

there is some accountability for the mess, there will be more horror stories somewhere down the road. I guarantee it.

Mr. President, the only way to stop these kinds of waste procurement practices is with accountability. Some heads should roll at the Pentagon. Those responsible for the policies governing spare parts purchases should be identified and disciplined.

I wrote to Secretary of Defense Cohen on March 20th, asking him to consider the need for accountability in the latest round of spare parts horror stories. I am still waiting for a response.

This amendment sends a message over to the Pentagon. It's only a message but a very important message: This kind of waste must be brought to a screeching halt. We must find a way to fix it for good.

And it sets the stage for the debate over the Defense Reform Initiative that will take place later this year. That measure will be considered when we take up the defense authorization bill for FY 1999. I am hoping there will be some specific proposals offered—at that time—to bring some lasting reform to the way DOD buys spare parts.

Again, Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague from Georgia for sending the right message to the Pentagon.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY
II UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, several days ago, our colleague in the other body, Representative JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II, announced his retirement after 12 years of service. Representative KENNEDY has been a tremendous advocate on behalf of the nation's working families, and I want to take this opportunity to say a few words about my friend from Massachusetts.

JOE KENNEDY has brought an uncommon enthusiasm and an intensity to his work here in the Congress. As a member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, he mastered the arcane details of banking, insurance, securities, and housing law to achieve great success in reforming our nation's financial institutions to be more responsive to the needs of working families.

In 1989, he authored amendments to the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the Community Reinvestment Act. These amendments have been responsible for leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars in credit to help people of modest means purchase a home.

As the Chairman of the former Subcommittee on Consumer Credit and Insurance, he worked on legislation to reform the Fair Credit Reporting Act, so that consumers will be better protected from unwarranted uses of their most private financial information and will have a greater ability to safeguard the

confidentiality and accuracy of that information.

More recently, as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, he has continued to champion affordable housing for the elderly and others on fixed incomes. Thanks to his efforts, many more Americans own a home and have a decent, affordable place to live.

Congressman KENNEDY has distinguished himself in other ways, as well. He has been a consistent and articulate voice for peace and justice in places like Northern Ireland, Haiti, and the Mexican state of Chiapas. He has been a staunch supporter of civil rights for women, the disabled, and minorities. He has also worked hard to balance our nation's budget without compromising our commitment to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Prior to his election to the House, Congressman KENNEDY built a successful company that provides low-cost heating oil and other services to low and moderate income Americans. It is to that company that he will soon return.

I have no doubt that although he is leaving public office, JOE KENNEDY will continue to serve the public interest. I know I speak for many of my colleagues in wishing him and his family well in this new endeavor, and in saying that, we in the Congress will miss his vitality and vision of a more just and prosperous America.●

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL
GEORGE R. STERNER

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Vice Admiral George R. Sterner, United States Navy, who will retire on May 1st upon completing 36 years of faithful service to our nation.

During his distinguished career, Vice Admiral Sterner played a significant role in reshaping the way the Navy develops, acquires, modernizes, and maintains its ships and systems so that our Sailors and Marines have the best equipment in the world at an affordable price.

Vice Admiral Sterner's career began in 1962 upon his commissioning as an Ensign in the United States Navy. During the years that followed, he served aboard four submarines and commanded two others. His shore assignments included duty on the staff of the Commander in Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet; Branch Head for submarine tactical weapons on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations; Program Manager for the Mark 48 Advanced Capability Torpedo; and Program Executive Officer for Submarine Combat and Weapons Systems.

After serving in two senior Naval Sea Systems Command positions, Vice Admiral Sterner took charge of this organization on April 25, 1994. As Commander of the largest of the five Navy Systems Commands, Vice Admiral Sterner re-energized an agency in turmoil as a result the largest restructur-

ing since World War II. Managing a budget of approximately \$14 billion annually and managing more than 180 acquisition programs, he has been a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars while insuring that we have technically-superb, world-class naval fleet.

As a testament to his dynamic leadership, the National Performance Review chose to honor him and his command with 27 Hammer Awards for contributions to create a government that works better and costs less.

Closer to home, Vice Admiral Sterner has been a friend to the dedicated men and women who works at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Thanks in part to his vision, the Shipyard retains its important military-industrial capabilities and continues to provide critical jobs for the region.

Vice Admiral George Sterner's innovation has positioned the Naval Sea Systems Command for the 21st Century. He is an individual of uncommon character and his professionalism will be sincerely missed. I am proud, Mr. President, to thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and to wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he closes his distinguished military career.●

NATIONAL POW RECOGNITION DAY

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, April 9 is National POW Recognition Day, and I rise today to pay tribute to all those U.S. service persons who guarded their country in past wars, who have been listed as POWs or MIA, and to their families. I especially want to pay tribute to Col. Richard A. Walsh III, an Air force pilot from Minnesota listed as missing-in-action in Laos. We must never forget Richard and the other MIAs for their courageous service and sacrifices. In addition, we must never forget the sacrifices made by their families.

That is why I also want to recognize Richard's wife and a constituent of mine, Ms. Sharon Walsh. As the executive director of the Minnesota League of POW/MIA Families, Sharon has worked hard over the years on behalf of our POW/MIAs and their families, and I commend her. I can't imagine how difficult and painful it has been for Sharon and her family not knowing exactly what happened to Richard in Southeast Asia.

Ms. Walsh asked me to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a document outlining some of her concerns and questions regarding the issue of satellite imagery and American POW/MIAs during the war in Southeast Asia. She, along with a small group of my constituents, are frustrated with certain federal agencies, including the Department of Defense. These agencies are responsible for maintaining and publicly disclosing information about reported U.S. satellite imagery of possible pilot distress symbols, associated with American service personnel who are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.