYS POLITICS WITH ENDANGERED SPECIES

(By Charles Levendosky)

Earlier this month, the Senate's proposed version of the Endangered Species Recovery Act (S. 1180) received a stinging critique from the non-partisan Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. The House version (H.R. 2351) fared much better in the report.

CRS researchers are not paid by special interest groups to arrive at some predetermined outcome. They work for Congress and are paid to be as objective as humanly possible in order to help that body decide about legislation.

The CRS analysis should lay to rest any thought that the Senate bill balances environmental and industry concerns. The bill doesn't.

In an interview Friday, Heather Weiner of Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund said the CRS report pointed out some aspects of the Senate bill she had missed. "The worst points of S. 1180 are the way it removes both judicial and public review of government activities. What it says is 'trust the government.' And that's great when you have a friendly administration—we're talking about species protection—but that's not great for future administrations."

As if it weren't bad enough, Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., has demanded that two pro-industry amendments be attached to the bill.

Lott wants to remove the bill's requirement to implement recovery plans for threatened or endangered species. Lott's other amendment would allow a private landowner—once there has been an agreement with the federal government to minimize the impact on an endangered species found on the landowner's property—to ignore harm to any species that might be listed in the future as threatened or endangered.

From 1991 to 1996, Lott received \$293,355 in campaign funds from the oil and gas industry, forestry and forest products industries, and mining companies. That's a hefty piece of change. Call these amendments payback.

Lott's proposed amendments helped stall the bill. They would kill any pretense that the legislation helps the recovery of endangered species.

Inadequate funding for the Senate version of the ESA re-authorization also brought it to a halt. But last week, folks in the Senate Budget Committee put their shoulders to it. Something is moving.

Weiner said, "This bill is really starting to catch some momentum now as they're finding ways to deal with the budget issues in the bill. . . . There was an attempt to try to take the funding from the sale of BLM (Bureau of Land Management) lands. . . . They want to sell off our public lands, where we're asking federal agencies to do some good things for endangered species."

Now there's a forward-looking approach. Sell off public lands—to agri-interests, to timber conglomerates—in order to finance the protection of species that are endangered by development.

Sell the public lands from under our wildlife and soon nearly every species will be endangered.

Another irony was pointed out by Weiner. "The money that they would raise would not go toward the implementation of the ESA, it would go toward the landowner incentives," she said. "It would go right back to the corporate landowner. . . . It's not actually going to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help them enforce the act or implement the act or come up with recovery plans. It's going straight to the private landowners."

If agreements between landowners and the federal government go away? The CRS report states succinctly that S. 1180 would "probably not make citizen (law) suits available to enforce conservation agreements." The House bill expressly allows such citizen lawsuits.

Bill Snape, legal director of Defenders of Wildlife, doesn't expect any real movement on the Senate bill until after Easter recess. "The huge, thousand pound gorilla on the back of this bill is that not one environmental group in the country supports it. Not one. . . . Until that occurs, it's unlikely that Republicans will want to reinforce their anti-environmental message, particularly the Senate Majority Leader (Trent Lott) as they head into the November elections."

The machinations of Congress—it may be that Lott is really attempting to kill the Senate bill with his amendments while looking cozy to his corporate donors.

The House version of the Endangered Species Recovery Act, introduced by Rep. George Miller, now has 102 co-sponsors. According to Snape, it won't move until the Senate bill passes or dies.

There are three major differences between the House and Senate ESA bills:

The Miller bill gives landowners assurances that conservation agreements will stand, but requires landowners to post performance bonds to make certain they live up to the requirements of minimizing the impact on threatened or endangered species. The Senate bill has no such bonding provisions.

The Miller bill would improve habitat protection on federal lands, while the Senate bill creates more loopholes to ignore impacts that put endangered and threatened species at risk.

The Miller bill focuses directly on the recovery of species by setting up definite standards and procedures. The Senate bill, according to Snape, "plays up service to recovery, but what they're really talking about is survival."

However, not everyone is happy with the Miller bill.

In February, a letter from the presidents of 11 professional scientific societies specializing in plant and animal biology was sent to Congress and the Clinton administration. The letter condemns both House and Senate bills for allowing habitat destruction under conservation agreements.

The Miller bill may not have the unified support of the environmental and conservation communities, but it clearly does more for the recovery of endangered species.

Don't expect either bill to pass during this session of Congress. Neither one will. These two bills, however, have defined the terms of discourse regarding endangered species.

And this critical environmental issue will undoubtedly be a part of the public debate during election campaigns. It will have an influence on the outcome of some congressional races in the West.

THE PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE ON COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of Interior, through the Fish and Wildlife Service, will soon make an important decision concerning whether to list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This decision comes at a troubling time for the people of the State of Colorado. A decision to list this species would have profound impacts on Colorado's thriving front range.

Colorado has taken steps to preserve our Western heritage and quality of life. Coloradans care about their environment. Those that depend upon the land and its resources have a vital link to their environment. If they do not manage their resources responsibly, they do not survive. Today, family-owned farms and ranches are at risk. According to some sporadic studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse is also at risk.

Colorado has aggressively dealt with the issues of growth and suburban sprawl along the front range. Land use planning, and growth issues are effectively being dealt with at the local and state levels. So too, is Colorado dealing with the issue of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

Colorado's General Assembly is considering a state law that would establish a trust fund to conserve species before their status becomes critical enough to justify listing under the Endangered Species Act. That bill has already passed the Agriculture Committee and is currently being considered for appropriations. In addition, Colorado has established a broad-based coalition of land owners, state and local government officials and conservationists to protect the mouse and its habitat. Colorado's approach to species preservation provides as much, if not more protection, than other successful programs applied across the country.

In light of existing and developing efforts to protect the species, the need to solicit additional data, and the profound impacts that listing would have on Colorado's front range, the Secretary of the Interior of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should allow the State to fully develop their state and local plans to preserve Colorado's quality of life, and the Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

HEALTH INSURANCE TAX DEDUCTIBILITY ACT OF 1998

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Health Insurance Tax Deductibility Act of 1998. This bill is a simple, common sense solution to a very complex and destructive problem in our society.

Since I came to Congress in 1992, we have debated health care reform and considered a

wide range of proposals—all designed to insure a greater number of Americans. When President Clinton signed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) into law in 1996, everyone said Congress had taken the first step towards ensuring access to health insurance to more individuals and families.

Unfortunately, a recent study by the General Accounting Office shows us this goal has not been achieved. Although HIPAA did expand access to health insurance, it did nothing to ensure that Americans can afford health insurance. And as the GAO study recognized, affordability has become the major hurdle for the American family to clear.

In the past, Congress has passed initiatives to encourage and assist people to get health insurance. We allow employers who sponsor health insurance for their employees to deduct the employer's share of the premium as a business expense. We allow self employed people to deduct a percentage of the health insurance premium they purchase. Yet we provide no assistance or incentive for individuals whose employers do not provide health insurance.

The Health Insurance Tax Deductibility Act of 1998 will do just this. Under this legislation, individuals will be able to deduct a portion—linked to the deduction for the self insured—they pay for health and long-term care insurance. This proposal will make health insurance more affordable for individuals and their families, which in turn, will give American families greater piece of mind.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER THOMAS ROBINSON

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the finest Capitol Police officers we have known, Officer T.O. "Tommy" Robinson, whose life was tragically taken by cancer on March 23.

While Officer Robinson was a dedicated law enforcement officer and public servant, his life was a testimony to others as well. He will be deeply missed by all who had the great privilege of knowing him.

Tommy Robinson served his country in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968, and served honorably as a member of the Capitol Police for 27 years. He leaves behind his wife of 20 years, Denise, as well as their 12-year-old son Christopher. He was a man of steadfast faith, which he lived out on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a copy of the eulogy given by our Capitol Police Chief Gary Abrecht in memory of Tommy Robinson, which pays tribute to his life and testimony. Everyone who came in contact with Officer Tommy Robinson is a better person for having done so. I know that the entire House joins me in expressing our deepest sympathies and prayers for Denise and Christopher.

I submit the following article.

IN MEMORY, OFFICER T.O. "TOMMY" ROBINSON

As I consider all the men and women of the US Capitol Police, I'm struck by the particular strengths each individual brings to the

job. Some are outstanding in their enforcement of laws; some, in their interviewing and interrogation of criminal suspects; still others in their expertise in utilizing a specific technique or method in the performance of their duties. While Officer Robinson was a dedicated law enforcement practitioner, his particular skill, and one critical to a successful career in policing, was his memorable and exceptional ability to interact positively with others.

As difficult as this is to achieve in life, Officer Robinson seemed to have no enemies. Whenever his name is mentioned, people consistently use phrases such as "courteous, friendly, helpful, professional, and genuine." Officer Robinson's impact on the lives of his co-workers and others he came into contact with is truly remarkable. He truly epitomized the underlying ideals of law enforcement by his dedication and cooperative spirit, and not only will his pleasant demeanor be missed, but so also will his positive influence on others.

Officer Robinson's twenty-seven year career with the US Capitol Police included many different assignments. Most of his service was divided between the Capitol Division, FRU, and the House Division, where he leaves behind a host of friends and co-workers. Officer Robinson was an original member of the First Responder Unit of the Capitol Division, and stories abound of his selflessness and enthusiastic attitude. The First Responder Unit carries out their duties while confronting the harshest weather this area offers. Officer Robinson worked in these conditions as a member of the FRU for ten (10) years, and all reports indicate that he did so without complaint. In fact, Officer Robinson was an example to others in his dedication to duty, and strict adherence to the policies and directives of his unit.

Some thirteen years of Officer Robinson's career were spent with the House Division. Officer Robinson, consistent with his actions wherever he worked, endeared himself to his House Division co-workers and the staff and visitors, ensuring he will be missed, but not forgotten.

One of the most well-known facts about Officer Robinson was that he was a man of faith. His belief in GOD, and Jesus Christ as Lord, overshadowed every aspect of his being, and he made no secret of this important matter to all who knew him. He was quick to point to this belief as the reason that he carried himself as he did, with compassion, understanding and forgiveness. He often remarked to others how he wished more people on the Department shared a belief in GOD, and how he felt this would resolve some of the issues that divided not only his co-workers, but humanity in general. As an example of faith-in-action, Officer Robinson established a monthly prayer breakfast for benefit of his co-workers and friends. Meeting every first Wednesday of the month at 0600 hours, these meetings were well-attended by a wide cross-section of ranks from within the Department, and eventually interested parties from outside the agency attended to participate in prayer, reading of Scripture, and occasionally even song. Officer Robinson ensured that all attendees were welcomed openly, and had an opportunity to express themselves freely. Even when Officer Robinson fell ill, he often encouraged others to maintain their attendance at these meetings, feeling, and stating, that his absence should not be a reason for the discontinuation of the meetings, or the failure of others to attend. After each of these Wednesday morning meetings, Officer Robinson could be seen making his way to groups of officers who had not attended the meeting, offering them the "goodies" that had been brought to the breakfast by himself

and the other attendees. This vision of Officer Robinson, walking up to groups of his friends and offering food and a certain word of good-will is one that many of us will reflect on with fondness in the coming days.

Officer Robinson was never swayed in his projection to us all of a peace that passes understanding. In the midst of confronting his illness, Officer Robinson was always upbeat and positive, rarely making reference to his ailment, and never complaining about it. He was truly remarkable in his ability to make whoever he was talking to feel better, even if that person was attempting to encourage Officer Robinson.

Because of his illness, Officer Robinson was unable to work for several weeks during the past months. Whenever he was contacted at home, he invariably spoke of his return to duty, often apologizing to his supervisors for not being at work. After his most lengthy absence, one of the first things Officer Robinson did was to request an opportunity to address his co-workers at roll call. This request was quickly granted, and in his comments to his co-workers, Officer Robinson not only thanked everyone for their prayerful support of him, but insisted that everyone should ensure that they maintained an adequate balance of sick leave, because you never know when you may need it. This type of comment most often comes from supervisors, and is often met with varying degrees of belief or acceptance, but when it came from Officer Robinson, it was received with interest and respect, for this is the type of response that Officer Robinson's character demanded and generated.

As a further testimony to Officer Robinson's character, soon after he had addressed his co-workers at roll call, he approached his supervisors with a suggestion that typified his selfless nature. With great humility, he asked if he might be allowed to provide a meal for the co-workers he so appreciated. With a great amount of awe, his request was granted and soon afterwards, Officer Robinson enlisted the services of a friend who catered the lunch-time meal for the entire day-work section of the House Division. Not a small undertaking, Officer Robinson ensured that all of the approximately 66 individuals present for an average workday were invited to the meal, and were able to enjoy not only his company, but a superb meal as well. This generosity is unheard of, and many officers remarked how humbled they were by Officer Robinson's act of charity and kindness.

Officer Robinson's friends and co-workers will remember him for these acts of generosity and compassion. His humble nature and patient endurance serve as an example to us all of how to face life and difficult circumstances with grace, courage, and thoughtfulness. He will be missed not only for his pleasant demeanor and positive attitude, but for the tremendous influence for good that his mere presence infused into the lives of everyone. One officer has remarked recently that Officer Robinson was too good for this world. Perhaps we can all learn from Officer Robinson how to live lives that honor those around us. His legacy to the men and women of the Capitol Police calls us to righteousness and servanthood, hallmarks of not only a good police officer, but of a good human being.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEE PENSION PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing extremely important legislation that will benefit working Americans. The focus of this legislation is pensions. Pensions are an integral part of retirement. Retirement can be compared to a three legged stool and the three legs are savings, pensions, and Social Security.

We are beginning to face what has been commonly referred to as the "graying of America." Within thirty years, one out of every five Americans will be over age sixty-five. In thirteen years, the baby boomers will begin turning sixty-five. The baby boomer generation consists of 76 million members and will result in the number of Social Security beneficiaries doubling by the year 2040.

In the near future, we need to address Social Security, but in the immediate future Congress should take action to improve our current pension system. Last Congress, Congressman THOMAS and I worked on "Super IRA" legislation and many of these proposals were included in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Expanding individual retirement accounts (IRAs) will help many save for their retirement.

The Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997 created the Roth IRA which has made IRAs more available to millions of taxpayers. The response has been overwhelming. The Taxpayer Relief Act has jump-started IRAs and we need to do the same for pensions.

Forty percent of retirement income comes from Social Security. Nineteen percent comes from pensions and the rest comes from individual savings. We need a more balanced approach. Pensions should provide for more than 19 percent of savings. We need to make individuals more responsible for their retirement.

Our society has changed and this includes the workplace. It is now more common for individuals to change jobs than to stay with one firm for an entire career. This makes it extremely important for us to address pensions and especially the issue of portability. Changing jobs should not drastically affect one's pension.

Millions of Americans have no pension access to retirement plans. Only half of full-time, private sector workers participate in an employer-sponsored pension plan. This results in 51 million American workers who have no pension plan. Pension coverage has only increased to 50 percent in 1993 from 48 percent in 1983.

Small businesses are less likely to have pensions than large businesses. While only thirty percent of firms that employ between 25 and 49 employees have pensions, seventy-three percent of firms that employ over 100 employees have pensions. Only 85 percent of Americans making below \$10,000 a year have pension coverage. Fewer women receive pensions than men.

The percentage of the workforce covered by a pension has stagnated in the last 20 years. Many firms cite complexity and start-up costs as major reasons for not offering pensions.

Portability is an issue that must be addressed as we improve our pension system. Five million people with pension coverage change jobs every year. Many workers lose out on their pensions because they leave their jobs before their pensions vests.

President Clinton's budget for FY 1999 included comprehensive pension proposals. The proposals are aimed at making it easier for employers to offer pensions and for employees to retain pensions when switching jobs. The President's proposals are targeted to promoting pension plans among small businesses. These proposals build on past efforts of the President and Congress to simplify pensions. The President's measures would boost private pensions and individual retirement savings. I applaud President Clinton for addressing pensions in a timely manner.

Today, I am introducing "The Employee Pension Portability and Accountability Act of 1998" which is based on the President's pension proposals. I have made one change to the President's proposals as described in the budget. After reviewing testimony submitted to the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, I have decided to make our change to the SMART plan and I will go into more detail later.

This legislation will enhance workers' ability to contribute to an IRA by payroll deduction. The bill will provide a tax credit for small businesses with fewer than 100 employees for the start-up costs of a pension plan.

The legislation creates a new simplified defined benefit pension plans for small businesses with fewer than 100 employees called the SMART plan. The SMART plan is a broad based approach that provides participants with a guaranteed minimum annual benefit upon retirement. An employee's benefit would be 100 percent vested at all times. I have eliminated the professional employer exclusion from the SMART plan. Under the Administration's proposal, professional employers would not be eligible to offer a SMART plan. However, I will continue to work with the Department of Treasury to improve this legislation so that it is specifically targeted to low and moderate income workers.

The bill allows for faster vesting of employer matching contributions to defined contribution plans. Vesting for the employer match would occur at three years instead of five years. This should help with portability.

The bill will also include the expansion of right-to-know provisions for workers and spouses; and simplification proposals. These proposals will help reduce the paper work associated with pensions.

The above described legislation is targeted to improve pensions in the areas where I believe the most improvement is needed—coverage for small businesses and portability. Now is the time for Congress to act. We cannot overlook the statistics. We have to address the "graying of America."

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the "Employee Pension Portability and Accountability Act of 1998." I look forward to the passage of bipartisan pension legislation. Enclosed is a detailed section by section of the bill.

THE EMPLOYEE PENSION PORTABILITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1998

SECTION BY SECTION

Section 1. Short Title

This legislation is entitled as the Employee Pension Portability and Accountability Act of 1998.

Section 2. Payroll Deduction for Retirement Savings

This section is intended to promote increased retirement savings among employees. Employees could elect to have contributions, up to a total of \$2,000, withheld during the year from their paychecks and contributed to an IRA. Under this section, employees who are eligible for a deductible IRA, could elect to have pre-tax contributions withheld by their employer and deposited in their IRA. These IRA contributions generally would be excluded from taxable income on the W-2 rather than deducted from income on the individual's tax return. However, the amounts would be subject to employment taxes (FICA) and would be reported as contribution to an IRA on the employee's Form W-2. If at the end of the year, the employee is determined not to be eligible for any portion of the \$2,000 contribution, the employee would be required to include such amount as income for that taxable year.

The legislative history under this section also would clarify that employees not eligible for a deductible IRA could use payroll deductions of after tax amounts as contributions to a non-deductible IRA or Roth IRA. Such an arrangement would not constitute the employer sponsoring a plan.

The provision would be effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 3. Credit for Pension Plan Startup Costs of Small Employers

The credit provided under this section is intended to be an additional incentive to employers, especially small employers, who may not otherwise establish a plan because of high start-up costs. Under this section, the employer could claim a credit for up to three years after establishing a new qualified defined benefit plan or defined contribution plan (including a section 401(k)), a SIMPLE, SEP, or IRA payroll deduction arrangement. The credit for the first year of the plan is 50 percent of up to \$2,000 in administrative and retirement education expenses. For the second and the third year, the credit would be 50 percent of up to \$1000 of start-up costs.

For purposes of the credit, an eligible employer is an employer who maintained no more than 100 employees in the preceding tax year and the compensation of each employee was at least \$5,000 for the year. The employer would be eligible only if such employer did not have a retirement plan prior to establishing the new plan. In addition, the new plan must cover at least 2 employees, and must be made available to all employees who have worked with the employer for at least three months.

The credit is effective beginning in the year of enactment and would be available only for plans established on or before December 31, 2000. Thus, if an eligible employer established a plan in the year 2000, the credit would be available for the years 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Section 4. Secure Money Annuity or Retirement (SMART) Trusts

This section creates a simplified defined benefit plan. As in all defined benefits plans, contributions are made by the employer. The plan would be available to employers with no more than 100 employees who received at least \$5,000 in compensation in the prior year. In addition, the employer could not have maintained a defined benefit plan or a money purchase plan within the preceding five years. The plan generally would be available to all employees who have completed two years of service with the employer and earned at least \$5,000 in compensation. Like all other qualified pension plans, contributions to the SMART plan would be excludable from income, earnings

would be accumulated tax-free, and distributions at the time of distribution would be subject to income tax (unless rolled over). Participants would be guaranteed a minimum annual benefit upon retirement, but could receive a larger benefit if the return on plan investments exceeds specified conservative assumptions. The employee would be guaranteed a minimum annual benefit upon retirement which would be equal to 1 or 2 percent of the employee's compensation plus a minimum rate of return of 5 percent. The minimum annual benefit would be computed based on the employee's average compensation with the employer, the number of years worked, and the percentage elected by the employer. Thus an employee with 25 years of service, whose average salary was \$50,000, and whose employer elected a 2-percent benefit would receive an annual benefit of \$25,000 at retirement (age 65). The guaranteed benefit requirement result in some employers making additional contributions to the employee's account if the rate of return plus the contributions do not produce sufficient assets to pay the minimum guaranteed benefit. If the rate of return exceeds 5 percent, the employee would receive a benefit greater than the minimum guaranteed benefit. The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) would provide insurance to ensure the payment of the guaranteed benefit.

To permit catch-up contributions on behalf of workers (especially workers nearing retirement age) for the years a retirement plan was not available, an employer could elect a benefit equal to 3 percent of compensation for the first 5 years the plan is in existence. This higher percentage would be elected in lieu of 1 or 3 percent and would have to be made available to all employees. The maximum amount of compensation that could be taken into account for purposes of determining the annual benefit would be \$100,000, indexed for inflation.

Employees would immediately vest in the benefits contributions made and earnings that accrue under the plan. Benefits in the account would be treated as all other qualified pension plans, i.e. the contributions or earnings would not be taxable to the employee in the year made (or earned) and the employer would be permitted to deduct currently the contribution made to the plan. Distributions from the plan would be taxable to the employee upon distribution except where the balance is directly rolled over from a SMART plan to another SMART plan by the trustee of the plan.

The provision would be effective for calendar years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 5. Faster Vesting of Employer Matching Contributions

This section changes the vesting requirement for employer contributions. Under current law, employer matching contributions vest after either 5 years cliff vesting or 7 years graded vesting. Under the 5-year vesting, an employee becomes fully vested (i.e. full rights) to employer contributions after the employee has completed five years of service with the employer. If the years of service are less than 5 years the employee does not vest to any portion of contributions. Under 7-year graded vesting, the employee becomes fully vested to the employer contributions in increments of 20 percent, which begins after the employee completes three years of service, and is fully vested after seven years of service. Under this provision, the 5-year vesting and 7-year vesting schedules would be modified to provide for 3-year cliff vesting and 6-year graded vesting. The six-year vesting would begin after the employee has completed two years of service. The vesting schedules would apply for all

employer matching contributions made under any qualified plan.

The provision would be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 6A. Pension Right to Know Proposals

This provision would modify current law with respect to a written waiver of a survivor annuity. Under current law, the plan participant (not the spouse) is provided with a written explanation of the terms and conditions of the survivor benefit. This provision would require that the same written information provided to the plan participant also is provided to the spouse. This would help the spouse to fully understand both his or her rights under the plan, and the full implication of a waiver of those rights.

This provision would be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 6B. Right to Know Pension Plan Distribution Information

This provision would require employers who use any one of the 401(k) safe harbor plan designs to provide employees with sufficient notice that would afford them the real opportunity to make an informed decision regarding electing to contribute (or modify a prior election) to the employer-sponsored plan. The employee would be provided at least a 60-day period before the beginning of each year and a 60-day period when he or she first becomes eligible to participate. In addition, the current requirement that employers notify eligible employees of their rights to make contributions, as well as notify them of the employer contributions formula being used under the plan, would be modified to require that such notice be given within a reasonable period of time before the 60-day period, rather than before the beginning of the year.

This provision would be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 7. Mandatory 1 Percent Employer Contribution required under alternative methods of meeting nondiscrimination requirements for 401(k) plans

This section modifies the section 401(k) matching formula safe harbor by requiring that, in addition to the matching contribution, employers would make a contribution of 1 percent of compensation for each eligible nonhighly compensated employee, regardless of whether the employee makes elective contributions. This contribution shows the value of tax-deferred compounding. This provision would not apply where the employer uses the safe harbor design under which the employer contributes 3 percent of compensation on the behalf of each eligible employee without regard to whether the employee makes an elective contribution.

This provision would be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 8. Definition of Highly Compensated Employees

Under current law, a highly compensated employee is defined as an employee who was a five percent owner of the employer at any time during the preceding year, or had compensation of \$80,000, and if the employer elects was in the top-paid group of employees for the preceding year. An employee is in the top-paid group if the employee was among the top 20 percent of employees of the employer when ranked on basis of compensation paid to employers in previous years. This section eliminates the top-paid group from the definition highly compensated employee. Thus, the level of compensation earned or ownership determine whether the employee is highly compensated.

This provision would be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 9. Treatment of Multiemployer Plans Under Section 415

This section would repeal the 100 percent-of-compensation limit, but not the \$130,000 limit for such plans, and exempts certain survivor and disability benefits from the adjustments for early commencement and participation and service of less than 10 years.

This provision would be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 10. Full Funding Limitation for Multiemployer Plans

This Section would eliminate the limit on deductible contributions based on a specified percentage of current liability. The annual deduction for contributions to such a plan would be limited to the amount by which the plan's accrued liability exceeds the value of the plan's assets.

This provision would be effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998.

Section 11. Elimination of Partial Termination Rules for Multiemployer Plans

Under current law, when a qualified retirement plan is terminated, all plan participants are required to become 100 percent vested in their accrued benefits to the extent those benefits are funded. In the case of certain "partial termination" that is not actual plan termination, all affected employees must become 100 percent vested in their benefits accrued to the date of the termination, to the extent the benefits are funded. Partial terminations generally occur when there is a significant reduction in workforce covered by the plan. This section repeals the requirement that affected participants become 100 percent vested in their accrued benefits upon the partial termination of qualified multi-employer retirement plans.

This provision would be effective for partial termination beginning after December 31, 1998.

REFORM OF THE IRS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, though the federal government does few things well, when it comes to collecting taxes, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is a proficient, ruthless, and relentless agency squeezing every subject for the government's due, and then some.

Last month the president called "irresponsible" and "reckless" the several efforts by Republicans in Congress to reign in the IRS. These reforms entail restoring taxpayer rights, curbing IRS abuses, and ultimately rebuilding a sense of fairness in America's tax policy.

Furthermore, Congressional reformers are seeking to turn the tables on the IRS by burdening the bureaucracy with justifying its policies before proceeding on its confiscatory mission.

The debate in Washington, D.C. is centered on the differences between those who demand dramatic improvements and those content to merely tinker with the tax code.

Meanwhile, Americans will spend a combined 5½ billion hours this year working to comply with our current tax system.

April is tax month, a time to reflect on the financial cost of citizenship. The federal budget tops \$1.7 trillion this year.

In spite of the Capitol Hill hoopla about a supposed federal budget surplus, the total fed-

eral debt has recently surpassed \$5.5 trillion and continues to grow. In fact, during the time separating the delivery of President Clinton's 1997 State of the Union address and his 1998 version, the debt grew an incredible \$185 billion!

The IRS employs 114,000 agents who churn out eight billion pages of forms and instructions mailed to Americans every year. Even the simplest form, the 1040 EZ, has 33 pages of fine-print instructions. Over 300,000 trees were harvested just to produce the paper for these missives.

In Congress, I've joined the growing crowd calling for wholesale reform of the IRS. For example, I'm backing efforts to repeal the death tax (estate tax), to abolish the marriage penalty, and to further eliminate taxes which discourage investment and savings.

I'm also calling for a sunset of the IRS tax code by December 31, 2001. This unprecedented act would force the IRS and Congress to agree on a fair, simpler tax law. The "sunset" provision would answer the customary political gridlock in Congress with the promise to pull the IRS out by its roots until leaders can agree to put taxpayers ahead of bureaucrats.

Taxation is unavoidable. However, tax fairness and simplicity are features upon which Americans should insist.

CAMPAIGN REFORM AND ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, for months, Members on both sides of the aisle have worked to craft meaningful campaign finance reform. But the Republican leadership's decision last Friday to bring campaign finance reform to the Floor under suspension of the rules has made it clear they are not interested in debating, and passing, true campaign finance reform. This biased procedure stifles debate, precludes the opportunity to offer amendments and prohibits the consideration of the Shays-Meehan proposal—a true reform bill, which bans soft money in federal election years.

In addition, the Republican leadership's tactic of breaking up the Thomas bill into three more bills under suspension of the rules doesn't soften the blow in denying the House the opportunity to debate, and amend, campaign finance reform legislation.

Instead, the Republican leadership is offering an umbrella measure, HR 3485, that is so loaded with poison provisions that it is doomed to failure. I am particularly appalled that the bill before the House contains the exact language of the Voter Eligibility Verification Act which this House rejected last month by a vote of 210–200.

Back in the '60s, many of the Freedom Riders lost their lives for civil rights, including the right to vote. The voter eligibility provisions of this bill would take us back in time before the National Voting Rights Act was enacted. It clearly discriminates against the poor, senior citizens, African Americans and Hispanics.

On Election Day around this nation, local voter registration offices recruit people to work

at the polls. Under this bill, if a poll worker in California, Florida, Illinois, New York or Texas chooses to challenge the eligibility of a person coming to vote, that poll watcher can do so. Conveniently, these are the states where the majority of our nation's Hispanics live. This is the United States of America. When a person comes to vote, they should not be expected to jump through hoops, clear hurdles or be hindered in any other way. And the Immigration and Naturalization Service should not have to confirm for a poll watcher that a citizen wishing to vote is actually a citizen.

There's always a good reason why anyone does something. And then there's the real reason. This is a Republican ploy to keep certain constituencies from the ballot box. This bill is a dressed up 90's version of the poll tax—designed to clearly intimidate Hispanics and other minorities into staying away from the polls—and it betrays the Privacy Act and the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill for many reasons. First, it would shut the door to voting rights of any person a poll worker chooses to challenge. Second, raising the annual contribution limit for individuals from \$25,000 to \$75,000 looks to me like a sweetheart deal the Republicans are making with their wealthy donors. Third, it would require labor unions to get written consent from their members before the unions can spend union dues money on political activities. This is one more back door effort by the Republicans to bust the unions. I urge my colleagues to vote against HR 3485, and against the upcoming bill entitled "Paycheck Protection Act," which is a union-busting bill.

These bills do nothing to truly reform our campaign finance system.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 247

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 247. This bill, in a small way, recognizes what the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has contributed to the civil society of the United States and to the world. In a sense, this bill outlines what we owe to Dr. Martin Luther King for the lessons he taught us on how to change our world and how to bring about justice. Dr. King's life and his work are a powerful example to all people who care about freedom, justice and equality.

Dr. Martin Luther King loved this country. Dr. King's America was not perfect, but he envisioned a day when it would be perfect. The America he lived in was not perfectly just, but he saw a day when Justice would be given to all. Not everyone in Dr. King's America was free, but in his mighty and prophetic dream, he saw a day when Freedom would ring from every mountaintop and on that day—as he promised—"all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Dr. King loved this country because he believed in its promise to all people who make

it their home. Dr. King was a man of faith who believed that Our Creator has endowed us with certain and unalienable rights to life, to liberty, and to the pursuit of happiness. It is a sad fact in our nation's history that these unalienable rights were not always recognized and not always freely granted. Dr. King was like a prophet of old crying in the wilderness. His message was simple: Justice and Freedom are worth fighting for.

But the battles he called us to were not to be fought in the streets with armed struggle and violence. The war that Dr. King waged was not for military dominance or political power, but for the hearts and minds of all who would hear his message. He called on Americans to rise above selfishness and personal ambition, to rise above anger and hate, and to establish Justice and Freedom through non-violent political action and change. His tactics in this war were founded on his deep conviction that morally there was right and there was wrong. It was immoral to segregate people by race and to hate someone because they have a different color skin. It was immoral to oppress other people. It was immoral to financially support institutions that participate in subjugating others.

Mr. Speaker, these things are still immoral. There are still rights that need to be wronged. There are still people living in this world who are oppressed and who are not free. We need look no farther than 90 miles off our shore to see a country where a tyrant rules and the call to freedom is quickly and brutally silenced.

Mr. Speaker, this bill calls on Americans to celebrate the life of Dr. King. This call to celebrate Dr. King's life and contributions comes 30 years after he was gunned down in Memphis, Tennessee. Thirty years go, Dr. King was in Memphis supporting the striking city's sanitation workers exercise of their right to assemble, their right to free speech, their right to determine their own destiny, their basic right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

On April 3rd, 1968, thirty years ago this week, Dr. King stood in the Bishop Charles Mason Temple and called on all within earshot to stand together with greater determination. He called on all to move together through the days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. As if he had foreseen his own death the next day, he called for perseverance and patience in the face of opposition. And he left us with hope. Hope that his dream of an America where Freedom rings and Justice is established throughout the land would one day be at hand.

There is work yet to be done. We should all stand together through the days of challenge because America—while great among all nations of the world and history—has greater days to come.

Mr. Speaker, I have joined with my colleagues to sponsor this bill because I deeply believe that all peoples living under tyranny and oppression must be able to make their voices heard. I too have a dream that all peoples one day must live in a just, equal, and free world. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill and to call on the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate Dr. King's life and ideals in order to fulfill his dream of civil and human rights for all people.

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING—ANOTHER CONTRACT RENEWAL DILEMMA: "SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING ACT OF 1998"

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Senior Citizens Housing Financial Restructuring Act of 1998. As my colleagues will recall, over the last three years the Congress has been dealing with the section 8 project-based renewal issue pertaining to the FHA multifamily inventory. Last year, the so-called mark to market legislation was enacted to deal with this inventory. However, that legislation did not address the Section 202 housing for the elderly inventory.

The section 202 loan portfolio consists of over 4,500 direct government loans to private nonprofit sponsors for developing rental housing for lower income elderly. Projects developed under this program benefit from 40-year direct loans and 20-year section 8 rental assistance contracts. These projects contain approximately 215,000¹ units, for which funds were reserved from 1976 through 1988. Between 2001 and 2015, virtually all of the section 8 rental contracts for these projects will expire. Projects funded subsequent to 1988 were either funded under the new Capital Advance Program or converted from direct loans to capital advances.²

Mr. Speaker, preservation of this inventory is of paramount concern to me as well as all my colleagues since there is considerable demand for the units and few alternatives for many lower income elderly. Like the FHA multifamily portfolio, a primary issue facing this housing program is the need for renewals of section 8 contracts. Current HUD policy allows annual renewals only. In 2001, approximately 300 projects will come due for renewal. The number will climb each year until it reaches 4,500 projects in 2013. The estimated annual cost of renewals is approximately \$250 million in 2001 and \$2.9 billion in 2021.

As elderly housing becomes more market-oriented and residents age, the older section 202 projects must meet the cost of (1) service coordination, (2) structural retrofitting, and (3) other improvements required to serve more service-dependent residents in the future. However, in the current budgetary environment, Congress will have difficulty meeting these costs under section 8.

My legislation allows that elderly housing operating under earlier versions of section 202 should be allowed to convert to the new, improved form of elderly housing assistance.

¹ Since the program was created in section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, the program has assisted not-for-profit sponsors, dedicated to serving the special needs of the elderly, in building 337,000 residential rental units—a major portion of the nation's supply of quality, affordable housing for the elderly.

² Since 1990, the revised section 202 program provides (1) a capital advance to finance construction and (2) periodic operating subsidies to fill the gap between the cost of elderly housing and rent revenues that low-income residents can afford. The capital advance is, in effect, an interest-free loan on which no payments are due as long as the housing meets program requirements. Operating support goes to elderly housing through a "project rental assistance contract" (PRAC), renewable in five year increments.

The unpaid principal balance of an older section 202 loan would be converted to a capital advance, essentially forgiving outstanding debt. The project would then receive cost-effective operating assistance under a project rental assistance contract that is better designed to provide quality elderly housing in local markets.

In its simplest form, conversion is likely to have no financial impact on the projects, but the federal subsidy would be scored in the budget process in a different manner. By forgiving the direct loan, the need for section 8 subsidy is reduced by the amount of principal and interest. Thus, the forgiveness of outstanding section 202 loans would initially have a one-time mandatory budget cost. However, the up-front costs of conversion would, over time, be more than offset by ongoing discretionary savings and lasting benefits to HUD's budget, elderly housing sponsors, and elderly residents.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Congress has a unique opportunity to address these issues because, unlike much of the rest of the section 8 inventory, the contract renewal problem does not become significant until after the year 2000. I urge all my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF BRIDGEPORT TOWNSHIP

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Sesquicentennial of Bridgeport Township, Michigan. This community was founded on April 4, 1848 and is currently Michigan's oldest charter township. In April of 1848 Bridgeport Township's population was 15, today there are 9,158 residents. Although the township has grown, Bridgeport Township has worked hard to preserve and protect its rich history. Bridgeport Township's motto is "A Community Living and Growing Together." This is a fitting motto because time and time again the residents have worked together to improve their community. When the old school house was going to be torn down—the citizens of Bridgeport Township worked together to save the historic building. Today, it stands in the township's historic village and is used by classes each year. When they needed a Gazebo constructed in the historic village, they joined as a community to complete this important project. Today, the gazebo is used for musical events and other gatherings.

John Oldham said:

To live is to meet life eager and unafraid—to refuse none of its challenges, and to evade none of its responsibilities; but to go forth daily with an adventurous heart to encounter its risks, overcome its difficulties, and seize its opportunities with both hands.

This is how the community of Bridgeport Township has met each day during the past 150 years. It is through the dedication and hard work of many generations that this community gathers to celebrate 150 years of prosperity and very special memories.

On Saturday, as the citizens of Bridgeport Township reflect on their past—they can be

very proud of how their community started and where it is today. It is a special, caring community that has grown without sacrificing their special heritage.

MCCOLLUM V. BOARD OF EDUCATION: A MILESTONE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in the case of McCollum versus Board of Education of School District No. 71, in which the Court clearly expressed the importance of maintaining the separation of church and state. As the Congress considers a proposed constitutional amendment which threatens that important principle, I urge every member of this House to read the Court's decision. It clearly illustrates how the separation of church and state, enshrined in the First Amendment, protects the fundamental rights of free conscience and religious liberty.

The McCollum family had a son attending the fourth grade in a public school in Champaign, Illinois. The Champaign school district allowed a local private organization, the Champaign Council on Religious Education, to send religious teachers into the public school during regular school hours. Students were released from regular classes to attend private religious instruction in the public school building.

In theory, any remaining students were required to leave their classrooms and pursue their regular studies elsewhere in the school building. In practice, James McCollum was the only student in his class who did not attend the religious instruction. He was sent to the principal's office or made to sit at the detention desk for problem students out in the hall—as though he were being punished.

The family was also subject to ostracism. They became outcasts in Champaign, and the children, particularly James, were harassed. The family cat was killed, and once, on Halloween, the family answered the door to trick-or-treaters only to be pelted with garbage. The verbal abuse grew so great that when James got to junior high, he moved to Rochester, N.Y., to live with his grandmother and go to school there. According to James, now a retired attorney, his mother worked at the University of Illinois, but when it became known that she had brought this lawsuit, she was fired.

Unfortunately, this sort of situation is far from a thing of the past. Many of my colleagues may remember the testimony of Lisa Herdahl whose family challenged prayers and religious Bible instruction in the public schools in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. The Herdahl children were harassed at school and singled out by teachers and other students. The family was subject to community protests and hostile newspaper coverage. After school officials ignored the Herdahl family's requests to put an end to the coercive practices, People for the American Way Foundation and the ACLU of Mississippi filed suit in federal court, citing the McCollum case among others. Two years ago, a federal judge ruled against the school dis-

trict, and school officials decided not to appeal.

We are often urged to blur, or even eliminate, the line that has long separated church from state. But experience shows us that when we allow this to happen, the rights of individual Americans are trampled upon by the majority. The purpose of the "wall of separation" is not to protect government from religion, as it is often alleged, but to protect religion, and particularly the individual religious beliefs of all Americans from government.

When some in the community attempt to use the power of government, in these cases against children required by law to be present in school, to further their own sectarian goals, the hand of government will inevitably be coercive. If religious freedom is to have any meaning at all, if must be that no one should ever be allowed to use the power of government to coerce another citizen, especially a vulnerable and impressionable child, on matters of faith.

Justice Hugo Black wrote in his opinion in McCollum, "the First Amendment rests upon the premise that both religion and government can best work to achieve their lofty aims if each is left free from the other within its respective sphere." The hard and bitter experience of families, like the McCollum family fifty years ago, and the Herdahl family in this decade, is that the authors of the First Amendment were right to keep government away from religion, the Court was right in remaining true to the principle, and it would be a terrible mistake for Congress to ignore the lessons of history and wisdom of our Bill of Rights.

Justice Felix Frankfurter, put it well in the McCollum case, when he wrote, "The great American principle of eternal separation . . . is one of the vital reliances of our Constitutional system for assuring unities among our people stronger than our diversities." I hope the members of this Congress will defend our national unity, the rights of all Americans, and leave the First Amendment the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS LEGISLATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my legislation to assist fast-growing states to build new schools, reduce class sizes and overcrowding and foster an orderly and disciplined learning environment. I urge my colleagues to join me in signing on to this important legislation.

As the former Superintendent of North Carolina's schools, I know firsthand how important quality facilities are to our children's education. The General Accounting Office has identified more than \$112 billion in school construction needs across the country. The Secretary of Education has reported that the "Baby Boom Echo" will create an explosion of growth in the school-age populations in many states over the next ten years. Congress must assist these states to meet their school construction needs of the coming decade.

My bill will create \$7.2 billion in school construction bonds over the next ten years. The school bonds will be allocated to the states based on the growth we know they will experience in the coming decade. The Etheridge bill

will complement the Administration's \$19.4 billion school construction initiative by targeting resources to growing states. My bill is fully paid for using the offset others would use to fund the misguided Coverdell private school voucher scheme.

The simple fact of the matter is that our growing states need help to build quality schools in which to educate our children. This Congress must do its part to assist the states that have the greatest needs. My bill targets resources to the states that will experience the greatest growth over the next decade. The Etheridge bill will provide more than \$100 million each to the top 17 fastest growing states; slower growing states will qualify for lower amounts. My state of North Carolina will qualify for about \$360 million in school construction bonds under this legislation.

No child in America should be forced to attend class in a trailer, a closet or any other substandard facility. The Etheridge bill will help address this problem, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

IT'S OUR MONEY, NOT THEIRS!

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, processing salmon on a cannery slime line was probably the best job preparation I ever received for my stint in the U.S. Congress. Making laws is never pretty either.

Standing boot deep in fins, fish heads, and entrails, trying to keep up with the conveyor belt, my team routinely exceeded our production goals. In the end, we made a fine product, and our Alaskan employer succeeded in running a good business—despite the bloody mess.

That was my first job out of college. I paid my way through school as a lifeguard, a farm hand, a referee and umpire, a night clerk at an apartment complex, and as a retail worker. During holidays, I filled in for a vacationing heating and air contractors' assistant, and conducted public opinion polls for local governments and community boards.

Upon graduation I worked a few more jobs before being asked, at a relatively young age by local leaders, to fill a vacancy in the state Senate. In addition to the cannery job, I worked as a carpet layer, in food service, as a legislative researcher, a corporate and political speechwriter, and press secretary. I later ran my own marketing business for six years too.

But, throughout all my work, entrepreneurial and investment experiences, I've been confronted with the same disappointment—high taxes.

Each time I forked over more of my earnings to the government, I pledged to myself that, if I ever got the chance, I'd work even harder to put the priorities of wage-earners ahead of the tax collectors.

This month, millions of Coloradans will labor through the time-consuming and stressful task of preparing tax returns to answer the government's deadline of April 15th. The average family will endure a local, state, and federal tax burden of an incredible 40 percent of income for 1997.

This year, Americans will spend a combined 5½ billion hours working to comply with our tax system. Meanwhile, the 114,000 employees of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are toiling too. They must, in order to churn out and process the 8 billion pages of forms and instructions taxpayers will need in order to stay above the law.

This is why, in my first year in Congress, I cosponsored and voted for two of the most important pieces of tax legislation in decades: The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, providing the first net tax cut in 16 years; and the IRS Restructuring Act, getting us a step closer to reining in one of the most abusive federal agencies, and setting us up to scrap the entire tax code in favor of one that is fairer, flatter, and simpler.

Indeed, this is one goal I will be pursuing further this month along with my friends at the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)—the nation's largest small business advocate. I've been a proud NFIB member myself for many years.

On April 15th, NFIB will sponsor national "It's our Money, not THEIRS" Day. The plan is to gather one million signatures on petitions calling upon the president and Congress to "abolish the IRS Code as of December 31, 2000, and to propose to the American people for our consideration a simpler, fairer tax code which will reward work and savings."

Paying taxes is never pretty. Some would say the tax code is a bloody mess. Thanks to the NFIB, taxpayers will have a chance to send a forceful tax message to the government: "Fish or cut bait!"

To volunteer for April 15th Day, or to obtain petitions, call me, see any other NFIB small business member, or call toll free 1-888-NOT4IRS.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments of 1998 on behalf of the Administration. For the first time in nearly 20 years, the Executive Branch has transmitted to the Congress a bill to reauthorize our Child Nutrition programs and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. This legislation is cost-neutral over five years, simplifies and streamlines program operations, provide access to qualified participants, helps to ensure program integrity and improves food safety. I am happy to sponsor this bill and strongly encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

The Child Nutrition Programs and the WIC Program are absolutely critical to our Nation's future. There is no question of the need to reauthorize the expiring programs and, where we can, improve access, eliminate unnecessary paperwork, and reduce the chance for abuse. I believe the Administration bill moves us toward these goals and is an excellent starting point as we begin our efforts to reauthorize these programs.

Among the many improvements in the legislation, the bill would:

Give authority for an after school program in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for at risk youths between the ages of 12–18; this is a critical provision as so many children need a positive and supportive after school option since the highest instances of juvenile crime occur during the hours immediately following the end of the school day and the dinner hour;

Require schools to make every effort to establish adequate time for kids to eat school lunches in a "child friendly" atmosphere ensuring good nutrition;

Authorize Nutrition Education and Training grants based on \$.50 per child per year with a minimum of \$75,000 per state;

Give authority for USDA to pay for the cost of removing any foods that have been found to be unhealthy or contaminated;

Require that food service operations of participating schools be inspected for health and safety;

Increase the number of sites and children that can be served by non-profit sponsors in the Summer Food Service Program;

Improve management of the WIC program with changes in how states can manage "spend forward" funds and require documentation of income for WIC participants;

Tighten penalties on vendors who violate the rules for participation in the WIC program.

There are a number of other provisions in the bill that I will not discuss at this point, but are designed to improve program operations. On whole, the bill represents a balanced and thoughtful approach to improving the programs at a time when budgets are very tight and tough choices must be made about where to spend our limited resources.

There is one provision of this legislation regarding the WIC program which I cannot support and another for which the Ranking Member and I are concerned. First, the bill would require that the Secretary of Agriculture propose regulations to verify the income of WIC participants. I cannot support this provision because I believe it would drive legitimate recipients out of the program and would add to the administrative burdens on WIC clinics when it is not at all clear that much improvement in accountability would be obtained. Recent testimony before the Education and Workforce Committee reinforces my belief that this provision is not necessary and should not be included in the final bill which Congress sends to the President. Second, the bill would terminate the Secretary's authority to administer the very small segment of child nutrition programs, which certain states do not presently administer for a variety of reasons, at the USDA Regional level. The Ranking Member and I are committed to closely examining this proposal as we proceed through the reauthorization process and ensure that, if enacted, it will not jeopardize the nutritional meals and snacks which children presently receive under these programs.

I am looking forward to working with the Department of Agriculture, and Under Secretary Shirley Watkins, and my colleagues here in the Congress to enact the positive features of this legislation and other beneficial provisions as we work to improve our child nutrition programs through this reauthorization.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 9588

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I am rising to speak today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the chartering of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9588, the Bailey-Richman Post, in Monticello, New York. The Post was chartered on April 4th, 1948 at the Grange Hall in Monticello and was recently honored by the National Headquarters of the VFW with a Golden Anniversary Citation. It is an honor they justly deserve. I would like to also celebrate and honor the Post's long history of public service and commitment to their community in Sullivan County. The wonderful men and women of this post have given so much to us all in times of war and in times of peace and I want them to know that their contributions are deeply felt and greatly appreciated. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Bailey-Richman VFW Post 9588.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR
HOUSING ACT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise before you today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act by designating the month of April as Fair Housing Month in Flint, Michigan.

Michigan, and the City of Flint in particular, has a long history of promoting fair housing. In February, 1968, the citizens of Flint voted to adopt the first open-housing ordinance in the country. As a member of the Michigan State Legislature, I introduced the very first Open Housing Act which outlawed housing discrimination in Michigan. In my many years of public service, I have continued the fight for fair and equitable housing because I believe our country must grant every person an equal chance to succeed in America.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 celebrates its anniversary this year with the distinction of being one of the most successful civil rights laws in history. Thanks to the cooperation and support of hundreds of state and local governments, more and more Americans are enjoying the simple freedom of choosing where to live.

The Fair Housing Act was enacted in 1968, shortly after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination. The Act bars housing discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, disability, family status and national origin. The Act covers the sale, rental financing and advertising of almost all housing in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, although we have made significant strides in combating housing discrimination, we still have a long way to go. It is illegal, immoral and intolerable and it has no place in our present or future. During this month of observance of the 30th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, let us work together to preserve the principles of this important leg-

islation by eliminating discrimination and ensuring that all Americans are afforded the opportunity to live with dignity and pride.

TRIBUTE TO EPSILON KAPPA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Epsilon Kappa, St. John's University's Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Society which, for seventy-seven years has been promoting Hispanic culture and language in the United States. In light of the fact that we are honoring Hispanic heritage and culture, I am choosing to make this tribute in my native language Spanish.

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ submitted two paragraphs in Spanish.)

Successful organizations like this cannot promote themselves alone. They need the guidance and vision of talented leaders like Professor Marie-Lise Gazarian-Gautier, a renovated scholar in literature at St. John's University, Coordinator of the Graduate Spanish Program and Moderator of Epsilon Kappa, St. John's Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. Dr. Gazarian is affiliated with universities in Paris-France, Moscow-Russia, and Santiago the 1945 Chilean Nobel Prize Laureate. She is also author of several books, among them: "Gabriela Mistral: La maestra de Elqui." In addition, she serves as Foreign Correspondent for several literary journals abroad and has hosted a nationwide series on "Contemporary Hispanic Fiction" produced by WCBS-TV and St. John's Television Center. In 1996 she was appointed Judge of the Selection Committee for the Poet Laureate from Queens. She currently serves as Vice President for the Northeast of Sigma Delta Pi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me today in honor of the seventy-seventh anniversary of Sigma Delta Pi and the invaluable contribution its chapters are making to our Hispanic Culture and society throughout the United States. We wish Sigma Delta Pi continued success and recognize St. John's University's Chapter, Epsilon Kappa, for its outstanding work in promoting Hispanic culture in America.

FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN BELLA
ABZUG

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I came to the floor bearing the unfortunate news that former Congresswoman Bella Abzug had died. I would now like to take this opportunity to say a few words about our colleague, who affected this House and this nation deeply.

Bella Abzug was a woman ahead of her time. I am not the first to come to this conclusion, and I am certainly not the only person who will point out this fact as the world reflects on this loss. So perhaps it is fitting to go one

step further, and say: Bella Abzug was not only a woman ahead of her time. She was a woman who ushered in a new time.

I don't think it is unreasonable to say that Bella Abzug changed the way Americans think about female politicians, and for a very uncomplicated reason: she made us do so. She wasn't afraid to demand the respect she deserved, and I think maybe the perfect example of that comes from a story she told about why she started wearing her trademark hats.

"When I first became a lawyer," she said a few years ago, "only about 2 percent of the Bar was women. People would always think I was a secretary. In those days, professional women in the business world wore hats. So I started wearing hats." And as we all know, she never stopped.

But Bella Abzug didn't go into politics out of personal ambition. One of the fundamental things about her, maybe her defining element—beneath the character, beneath the voice, beneath the hats—was her tireless social conscience. She had no time for typical politicians, and even less time for politics as usual. And not only was she driven to do the right thing, but she demanded the same of everyone she came in contact with.

I remember that whenever I would talk to her, she would say to me, "Are you doing enough? Are you doing enough?" And then, occasionally, almost begrudgingly, she would say, "Well, you're doing okay." I would leave our conversation feeling as if I had received the greatest compliment one could ever receive.

That is one of my memories of Bella, and I am sure many Members of Congress have others they would like to share. That is why we will be holding a Special Order following the upcoming district work period, where I invite our colleagues with memories to share to come forward, and to give to former Representative Abzug the tribute which is surely her due.

Finally, regarding my colleague I can only conclude with this: when Bella Abzug left the House of Representatives, this chamber became a poorer place. Likewise, yesterday the world became a poorer place, though all of us are richer for having experienced Bella's presence.

REFORMING BILINGUAL
EDUCATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to reform the federal bilingual education program to insure its primary focus is on teaching children English.

English is our official common and commercial language. Our goal should be that every child in America entering Kindergarten will be able to read and write English by the end of the First Grade. Other students should be expected to master English within two academic years.

Over the past few years, there has been a growing amount of evidence that bilingual education classes—those using a child's native language in instruction—are having a harmful impact on our Nation's English language

learners. While they may work for some children, other children spend years isolated in classes that do little to prepare them for future success.

I am concerned that the current federal Bilingual Education Act requires 75 percent of available funds to be used for this form of instruction. My bill would change all of this. First, it would turn the Bilingual Education Act into a formula grant to the States and allow the States to determine the method of instruction to be used by eligible entities receiving grant awards.

Of equal importance, this legislation would require that a parent must sign a consent form prior to the time a child is placed in a program using native language instruction. We are hearing more and more reports that schools are ignoring the wishes of parents regarding the participation of their children in bilingual education classes. For example, it took Erika Velasquez two years to have her son, who is fluent in both English and Spanish, removed from a class for Spanish speakers. While intentions may have been good, his elementary school was preventing her son, Tony, from mainstreaming into a regular classroom and confusing him as to what language he was to be using.

Mr. Speaker, the success of every new wave of immigrants coming to the United States in search of the American dream has always been dependent on several factors: their willingness to work hard; their ability to mainstream into society; and, most importantly, their ability to learn the English language.

It is generally easier to help adult learners because they have already completed their basic education and only need to learn English to continue their schooling or obtain a job. For children, it is a different story. If they come to our country when they are ready to enter school, they have twelve years of education before them. For these children, much of their ability to succeed in school is dependent on their ability to read, write, speak, and think in English. However, as I mentioned earlier, many children are not learning English.

Are these children being taught English? Yes, but, unfortunately, English language instruction is limited and they end up spending far too many years in classes which preserve their native language to the detriment of learning English. This prevents them from mainstreaming into society, from communicating with their peers and from learning the skills they need to be successful once they leave school.

Proponents of bilingual education will claim this form of instruction is necessary to keep children current in their other academic classes while learning English so they don't fall too far behind and end up dropping out. However, statistics reveal that nationally over one-third of Hispanic students do not complete high school. This figure jumps to 50 percent in my own State of California. Simply, these programs are failing to give children the skills they need to stay in school and succeed. And our children deserve better.

The parents of these children did not bring them to our country to be relegated to low paying jobs. They brought them here to have the same opportunity for success as all other children. They want for their children the opportunity for them to become doctors, lawyers, teachers or whatever else they want to be.

It is my view that the major focus of any class for limited English speaking children should be the attainment of the English language skills they need to mainstream into regular classrooms as soon as possible. While bilingual education may work for some children, it has not proven itself to be the most effective solution for all children.

It is time that we allow States and local schools and parents the right to select the method of English language instruction most appropriate for their children. This legislation will accomplish this goal.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, I intend to make this legislation a priority. I urge my colleagues to support my bill—the English Language Fluency Act—and insure that all English language learners obtain the skills they need to succeed.

H.R. 3636, THE AFRICA SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF 1998

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman BEREUTER and I are introducing in the House legislation to advance agricultural and rural development in Africa.

As President Clinton continues his historic trip through Africa, it is especially fitting that this legislation be introduced, because it will help make good on the promise of closer ties between the United States and the people of Africa.

Rural and agricultural markets are vital to African trade and economic development. If we are serious about improving the economic position of Africa in global markets, we must encourage women and small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs to be the engine of growth. I commend my friend, DOUG BEREUTER, for his hard-work and leadership on this legislation, which takes an important step forward in encouraging and strengthening those vital resources.

WHY IT MATTERS

While the Congress and the Administration are right to focus on African trade and investment, many African countries are not yet ready to graduate from aid recipient to trading partner. The poorest countries in Africa still need substantial foreign assistance and debt relief to accomplish things that increased trade and investment will not address.

Chief among these is combating hunger.

Over the last 30 years, the number of undernourished people in Africa has more than doubled, to around 215 million today.

Hunger causes profound—and needless—human suffering. It also undermines the development of human and physical capital necessary to fuel economic development and break the cycle of poverty.

The spread of democracy, the availability of advanced agricultural technology, and the emergence of robust voluntary and civic organizations throughout Africa present us, today, with an opportunity to significantly reduce hunger and poverty in Africa. By carefully targeting U.S. assistance on agriculture and rural development, H.R. 3636 will allow us to harness this opportunity.

WHAT IT DOES

H.R. 3636 will advance rural and agricultural development in Africa by directing the Administration to place a higher priority on these areas in its assistance policy toward Africa, and by improving existing programs to combat hunger and ensure that Africa's food supply is secure.

This bill does not call for increased U.S. spending although I believe the Congress should support higher aid levels for Africa. By carefully targeting aid programs already in place, and by fine-tuning the way they are administered, this bill will allow the U.S. to get the most out of its development programs.

RURAL FINANCE

First, this bill would take several steps to increase U.S. support for rural finance in Africa, by requiring U.S. AID to:

Develop a micro-enterprise strategy for Africa;

Place a high-priority on providing credit and micro-credit to small-scale farmers—especially women, who produce up to 80 percent of the total food supply in Africa; and

Support producer marketing associations and enhance the capacity and expertise of African business associations by: Using available assistance programs; cooperating with U.S. and local NGOs; and facilitating partnerships between U.S. and African businesses and cooperatives.

This bill also urges U.S. support for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which provides loans for famine relief. And, it encourages OPIC to work with U.S. AID to support agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa through available funds, loans and insurance.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Second, this bill would make U.S. efforts in Africa more effective by increasing program coordination.

It directs AID and the Department of Agriculture to develop a plan for coordinating international and national agricultural centers, research, and extension efforts with two goals in mind: To ensure that research responds to the needs of African farmers; and to support farmers' self-reliance by specifically targeting their agricultural skills.

The bill also expresses the sense of Congress that U.S. AID devote increased resources and staff to agriculture and rural development.

Well-coordinated policies that are more responsive to the needs of the people we are trying to assist will maximize the impact of U.S. assistance without increasing funding levels.

FOOD SECURITY

Third, this bill will bolster the existing Africa Food Security Initiative, which supplies government-to-government food aid to combat hunger and promote economic development.

Currently, this Initiative receives \$31 million in funding from AID. To maximize the efficiency of current programs, H.R. 3636 directs AID to: Target its resources where they are most needed—on programs and projects that focus on infants, young children, women, and the rural poor; consult with and consider the views of the people these programs are trying to help; and ensure that programs are conducted by U.S. and African NGOs, to increase accountability and long-term sustainability.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Finally, this bill will reform the Food Security Commodity Reserve to increase its long-term

viability. The Reserve was created to meet urgent humanitarian food needs in developing countries. Commodities in the Reserve—such as wheat, corn, sorghum, and rice—can be released when domestic supplies are tight, or to meet unanticipated emergency needs in developing countries.

The problem with the Reserve today is the manner in which it is replenished. When commodities are released, the Commodity Credit Corporation, which administers the Reserve, is reimbursed for the value of the commodities from PL-480 food assistance program funds. These funds cannot be used to replenish the Reserve.

The Reserve can only be replenished either with an appropriation, or by designating Commodity Credit stocks for the Reserve. Neither of these is a viable option—Congress has never made an appropriation to replenish the Reserve, and the Commodity Credit Corporation does not hold excess stock.

This bill would convert the Reserve into the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, which could hold as a commodity either food, or an equivalent amount in funds. It creates two alternative mechanisms for replenishing the Reserve, in addition to the current option of replenishing by appropriation.

First, the bill gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to hold PL-480 funds—used to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation—as an asset of the Trust. This would allow the Reserve to buy commodities when domestic market prices are favorable.

Second, the Trust could be replenished from unexpended balances at the end of the fiscal year—from both the PL-480 account and the Commodity Credit account. Commodity Credit balances that are already obligated would not be available nor would balances be drawn down from export promotion programs.

Allowing the Reserve to be replenished from these additional sources permits the Reserve to operate more efficiently and increases our ability to respond to humanitarian crises.

WHO SUPPORTS IT

This bill is the result of bipartisan cooperation. Humanitarian groups—such as Bread for the World and the Coalition for Food Aid—must be commended for their serious commitment and valuable suggestions to this bill. We have also consulted with the Administration on the bill. These efforts have been undertaken to ensure that this bill reaches its goal of advancing agricultural and rural development and reducing famine.

I look forward to continuing to work on this bill with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I intend to work with the Administration to try to accommodate their concerns as we move forward.

CONCLUSION

Without increasing U.S. spending, this bill will maximize our current efforts to protect and develop the vital human and physical resources that are necessary to drive economic prosperity in Africa. By making U.S. programs more effective and sustainable, it will ensure that the United States continues to be constructively engaged with the people of Africa.

H.R. 3636 will bring Congress and the Administration closer to our shared goal of creating a U.S. policy toward Africa that is no longer dominated by crises, but that is driven by a long-term commitment to development and economic partnership.

PREVENTING CONVEYANCE OF VETERANS MEMORIALS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bill that would preserve the sacred monuments to our fallen soldiers. This legislation would prevent the conveyance of any veterans memorial, or any part of any memorial, to a foreign government without the express consent of Congress. This has become an issue in recent months with the Bells of Balangiga, part of a veterans memorial at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in my home State of Wyoming. I strongly believe we should protect this and every other monument to the sacrifice made by our Armed Forces.

Since the founding of our Republic over 200 years ago, our brave soldiers and sailors have been called upon to defend our liberties and preserve the vital national security interests of the United States. Many have given their lives in the line of duty.

Many monuments dedicated to our veterans commemorate events that occurred abroad. As time passes, the memory of those who fought so gallantly in the service of our nation often fades. I believe it is absolutely essential to preserve the memory of our veterans who served their country when they were called.

In an attempt to satisfy a request from the Philippine Government, there is a movement afoot to return the bells from the monument at F.E. Warren AFB. The Philippine Government would like the bells in time for its centennial celebration of independence from Spain. However, the bells are completely unrelated to the Spanish-American War.

The bells, once used to call the faithful to worship were converted to instruments of war in 1901 when they were used to call insurgents to massacre unsuspecting American soldiers stationed in Balangiga, a village in the Philippines. Fifty-four Americans died in that attack. The twenty survivors of that brutal attack brought the bells back to Fort D.A. Russell, now F.E. Warren Air Force Base, as a memorial to their fallen comrades.

When I harbor no malice towards the people of the Philippines, I believe the United States has an obligation to protect the memory of those who fought and died for their country. The Bells of Balangiga should not be simply dealt away in the conduct of foreign policy. This war memorial represents the blood and sweat invested by America to bring about an independent Philippines. I hope my colleagues will join me in prohibiting the conveyance of the Bells of Balangiga or any other veterans monument to a foreign government.

THE OLDER WOMEN'S PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Hargraves had nine children, 23 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Helen

Hargrave was 71, her husband, 83. Last Memorial Day, Charles Hargrave became violently angry. He pushed her to the ground, then shot and killed her before turning the gun on himself. Unfortunately, Helen Hargrave is not alone.

Older people are victimized by different types of abuse, including psychological, financial, physical abuse and neglect. And there is a significant population of older people who are abused by adult children or care givers. The number of reports of elder abuse in the United States increased by 150% between 1986 and 1996. Further, of the more than one million people aged 65 and over who are victims of abuse each year, at least two-thirds are women. And older women report more serious injuries than male victims of elder abuse.

These figures can no longer be ignored, these women can no longer be overlooked. The time has come to effectively and comprehensively address the issue of violence against older people. We must provide professionals with the skills needed to identify the problem, support for those who are too frightened or demoralized to ask for help, and protection for those who are vulnerable.

In an effort to confront this complex issue, Congressman MIKE CASTLE and I have introduced the "Older Women's Protection from Violence Act of 1998." This legislation will help protect older people from elder abuse, including domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as institutional and community violence. This legislation will also encourage existing outreach efforts and other services to better assist older people victimized by such crimes.

Older women often experience such violence differently than their younger counterparts. For example, it is more difficult for an older woman to do something about an abusive relationship. She has fewer options than a younger woman, and usually is more dependent on her husband's medical coverage as well as his income. And like many women her age, she is unlikely to have a career or pension of her own on which to rely. Older women have reported being pushed, hit, and even shoved down flights of stairs, suffering fractures, dislocated joints, and deep muscle bruises that take weeks to heal. Further, domestic violence can be exacerbated by age-related conditions or circumstances, including retirement, failing health, financial pressures, and changing patterns of dependency in relationships.

Several potential scenarios of older abused women exist. Some women have been in violent relationships for 30, 40, even 50 years. Others are starting new relationships following a divorce or the death of spouse, while some older battered women have been in non-violent relationships for many years with abuse starting later in life.

Experts have found that service providers in the field of domestic violence often lack critical experience and skills in working with elderly clients. Most shelters for abused women are not equipped to deal with older women who may have physical limitations or health problems. Similarly, service providers in the field of elder abuse have also had difficulties in working with older battered women because their approaches often do not address the root causes of such violence.

Some of the key issues addressed in the "Older Women's Protection from Violence Act" include: domestic violence services and outreach programs to address the specific needs

of older victims; community-based intervention and prevention programs; reauthorization of ombudsman programs and the elder abuse prevention program under the Older Americans Act; measures to protect older people from financial and material exploitation; preferences given to health profession educational programs which require students to receive significant training in treatment issues related to elder abuse, including domestic violence and sexual assault; development of curricula for social workers, health care providers and law enforcement; legal assistance for victims of elder abuse through law school clinical programs; and research about the sexual abuse of older women.

Not even the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) specifically addresses the specific concerns of older women. This bill, however, has been included in VAWA II—introduced earlier this month—to address that oversight. These efforts are vital if we are to adequately respond to the unique health, housing and legal needs of older women. Older women who just want to have a peaceful life. Older women just like Helen Hargrave.

AFRICA: SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF
1998

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this evening, the distinguished gentleman from Indiana, the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee (Mr. HAMILTON) and this Member are introducing legislation that focuses on improving agricultural efficiency in Africa. This legislation is an important compliment to our goal for an invigorated trade strategy with Africa. Several weeks ago the House of Representatives passed, with this Member's support, the African Trade Growth and Opportunities Act and took the very important step toward greater trade with a continent in desperate need of private-sector led economic growth.

By focusing on sustainable agriculture, research, rural finance, and food security, our legislation is directly aimed at helping the 76% of the Sub-Saharan African people who are small farmers. Improving the efficiency of these farmers is crucial to ensuring that our overall trade strategy is successful. As a long-time supporter of aid to Africa through the Development Fund for Africa and other mecha-

nisms, I believe this legislation—in conjunction with our new trade initiatives—helps coordinate and focus America's resources on both trade and aid in Africa.

If trade is to prosper in Sub-Saharan Africa, we need to better direct our scarce aid resources so that they stimulate private sector investment or help ease the suffering in those places either overlooked by the private sector or suffering from disasters. Our legislation attempts to refine our assistance programs for Sub-Saharan Africa and ensure that agriculture and rural development are not neglected. For example, we believe that the microenterprise program and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation are two excellent tools to help remedy rural finance and investment shortcomings. Moreover, we believe our international agricultural research programs can be better coordinated with our domestic agricultural research to benefit farmers in Africa as well as the United States. And, our food assistance programs need to be re-focused on long-term development assistance and not be evaluated on the basis of short-term or immediate results that are anathema to their original purpose.

This Member is especially pleased that this legislation seeks to replenish the Food Security Commodity Reserve and appropriately rename it the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust. The late, distinguished gentleman from Missouri worked tirelessly to ensure that the United States provided humanitarian assistance to those most in need throughout the world. By providing a mechanism to replenish the commodity reserve in times of low agricultural prices, this legislation continues that legacy by ensuring that a reserve for humanitarian purposes will exist when prices are high.

In conclusion, this Member would like to commend Bread for the World for its relentless efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition throughout the world. This Africa: Seeds of Hope Campaign and our legislation combine to form one more initiative in a long history of successful campaigns by Bread for the World.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLELLA
FAMILY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay trib-

ute to an old and trusted family from Riverhead, Long Island as they close the family business that has lovingly served the community for the past four decades.

This week, my good friend Vincent Villella, announced he is closing the family-owned shoe store that his father Gregory opened more than 42 years ago on Main Street in Riverhead, Long Island. Generations of Long Islanders who live around this friendly, tight-knit East End community know the Villella family as more than shoe store proprietors, but as truly part of their extended family. Like other family traditions, parents still take their children to Villella's to buy their new shoes, just as their parents did with them.

As the son of parents who operated a business in downtown Riverhead for years, when I learned the Villella Shoes was going out of business, it truly saddened my heart. An 82-year-old, second-generation shoemaker, Gregory Villella opened his shop in the late 1950s, when downtown Riverhead was a bustling commercial district. Main Street was the place when every family in the community came to buy their shoes, get their haircuts and do their grocery shopping. I can vividly recall memories of my own mother taking me into Villella Shoes to buy a new pair of shoes for school or church.

Like many other mom-and-pop businesses across America, Villella Shoes has been hurt by a changing retail market, as more people do their shopping at the mall or big discount department stores. Though we may welcome the benefits competition brings the consumer, our communities are worse off when we lose good friends and neighbors like Villella Shoes.

Main Street, Riverhead is currently undergoing an economic revival, led by exciting plans to build a waterfront aquarium and to create a downtown arts district that will draw some of the millions in tourist dollars flowing to the East End. Thank to the good work of new Riverhead Town Supervisor Vincent Villella and the tenacity of local residents who refuse to let their downtown die, the glory days of Riverhead are no longer part of its history, but rather an exciting new part of a glorious future.

Nonetheless, Riverhead will lose a piece of its heart and soul when Villella Shoes, departs and each of us who care deeply about this community will miss it. Thankfully, the Villella family will still be here with us as we work to restore and revitalize downtown Riverhead. We have been blessed to have them as part of the East End, Long Island family for the past 42 years