Running the largest wing in AMC is a daunting task, Brig. Gen. Williams made an incredible contribution to the defense of the Nation. He maintained the highest operations tempo in AMC, with over 600 departures per month. He also had the highest command departure reliability rates for the two major weapon systems based at Travis—the C–5 at 83%, and the KC–10 at over 94%. This was accomplished, while facing a serious management challenge concerning pilot manning. The Travis Team flying units lost more than a third of their pilot manning in a matter of 18 months.

Under Brigadier General Williams tenure, Travis led participation in Southern Watch, Joint Endeavor, Deny Flight, Desert Strike, Guardian Assistance, Joint Guard, Decisive Endeavor, AEF 97–2, AEF 97–3, Deep Freeze, Centrazbat, Phoenix Scorpion I & II. Stellar performance on all South West Asia contingencies and Air Expeditionary Force deployments earned Travis an unprecedented AMC/CC full ORI credit in 1998.

Brigadier General Williams led the Travis Team to 14 trophy wins during Phoenix Rodeo international air mobility competition, including ''Best C–5 Wing'' and ''Best Airland Wing;'' an ''Excellent'' Nuclear Surety Inspection; 15 AF Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Visit ''best seen.''

I am pleased and privileged to have worked with this outstanding officer. I consider him a friend. As he heads to Scott AFB to become Director of Plans and Programs at Headquarters, Air Mobility Command, I wish him and his wife, Mary Ann, a successful assignment and a THANK YOU for a job well-done.

TRIBUTE TO FLOOD VICTIMS OF LAWRENCE COUNTY, TN

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my thoughts and prayers out to the citizens of Lawrence County in my district in Tennessee.

On Monday evening, a strong storm dumped four inches of rain on the County within an hour, which set off a devastating flash flood which killed at least two people and left an estimated 15,000 people in Lawrenceburg and the outlying areas without drinking water and sewage service. As of Wednesday morning, two people are still missing, and 123 homes were damaged or destroyed by the flood.

I went to Lawrence Country yesterday afternoon to meet with local officials, survey the damage and offer any help I could. I'm hopeful that federal disaster aid will be approved, and I urge my colleagues to support our cleanup effort any way they can.

Unfortunately, my emergency trip to Lawrence Country prevented me from being present for floor votes in the House of Representatives on Tuesday night. I regret not being able to be in Washington for those votes, but when there is an emergency or disaster in my district which affect my constituents, that's where my responsibilities lie.

I want to close by once again sending my prayers out to everybody who has had their lives affected by the horrible flood. Hard times bring out the best in people and communities, and I know Lawrence County is already pulling together to get back on its feet as soon as possible.

RECONCILIATION IN GUYANA

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, in December 1997, the people of Guyana, exercising their strong support for democracy went to the polls to vote for a new President. In numbers reportedly as high as 88 percent of the electorate they cast their votes and elected the candidate of the People's Progressive Party/Civic or PPP. This election which was observed by representatives of the international community, including Americans, was judged to be free and fair. Despite the transparency of the overall election, there were some problems involving the counting of certain ballot boxes. As a result, the newly elected government of Guyana asked the nations of CARICOM to conduct an impartial audit to determine if the alleged irregularities in the vote count were of a fraudulent nature as to cast doubt on the outcome of the election.

Recognizing the extremely important process of democracy of Guyana, as demonstrated by the election, the House International Relations Committee marked-up and adopted a Resolution introduced by our Colleague from New Jersey, DONALD PAYNE. This resolution congratulated the people of Guyana for their strong expression of support for democracy, expressed support for the CARICOM audit, called on both the PPP and the People's National Congress (PNC) to abide by the outcome of that audit and to commit to peace and stability in the post-election period. Subsequently, the House overwhelmingly passed this resolution.

On June 2, the CARICOM audit was completed and declared that the recount of the more than 400,000 ballots cast, varied only slightly from the original results. Thus, the election of President Jagan was determined to be fair.

Today, however, Guyana is in the midst of a civil disobedience campaign led by the supporters of the opposition PNC. Despite the fact that PNC Presidential candidate Desmond Hoyte said that he accepted the results of the audit, he has stated that acceptance did not mean that his party accepted Mrs. Jagan as President. Fair enough. But ever since, Mr. Hoyte and his followers have been engaged in a systematic anti-government movement which has employed violent mob protests, arson and physical assaults on representatives of the government, the PPP, and even the press to vent their frustration at their electoral loss. Unfortunately, these actions are close to constituting a direct threat to democracy in Guyana.

Mr. Speaker, the feuding parties in Guyana must stop the violence, accusations and name-calling and must begin a period of reconciliation for the stability of the nation and the good of the people. The opposition leader, Mr. Hoyte should accept his electoral defeat, publicly call for an end to the mob violence and assume the role of opposition leader in the halls of the political arena rather than in the streets. The PNC members of the Guyana National Assembly who have refused to take their seats and allow the business of the country to go forward should assume their democratic responsibilities and make their case through the legislative process. For her part, President Jagan should appoint, in consultation with the opposition, the Constitutional Reform Commission called for in the Herdmanston agreement of January, 1998. This Commission should consist of representatives of all political parties and a broad range of citizens which would review the major issues of disagreement, disparity and discrimination within the country and which would make recommendations to the National Assembly for action. And finally, the leaders of the PPP and PNC in the Assembly should appoint a joint committee of their own to establish a dialogue on the major issues the country needs to address with respect to political and economic reform and then to work with each other through the legislative process to enact necessary changes.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, democracy in Guyana must prevail and must grow stronger. In any truly democratic society, there are those who win elections and those who lose and the losers must peacefully respect the wishes of the electorate, however distasteful, and take up their role of the opposition in a statesmen-like manner and work with the government to provide a more stable, strong and prosperous nation for all the people.

Reconciliation must happen now so that Guyana can move forward in the true sense of a free and democratic nation.

RECOGNITION OF UPPER SANDUSKY, OH, SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the community of Upper Sandusky which celebrated its sesquicentennial. This celebration is a time to reflect on the attributes which have made Upper Sandusky the strong city it is today, while focusing on the stepping stones of the future to ensure continued growth and prosperity.

What officially became known as Upper Sandusky in July, 1848, was once an area occupied by the Wyandott Indians. This location was attractive to the pioneers that arrived after the Wyandotts moved Westward because it offered fertile land and all the opportunities of starting a new life without traveling to the new frontier out west.

While keeping up with the expansion of the village, the early leaders and citizens of Upper Sandusky began to build churches, schools, libraries, a courthouse, and a post office. Furthermore, railroads, bridges, roads, and a phone system were all in place by the mid 1850's which aided the rapid development of the area. Following this pattern of growth, Upper Sandusky was the first village in Wyandot County to be granted a city charter in 1966.

Contributing to the vitality of Upper Sandusky was the early establishment of an industrial base. While the surrounding area was

ideal for agriculture, the village also had brickmakers, steam pump works, cabinet making, and saw mills, just to name a few. Today, Upper Sandusky continues its tradition of being a rich agricultural and industrial center.

Even more important than the growth of commerce has been Upper Sandusky's tradition of community based values. Much of this can be attributed to early German Irish immigrants to the area who trusted in God and esteemed ones family. I know the positive effects of a small town that values each of its citizens. There is a feeling of security and reassurance that comes from calling your community your home; a place where your neighbors, classmates, coworkers are not only your friends, but become an extension of your family. Continuing to develop in an enriching environment, I have no doubt that Upper Sandusky will prosper for another 150 years.

CONGRATULATING THE BUEHLER CHALLENGER AND SCIENCE CENTER

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the Buehler Challenger and Science Center in Paramus, New Jersey. This is a highly educational facility that provides excellent hands-on learning opportunities for thousands of young people. It is a wonderful example of how to make learning fun!

The Buehler Challenger and Science Center was dedicated September 6, 1994. It is a mockup of the NASA space shuttle and its control centers and allows students who dream of the stars to come as close to space flight as they can without leaving the ground. In the process, it teaches a myriad of lessons about science, math, thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and self-confidence.

The center is named for Emil Buehler, an aviation pioneer whose experience ranged from the biplanes and dogfights of World War I to the beginnings of the shuttle program before his death in 1983.

This center presents the young people of New Jersey with a taste of the many challenges in science and technology that await them as we enter the 21st Century. The children who visit this center will see advances in science and technology during their lifetimes we cannot begin to imagine. Our children are our future and this center helps ensure their future is a bright one.

Students who have taken the Buehler center's ''fantastic voyage'' are transported into a whole new world. And, like astronauts returning from space, they bring back with them invaluable knowledge about themselves and the world around them. This knowledge will help them aim for the stars as they pursue new heights in math, science and technology.

Inspiring children through facilities such as this is essential to initiate and maintain interest in technology among our young people to enable them to meet the demands of citizens will face in the next century. This is essential to maintain our position in the global economy of the future.

Unfortunately, but true, many children decide as early as elementary school that they have no interest in science. Too many believe they can't ''do'' science or that math is ''too hard.'' The result, according to some estimates, is that America will have a shortage of half a million chemists, biologists, physicists and engineers by the year 2000. The Challenger Center is helping reverse that trend. Fortunately, these same students are fascinated by space subjects, especially astronauts. This unique, hands-on experience can raise students' expectations of success, foster in them a long-term interest in math and science, and motivate them to pursue careers in these fields.

It is only natural that the Challenger Center can be a way to reach students uncertain about science. Since the inception of the space program, NASA and the nation's education system have traveled parallel paths. They share the same goals—exploration, discovery, the pursuit of new knowledge and the achievement of those goals is interdependent. NASA depends on the education system to produce a skilled and knowledgeable work force. The education community, in turn, has used the space program to motivate and encourage students to study science, engineering and technology.

If the United States is to remain at the forefront of space science and aerospace technology and research, then we must provide students with the skills they will need in a highly complex and technical workplace. The next generation of science and technology achievements can only be as good as the education and challenges we give our children in those subjects today.

The children who visit this center today could easily turn out to be the scientists of tomorrow. Who knows what discoveries they will make or new technologies they will develop? Their work could be as dramatic as the airplane was to our grandparents or the space shuttle to us.

Even for those who don't enter the world of science, this center offers an insight into the technological world around them. If we think it's vital to be computer literate today, imagine the skills that will be required in another generation.

An important aspect of this challenge to learn is that some believe the United States is no longer challenged. With the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, we no longer have the type of outside challenge that pushed us to the moon. Remember, it was the insult and shock of Sputnik that led President Kennedy to launch the space program.

If we are not to be challenged by another nation, we must challenge ourselves. We must make a commitment to go where no one has gone before, to explore and learn and never be satisfied that there are no challenges left to meet.

Today I'd like to challenge our young people to continue the record of meeting challenges that our nation has exhibited in the past. The Buehler Center is part of the highway to a future where the American thirst for knowledge will keep our nation the world's leader in science and technology.

THE U.S. AND PANAMA BEYOND 1999

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, over the July Fourth district work period some very disturbing and disheartening news reached us regarding negotiations between the United States and Panama as to the presence of the United States in Panama beyond 1999. And now, our State Department is about to inform the Government of Panama that talks may just be over. This could be a mistake and both sides should agree to take a time out and enter into a cooling off period.

As my colleagues know, next year, on December 31, 1999, the Panama Canal Zone will be turned over to Panamanian control and all United States forces are to withdraw from that nation. However, for over a year, the United States and the Government of Panama, largely at the suggestion of the Panamanian President, Perez Balladares, have been negotiating a compromise which would permit a limited number of U.S. military personnel to remain in Panama.

The negotiations were over the creation of a new multinational anti-narcotics center which would be located at the Howard Air Force Base. Under the agreement, which was largely completed last January, some 2,000 U.S. military personnel would be permitted to remain in Panama to staff the center which would provide regional air surveillance, intelligence information and direct counter-narcotics assistance to nations participating in the center. At the time, there was a good deal of optimism expressed by both sides that the agreement would satisfy each nation's specific needs. Panama would see the end of U.S. control of the Canal and would gain what it considered its final and total national sovereignty. The U.S. would retain a presence in Panama while not appearing to be retaining a strictly defined military base. For the United States, the retention of a small military profile in Panama would allow us to maintain our commitment to the preservation of democracy and stability in Central America and to continue the fight against the drug trade essentially in region. For Panama, the continued presence of U.S. personnel would serve as a confidence builder for foreign investors and those concerned over the future security of the canal.

Interestingly, Panamanian public opinion seemed to favor such an agreement for largely the same reasons.

Unfortunately, and despite the initial optimism, the agreement now appears to be in serious jeopardy as both sides seem to be having difficulty deciding what it is they really want. The Government of Panama, for its part, can't seem to make up its mind as to whether it really wants a continued U.S. presence beyond 1999 or for that matter, a counter-drug center on its territory. All of this is wrapped around internal political and Presidential politics with President Perez Balladares unable to determine whether such a center helps or hurts his standing within his own political party and whether it hurts or helps his reelection chances.

The United States, for its part, cannot seem to decide whether it wants a military base or