

Mr. Speaker, I had the good fortune of working with Ben Gaeth in the Ohio Senate. From the days that Republicans were in the Minority to the time in which I served as President of the Senate, Ben Gaeth was seen as a hard working and outspoken advocate for his district. His diligent yet humble efforts made him a very well liked Senator by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I think I can speak for my colleagues in saying that it was certainly a pleasure to work with Ben Gaeth. His efforts will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that America succeeds due to the selfless acts of her sons and daughters. Whether it was on the battlefields of World War II, where he won the Purple Heart, to his days as Mayor of Defiance, to his current position in the Ohio Senate, M. Ben Gaeth has dedicated his life to service to his community, state, and country. He is a leader and a true American patriot. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Honorable M. Ben Gaeth, and in wishing him the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN
JANE HARMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of California's very distinguished and dedicated public officials, Representative JANE HARMAN. JANE is being honored as she retires from the House of Representatives after three terms of significant public service. I am proud to mark this occasion with my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives.

JANE is widely recognized for her instrumental work on behalf of women's issues in her service to California's South Bay. As a native Californian, private lawyer and legislator, JANE fought for a woman's right to reproductive choice and led investigations of sexual misconduct in the military, roles for women in combat, and access to reproductive services for military women and their dependents.

JANE's career accomplishments are many. Among the most noteworthy is her attendance at the bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, where JANE solidly voiced her support for China as an appropriate site for a healthy debate on women's issues. As an esteemed Member of the House National Security and Select Permanent Intelligence Committees, JANE was first appointed to the Congressional Conference Committee to meet on the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Reauthorization. As a conferee, JANE consistently sought to reinstate the right of military women and their dependents to have access to a full range of reproductive choices. This year JANE was again appointed as a conferee member to the Fiscal Year 1999 National Defense Reauthorization where she had the lead role on the particularly contentious debate over how to best train our military's new recruits.

JANE has unfailingly served this institution over the years. After first serving as Legislative Director to U.S. Senator John Tunney (CA), and then as Chief Counsel and Staff Director to the Senate Judiciary Committee on

Constitutional Rights, in the late 1970s, she was Deputy Secretary to the White House Cabinet and Special Counsel to the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Congresswoman JANE HARMAN. The State of California owes JANE a great deal of gratitude for her tireless efforts throughout her public service in the House of Representatives. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to JANE, her husband Sidney, and her four children, for continued success and joy in the years to come. JANE HARMAN will be missed and remembered.

TRIBUTE TO JANE HARMAN

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, JANE HARMAN, who will be leaving Congress after 6 years of distinguished service.

I had the privilege of meeting JANE when we came to Washington as part of the 103rd Congress, often referred to as "The Year of the Woman."

At that time, there was great hope and expectations about the impact the new surge of women would have on Congress and our Nation.

JANE HARMAN has not only lived up to those expectations and hopes, but she has indeed exceeded them.

Clearly, no one works harder than JANE on behalf of her constituents and for the issues in which she believes.

When an issue is important to JANE, the word "no" is simply unacceptable.

JANE personifies the term "can do." If anyone doubts JANE's vigor, one need look no further than her stellar performance on the military basic training fitness test that she passed with flying colors.

Strong and determined, intelligent and bright, she is also compassionate and caring and willing to stand up for her beliefs regardless of the consequences.

Many times I witnessed JANE vote her conscience, knowing full well it could jeopardize her next election in the politically tough district she represents so well. She once said to me before a difficult vote. "I know it's going to hurt me politically, but I've got to vote for what I believe is right or I can't live with myself." She then made the tough vote.

Since our offices were across the hall from each other, I often witnessed JANE succeeding in the balancing act of being a legislator, manager, and mother. I remember on one occasion, amidst a series of votes, JANE was on the phone counseling her daughter and helping her with her homework.

JANE is proof positive that when given the opportunity, women can meet the challenges of national leadership with intelligence, dignity, and grace.

It may surprise you, but I'm not going to say goodbye. For I am convinced we haven't seen the last of you.

In fact, I suggest that in the not too distant future, we may yet address you as Madam Governor or Madam Secretary.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for California and our Nation.

I'm proud to have served with you and proud to have you as a friend.

My best wishes are with you always.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 930, THE
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION
REFORM ACT OF 1998

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 930, the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998. This important legislation will streamline the way our Federal Government accounts for all job related transportation and travel expenses of Federal employees.

The idea of requiring the use of a Government-issued charge card for all official travel related expenses is long overdue. In December 1995, the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program [JFMIP] published a report detailing nine recommendations on improving temporary duty travel. Among these recommendations was the use of a Government charge card for all travel-related expenses. This provision creates an efficient standard for the Government to obtain the proper information needed to verify all business related charges.

By implementing such a requirement, the Government will be able to become more efficient in its operations while taking advantage of money saving charge card rebate programs. This bill is also a victory for Federal employees who currently utilize charge cards not specifically issued for Government travel.

While authorizing heads of Government agencies to hold employees responsible for being delinquent on their Federal charge card accounts, this measure clarifies the Federal Government's authority to access an employee's financial information, including accounts maintained by the Government. In order to protect an individual's privacy, this measure provides clear guidelines for accessing information relating to such charges.

In addition, the bill corrects an inadvertent tax liability imposed on Government employees during the tax years of 1993 and 1994. Since most Government agencies were not notified by the Internal Revenue Service [IRS] of a tax liability imposed on certain Federal employees created in the 1992 Energy Act until December 1993, many Federal employees became liable for taxes relating to business travel expenses. Fortunately, this bill authorizes reimbursement to employees who incurred such tax liabilities, along with interest and penalty charges for late payment.

Finally, this measure authorizes Government agencies to participate in travel pilot tests designed to save taxpayer dollars. Although this provision is limited to only 10 initial pilot programs in the areas of temporary duty and relocation travel, agencies are permitted to seek approval of the General Services Administration, along with congressional oversight, to initiate a specific pilot program. This will allow agencies to design and implement improved benefit systems to incur further savings.

Mr. Speaker, as we strive to help our Government agencies to become more efficient, we must upgrade agency management policies and practices to provide the most effective Government to our taxpayers. I believe