

and provides special funding for three important initiatives in our region. First, the bill includes \$40 million for the Ohio River Major Investment Study (ORMIS) project, which will entail construction of two new bridges in the greater Louisville area as well as building Spaghetti Junction in downtown Louisville. The funding will enable Indiana and Kentucky, working jointly on the project, to complete required design work on the project and begin acquisition of right-of-way.

Second, the highway bill includes \$600,000 for continued design work on the U.S. 231 project in Spencer County. This project involves the construction of a new four-lane highway linking I-64 in Indiana with the Natcher Bridge and the Kentucky Parkway system to the south. Indiana has completed initial environmental work on the project, and aims to move to construction by 2001.

Third, the highway measure includes at least \$27 million for continued work on the I-69 project, which will connect Indianapolis to Evansville. The new highway promises to bring growth and development to the southwestern portion of the state and to provide the Evansville area with a critical link to Indiana's interstate system.

ASSESSMENT

I believe the highway bill takes an important step in meeting our crucial transportation needs in Indiana and throughout the nation. One recent study pegged the cost of bringing our nation's transportation system into top condition at \$437 billion, including \$80 billion to repair the one of every three bridges in the nation that is structurally deficient. This measure will help us start to address these critical problems.

I am especially pleased that the highway bill achieves a more equitable distribution of revenues from the gas tax, thus sending more resources back to the states and increasing the flexibility of state and local governments to meet their most pressing transportation needs. The Indiana congressional delegation has worked in a bi-partisan fashion over the years to address this problem, and these efforts have now paid off.

Investment in our infrastructure is vital to maintaining the high quality of life Hoosiers and all Americans have come to expect. An excellent highway system will make our economy more productive and more competitive. The highway bill recently approved by Congress serves those important goals.

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 404. I also take the floor to call on my colleagues to do more than simply commend the Philippine people on this historic occasion. I also ask that we pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act—House bill 836—this year.

House bill 836 does more than offer cursory thank yous to the thousands of Filipino veterans who fought with us during World War Two. This bill provides the real compensation and veterans benefits that our government promised to these brave veterans in 1946.

100 years ago the people of the Philippines won their independence from Spain. Since

that time, the Philippines has remained one of our nation's closest allies in Southeastern Asia. I commend the people of the Philippines for reaching this important milestone.

The resolution before us today thanks the people of the Philippines for fighting on our side during the Second World War, Korea and Vietnam. Indeed, thousands of Filipinos died fighting for the freedoms that both our peoples now enjoy.

At the terrible battles of Bataan and Corregidor, Filipino soldiers defended the American flag. They fought side by side with boys from Chicago, the plains of Kansas and other small towns and cities in America. They also suffered the brutality and inhumane treatment that the Japanese army inflicted on allied troops throughout 1941.

These are historical facts that we recognized in resolutions passed in both chambers of Congress last year.

Yet today, as we move to recognize our close ties to the people of the Philippines, we sadly fail to honor the real debts we owe to these Filipino veterans who helped us keep the world free.

It has been more than a half century since Congress rescinded veterans benefits to members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Special Philippines Scouts. This is a half century too long. So today, as we commemorate 100 years of relations between the United States and the Philippines, I ask that we correct the injustices of the past by committing ourselves to greater action for Filipino veterans in the future.

Let us pass House Resolution 404 today and let us pass House bill 836, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, later this session.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIARD (BILL) LINEWEAVER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor J. Williard Lineweaver, better known in his community as Bill, who recently retired as Mayor of the Town of Warrenton, Virginia, after 39 years of public service. Bill's dedication to the community has resulted in the preservation of Warrenton's small-town charm, and there is little doubt that his legacy will continue for many generations to come.

Bill has served the Town of Warrenton as an elected official since 1955 and became Mayor in 1974. Born in Rockingham County, "the Mayor" moved to The Plains/Middleburg area in 1929 and graduated from Marshall High School in 1939. He is a former president of the Virginia Municipal League, an organization which represents local governments before the General Assembly. Bill has also served as moderator of a televised debate for the United States Senate and as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council. Currently, he is serving on the Vint Hill Economic Development Authority, the Fauquier County Airport Committee, and as a member of a number of other town groups.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said that "The first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight." Bill Lineweaver is a

man who has pulled many times his weight for nearly four decades. Those of us who have had the privilege to know him and work with him over the years know that he exemplifies what a good public servant should be.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Bill Lineweaver for his work and commitment. He will always be "the Mayor" in the hearts of the citizens of Warrenton.

RECRUITING SKILLED TECHNOLOGY WORKERS

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce new legislation that will help cure a problem that is widespread across our nation. I speak of the difficulties that American businesses are faced with in recruiting skilled, information technology (IT) workers. In my district of Omaha, Nebraska, we recently lost a company due to the fact that they could not recruit enough information technology workers to fill key positions.

As the turn of the century quickly approaches and technology throughout the world continues to progress at a rapid pace, the need for skilled, information technology workers grows as well. A study released by the Department of Commerce, entitled "America's New Deficit: The Shortage of Information Technology Workers," made light of the desperate need for new information technology workers. As a result of this report, the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) released a study conducted by Virginia Tech—"Help Wanted 1998: A Call for Collaborative Action for the New Millennium." This study estimated that 346,000 information technology positions were currently vacant in three core information technology occupational clusters (programmers, systems analysts, and computer scientists/engineers). In addition, there were 129,000 vacancies in 5,874 information technology companies and 217,000 vacancies in 97,733 noninformation technology corporations with more than 100 employees. Moreover, the need for information technology workers will only get worse as technology continues to progress while the pool of skilled workers continues to decrease.

In response to these concerns, I would like to introduce legislation today that would create a tax credit for employers who provide technological training for their employees. I am confident that this legislation will encourage employers to make an investment in the future of their employees and our nation.

The credit would be an amount equal to 20 percent of information technology training program expenses; however, not to exceed \$6,000 per trainee in a taxable year. The value of the credit would increase by 5 percentage points if the IT training program is operated in an empowerment zone or enterprise community, in a school district in which at least 50 percent of the students in the district participate in the school lunch program, or in an area designated as a disaster zone by the President or Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying that I encourage all members of this chamber to consider cosponsoring this piece of legislation