

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO WORK BILL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, COLLIN PETERSON of Minnesota and I introduced H.R. 5, the "Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act of 1999." This legislation will eliminate the so-called Social Security "earnings limit." Under current law, our senior citizens aged 65–69 can earn \$15,500 before they lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for each additional \$3 of earnings. This limit is unfair, discriminatory, and adversely affects our country's economy. The Social Security earnings limit must be eliminated.

The Social Security earnings limit is unfair and inappropriate because it imposes a "means" test for a retirement benefit. As we all know, our seniors have earned Social Security benefits through a lifetime of contributions to the program and they should not be penalized because they choose to work. We have a fundamental right to work in America and earn money without government intrusion.

Additionally, the Social Security earnings limit discriminates against senior citizens who must work in order to supplement their benefits and is unfair to our nation's senior citizens who have the greatest need for additional income.

It is a Depression-era law whose time has long since come and gone. In the 1930's, the earnings limit was used to force seniors out of the workforce. Today, with unemployment at record lows, seniors are needed in the workforce.

The disincentive effect is magnified when viewed on an after-tax basis. Senior citizens who work lose a large percentage of their Social Security benefits due to the Social Security earnings limit, but they must also continue to pay Social Security taxes, and probably federal and state income taxes as well. The Social Security earnings limit forces seniors to avoid work or seek lower-paying or part-time work.

In addition to being complicated and difficult for the individual senior citizen to understand, the Social Security earnings limit is complex and costly for the federal government to administer. For example, the test is responsible for more than one-half of retirement and survivor program overpayments. Elimination of the earnings limit would help minimize administration expenses, and recipients would be less confused.

Finally, repealing the Social Security earnings limit would aid our country's economy. Our senior citizens would be likely to work more and the American economy would benefit from their experience and skills. The combined increase in the amounts that they would pay in Social Security and other taxes, as well as the additional contribution to our Gross Na-

tional Product, would largely offset the increase in benefit payments. For decades, our senior citizens worked and dutifully paid their Social Security taxes; it is only fair that they receive all of the Social Security benefits when they are at the retirement age.

I fought for freedom in two wars and I believe that freedom entitles our seniors the ability to work without a penalty. America's seniors want, need and deserve the repeal of the Social Security earnings limit.

HONORING THE VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADERS OF VICTORIA, TEXAS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the winners of the National High School Cheerleading Championship sponsored by the Universal Cheerleaders Association—the Victoria High School Varsity Cheerleaders from Victoria, Texas. Under the able leadership of Denise Neel and Terese Reese, the squad of teens took the title for 1999 following an impressive history of second place in 1998, and third place in 1997. Each year, the cheerleaders set their mark higher, worked harder, trained longer, and kept their eyes on their goal. Their training and perseverance paid off when they brought the national trophy home to their school.

The cheerleaders competed against a field of 74 squads in the Medium Varsity Division to reach the national trials. There, they competed against the thirteen regional finalists, coming out on top. The VHS cheerleading team is the first Texas squad to ever win the National Championship.

In addition to their cheerleading duties which include cheering at every sporting event held by their school and a rigorous practice schedule, each of these girls must maintain a grade of at least 80 in each class. They also participate in numerous community activities, such as the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and the March of Dimes Walk America. Additionally, they worked with the elementary and middle schools during TAAS testing and Red Ribbon Week, and the Gulf Bend Mental Health-Mental Retardation during Friendship Fest.

This group of students deserve the honor they have earned. I commend each one of them:

Liz Lasater and Kendra Serold—Co-Head Cheerleaders
Natalie Cole
Leah Green
Melissa Myers
Laurie Beck
Lindy Burns
Amy Reimann
Amber Clemmons
Sara Dickson

Courtney Horecka
Haley Kolle
Amanda Rodriguez
Karla Sterne
Melissa Keefe
Chelsie Luhn
Sara Carville

I am proud to have these national champions in the 14th Congressional District of Texas, and trust all my colleagues join me in congratulating them on this impressive achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS VA CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The VA Central California Health Care System on the outstanding score received with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. This organization is dedicated to improving government health care through voluntary accreditation.

The VA Central California Health Care System, known as the VA Medical Center Fresno, received high scores on its accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO). Formed in 1951, JCAHO is dedicated to the improvement of America's public and private health care system through a process of voluntary accreditation. The accreditation serves as proof of an organization's commitment to providing quality health care on an ongoing basis. The mission of the VA Central California Health Care System is to deliver this commitment to its veteran patients.

The JCAHO scores achieved by the VA Central California Health Care System were outstanding. For its Hospital Accreditation Program (HAP) a score of 96 was given. For its Ambulatory Care service a score of 100 was obtained. The VA also scored 100 for its Alcohol and Drug treatment program. The Long Term Care program received a 99 and the Home Care program was given a 98. Special recognition was received for the Infection Control and Performance Improvement Programs and the Computerized Pharmacy Processing System. All of the scores represent great accomplishments for this health care system. The hospital staff worked together to meet the challenge, scoring above the national average.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the VA Central California Health Care System on this outstanding accomplishment. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the administration and staff of the VA Central California Health Care System congratulations on this achievement and many years of continued success.

• 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.

A GIFT OF LIFE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary little girl from my state of Illinois, Megan Dawson. Five-year old Megan is a liver recipient. An organ became available for Megan in time to give her a chance at what hopefully will be a long and active life. But everyone is not as lucky as Megan. Every two hours, one of the more than 60,000 Americans now on transplant waiting lists dies for lack of an available organ.

Megan's story should remind all of us that organ donation is the most precious gift that one human can give to another. During the first nine months of last year in my state, almost 800 residents had life-saving transplants of the kidney, liver, pancreas, intestines, lung or heart. They all received the gift of life.

Unfortunately, while the science of transplantation has made dramatic gains, the number of organ donors is not keeping pace. As a result, we have growing waiting lists. The only way to address this growing crisis is to discuss transplantation and organ donation with our families.

It shouldn't actually be all that hard a subject to bring up, because what we are really talking about is the miracle of transplantation—the miracle that gives a little girl like Megan a second chance at life. The subject for the family discussion is the wonders of modern medicine. And since we would hope that the miracle of a new chance at life through transplantation would be available to a member of our family in a time of need—and it would be, provided an organ becomes available—shouldn't we agree as a family to do the right and generous thing if the situation is ever reversed. It's really no more than that—the application of the old Golden Rule to modern medicine.

That is why I am proud to have signed on to the First Family Pledge. The First Family Pledge is a non-partisan effort sponsored by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. I encourage my colleagues and constituents to pay attention to this life-saving initiative. And on April 14th, I will be proud to participate in the First Family Pledge Congress. At that time, I and many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will greet young children from across this great nation who have received organ and tissue transplants. They are truly living examples of what it is to receive the gift of life.

TRIBUTE TO THE MISSOURI STATE
SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I ask all members of the House to join me in honoring the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (MSSDAR) as they celebrate a "Century of Service" at their 100th State Conference on March 12–14, 1999. The

century celebration will feature remembrances of ten decades of conference highlights, recognition of this year's Outstanding State History Teacher, and the presentation of scholarships and awards to exemplary Missouri students. The first state conference was held in a stately St. Louis home on November 15, 1899 with eight members in attendance.

Today, the MSSDAR, founded in 1894 in Kansas City, has over 5,500 members in 116 Chapters throughout the state dedicated to historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavor. Additionally, they play a leadership role in helping inform its members and the general public about the need for a strong national defense.

The MSSDAR is affiliated with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1896, the NSDAR is a non-profit, non-political, volunteer service organization with nearly 180,000 women in some 3,000 chapters in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Australia, Canada, France, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. The Society was founded in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 1890, and has celebrated more than 100 years of service to the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution as they celebrate their "Century of Service."

TRIBUTE TO RULON STACEY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Rulon Stacey who was named Young Health Care Executive of the Year by the American College of Health Care Executives. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Poudre Valley Hospital is not only the largest hospital in my district, it is the hub of a much larger health care system serving communities throughout eastern Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Since Mr. Stacey joined the Poudre Valley Health System in 1996, the system has grown to include Mountain Crest Orthopedic Center of the Rockies, Estes Park Medical Center, Children's Clinic, Northside Health Center, and regional trauma, heart, and neuroscience centers.

Mr. Stacey earned this award because he has worked to bring together diverse interests in the medical community into a partnership. His talents have earned him the respect of his colleagues and associates. The ultimate benefactors of his work, however, may never know his name. They are the patients and their families served by the network of care at the Poudre Valley Health System. On behalf of my constituents, I congratulate Mr. Stacey on his award and commend his work to the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS BRYANT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a teacher from my district who has received national recognition for his exemplary courage and selflessness in the face of adversity. Mr. Louis Bryant of Louisville is a social studies teacher at Ballard High School who recently accompanied a group of students to Ghana, Africa, on a cultural exchange program. During an afternoon excursion the group's bus was in a terrible accident. Mr. Bryant—the most seriously injured passenger—refused to leave his students even though he had been told that, without an immediate airlift to the United States and emergency surgery, he could lose his hand.

The U.S. Embassy in Ghana reported that Mr. Bryant ignored his own injuries and instead tried to keep his students optimistic and upbeat. He remained at the hospital in Ghana with his students until they all returned home together. Nearly 4 weeks later, Mr. Bryant still is undergoing painful surgery and rehabilitation in an effort to save his hand. Not once, however, has he expressed regret about his decision to remain with his students.

Without question, Mr. Bryant's dedication, courage, and self-sacrifice warrant the admiration of his community and this Nation. He is evidence that there are heroes among us. I heartily applaud Mr. Bryant and, once again, wish to express to him the gratitude that all members of the Louisville community feel for his heroic actions.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREE,
FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT ELEC-
TIONS IN INDONESIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 32, a resolution calling for free, fair and transparent elections in Indonesia, but also to commend the attention of my colleagues to the plight of the people of East Timor, the tiny island illegally occupied by Indonesia for over 25 years.

I have been greatly encouraged by recent demonstrations of reform in Indonesia, yet the post-Suharto government still has far to go to prove that it is serious about addressing basic human rights. Most urgent is the humanitarian crisis that continues to embroil the people of East Timor. Even as President Habibie announces that he will support independence for East Timor should its citizens reject an autonomy plan, I receive daily reports indicating a serious increase in violent actions by several armed militias, including those by the Makihit, Alfa, Saka and Mahidi. In the last two months, these groups have reportedly attacked villagers in several areas, most recently around Sua, killing civilians and precipitating a refugee crisis with over 5,000 seeking refuge on the grounds of a local church and school. Indonesian Generals have admitted to arming

these groups. In this supposed era of promise, turmoil and unrest persist.

In addition, there are reports of on-going and extreme human rights abuses on the part of the Indonesian military in the areas of West Papua, Irian Jaya, Aceh, and Ambon. The summary executions, kidnappings, arbitrary arrest, beatings and torture of civilians continue to create a climate of fear, intimidation. I believe it will be virtually impossible to hold a truly democratic election.

While I support the spirit in which H. Res. 32 was written and support its intentions wholeheartedly, Congress must take this opportunity to encourage the Clinton Administration to press the Indonesian government to address the civil and human rights issues plaguing this nation and its provinces. In addition, we must continue to call for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops, the introduction of U.N. monitors and the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners in East Timor. Without these crucial steps, Indonesia will not be on a true path to reform.

TRIBUTE TO STELIO MANFREDI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement from Lucca's Restaurant. Mr. Manfredi has been a respected member of the Madera community for many years. "After all these years, it's finally time to turn the lights out," Manfredi said.

Stelio Manfredi was already one of the most well-known men in town; a life-long Maderan, his face, and name, are among the most recognizable in the community. Manfredi was a bartender at Lucca's Restaurant for 40 years, and during that time he shot the breeze with many, many community members, and listened to the problems of so many more. He always tried to lend a sympathetic ear or give them some advice from the wisdom he's gained in his 83 years of living.

The restaurant's decision to only serve lunch prompted Manfredi's decision to step away, giving himself more time to spend with his wife of 59 years. Being friendly was always Manfredi's nature, as he worked behind the bar at Lucca's. Manfredi, known for his margaritas, will now spend more time in his garden and tending to his many trees and bushes. Leaving behind the people that he befriended will be the hardest part of retiring from the job.

Stelio and Eve Manfredi have lived in the same central Madera home for 52 years, and during that time they have nurtured their shrubs and trees to the point that it is a lush, virtual paradise. "It's therapy for me," Manfredi said of the many hours he spends outside tending to Mother Nature's creations.

Manfredi hopes to go to the Madera Center and work on his General Education Diploma (GED). Stelio and Eve have two children and six grandchildren. As they raised their family, Stelio worked as a bottling room foreman at Hueblein Winery. He also had his own bar on Gateway Drive for 16 years.

The couple has developed a deep respect and commitment for Madera as they grew up,

a feeling they continue to have to this day. Madera has grown tremendously since the early days of their childhoods, they say there will never be another place they will call home. The couple attends St. Joachim's Church and Stelio is a member of the Italo-American Club. Stelio Manfredi said he couldn't ask for more out of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement and service to the community of Madera and Lucca's Restaurant. Stelio Manfredi has been a fixture in the community for many years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Stelio and Eve Manfredi many years of continued happiness.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAY CITY GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, later this month I will attend the 40th anniversary celebration of the Bay City Girls Softball Association. The Association has a distinguished history of providing recreational opportunities to girls in Bay City, Texas.

Begun in 1959 with the fielding of the Delta Sparks by Lila Ray and Jerry Babik, currently the association serves youth ages 4 to 18. Among the honors received by the group are induction in 1975 of the Bay City VIPs led by Coach Ratliff into the National Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, and the receipt of the National Association's "Most Improved Award" in 1944.

With heroic community leaders like Jack Rice and Palmer Robbins and recent activists such as Mike Mariner, Judd Perry, J.B. Smith and Dennis Mueck the business of preparing and making available playing fields for the association has been a real community effort in Bay City.

And, with a storied history including legendary players like Patty Branagan, Diane Herreth, Carol Ray, Jeannie Mathis, Linda Babik, Diana Slliva and Connie Brooks and renowned coach Lila Ray the ladies have certainly made the most of these opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend and congratulate the Bay City Girls Softball Association and all the community activists who contribute to this association, on this the 40th Anniversary celebration of this important group.

TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY NICHOLS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my constituent, Lindsey Nichols for placing third in the 1999 Voice of Democracy contest. Lindsey is a junior at Collinsville High School in Collinsville, IL. This statewide contest was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Kahokian Memorial Post 5691 and held in Springfield, IL. I insert her entry for the RECORD:

I sat patiently while Dad attempted to reason with the sales manager over a recently

purchased, yet non-functioning, vacuum cleaner. Thirty minutes later I watched as he walked away from the counter, shaking his head in dismay and muttering, "No one believes in service anymore!"

Unfortunately, I'd heard him speak these words on other occasions—while pulling away from fast food drive-ups, standing in a long line at a single open check-out lane or listening to automated voice instructions on the phone.

So I asked, "Dad, what do you expect that you aren't getting . . . what exactly is good service?" He was ready with an answer; for he'd obviously been giving thought to this all his years as a consumer. He replied, "Excellent service is when pride is priority and there is a willingness to go beyond what is necessary, to seek no excuses and to accept responsibility for the outcome."

Wow! That was a lot to think about. For the next couple of days that's exactly what I did. I let those words roll around my head, sort of free-floating, and a funny thing happened. They triggered a memory of the voice of President John F. Kennedy saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Then, another memory, the voice of President George Bush calling for service in the form of "a thousand points of light."

Wait a minute—what was happening here? Well, my brain was telling me that what my Dad had said was tied to a bigger picture. Service to customers was merely a model for a much more important concept that we all need to act on, service to country.

However, excuses seem to get in the way of service and there are as many of them as there are people in the world. We sometimes want to do what's easy, to look for a back door, a reason not to "go the extra mile."

During W.W. II the female pilots who flew supply planes never said, "What can I do? I'm just a woman." Nor did the countless women who kept the factories producing for the war effort or the six nurses who won medals of valor for their actions in the Corregidor.

The Native American servicemen, known as the Navajo Code Talkers never said, "Why should I help? I don't owe them a thing." They didn't let racial issues get in the way when their country needed their unique abilities. The Japanese-American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team didn't either when they fought for their country even though their families were being held in internment camps.

Nine-year old Melissa Poe never said, "They can't expect anything from me, I'm just a kid." Instead she founded Kid's FACE in 1989, a national organization of youth united for a clean environment.

Instead of excuses all these people said, "I'm an American! I believe in the value of my service and in my ability to make a difference." So you see, everyone can support their country through service—regardless of race, gender, or age.

How can I let my point of light shine? School and community programs offer me opportunities for service through volunteerism. I can take part in community clean-up days, recycling efforts, holiday projects for the underprivileged, and the list goes on. I do realize, however, that as I grow what is expected of me will also grow proportionately. Will I show initiative, help my community, and be a positive example to others?

I think of the word "service" as an acronym, each of the letters representing a philosophy to guide me. "S" is for selflessness; "E" is for effort; "R" is for responsibility; "V" is for volunteerism; "I" is for initiative; "C" is for community; and "E" is for example.

So I've come to modify my dad's definition of service and I hope each day to let this

motto remind me of my duty—"Proud service to my country is a priority and I will go beyond what is necessary. I will seek no excuses and will accept responsibilities."

COLORADO NONPROFIT DAY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourth annual Colorado Nonprofit Day. Coloradans have set aside today to honor the 12,660 charitable nonprofit groups registered in our state. We are very fortunate to have these groups operating in our cities, towns, and countryside. Because of the strong spirit of volunteerism in our state, Colorado ranks 15th in the country in voluntary community participation. We exceed national levels of nonprofit participation in such areas as religion, recreation, the arts, and environmental and scientific research.

Few Coloradans have not experienced the joy, fun, succor, reprieve, shelter, guidance, or friendship from these agencies. From churches and synagogues, to boys and girls clubs, to senior associations, to charities for the poor and infirm, Colorado nonprofits provide a great benefit to our communities.

For those people serving the poor, the aged, the young, the infirm, the lost, and each of us in times of want and times of plenty, I commend the energy, compassion, and dedication of nonprofits to fellow Coloradans. I applaud them for the impact they have had on our communities and the lives they have saved and enriched through service to others. They have cared for neighbors and strangers with equal zeal. They have mended the social fabric and knitted us together. Colorado recognizes their sacrifices. Colorado's nonprofits make us proud.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HARVEY WILLIAMS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Harvey Williams of Versailles, MO, was selected by the Versailles Chamber of Commerce as the 1999 Citizen of the Year.

Williams was chosen for his various generous contributions to the community. He has been president of the Versailles Area Chamber of Commerce and served on the chamber board. He was instrumental in bringing Gates Rubber Company and Wal-Mart into Versailles.

He has been president of the Morgan County Fair Board and held several other offices while an active member of the Versailles Lions Club. He has also served on the Olde Tyme Apple Festival organizing committee, and was instrumental in incorporating the Royal Theater. He still serves on the Royal Theater Board of Directors.

Williams is a former chairman of the Morgan County Health Center Board of Directors and

has spoken on behalf of the local cancer society on cancer survival from personal experience as a cancer survivor.

Williams is Vice-President of Mercantile Bank, and he and his wife are owners of Harvest Designs in Versailles.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Mr. Williams for his well deserved award as the Versailles Chamber of Commerce's 1999 Citizen of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO MARIAN KRISTEN CHURCH OF GIRL SCOUT TROOP 395

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Cahaba Girl Scout Council in Birmingham, Alabama. She is Marian Kristen Church of Girl Scout Troop 395. She has been honored for earning the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The award can be earned by a girl aged 14 through 17 or in grades 9 through 12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout Volunteer.

As a member of the Cahaba Girl Scout Council, Marian Kristen Church began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award on August 20, 1998. She completed her project, Landscaping of Alabama Mining Museum Sign, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due her for this significant service to her community and her country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOTING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which is long overdue, requiring real accountability of the U.S. foreign military assistance program. In these tight budgetary times we must not lose sight of eliminating wasteful spending and ensuring the usefulness of all federal programs. It is well known that U.S. foreign assistance initiatives have always been among the least popular federal programs. Primarily, this is because U.S. foreign aid programs seem ineffective

and counterproductive. Members of Congress either oppose foreign assistance outright, or those who support it find themselves defending foreign aid as "serving the interests of the United States." I believe Members subscribing to either position will be interested in the "United Nations Accountability Act," which I introduced today.

The Department of State is required by the law to submit a report to Congress each year outlining voting trends in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The overall voting coincidence with the U.S. (the number of times that nations voted the same as the U.S. on all votes) is always appallingly low. In 1997, it was 46.7%—down from 49.4% in 1996 and 50.6% in 1995. Despite that, a number of nations receive foreign aid from the U.S. that clearly do not see things the way we do. It is no coincidence the world's most brutal regimes vote with the U.S. such a low percentage of the time in the U.N. Americans would be surprised to hear the U.S. often provides military aid to the very regimes which are cited for human rights violations, disregard for democracy, and disdain of free market practices.

Simply, this bill would prohibit military assistance to countries which failed to support the U.S. at least 25% of the time in the UNGA. Humanitarian aid and developmental assistance would be left intact. The House on previous occasions has approved this language as part of both authorization and appropriation bill.

I believe our message to these nations is making an impact. In just the past four years, the number of nations voting with the U.S. less than 25% of the time in the U.N. and receiving U.S. military assistance has been reduced from 43 nations to 6 and from \$187 million to \$13.4 million in military assistance. Our intent should be to encourage countries to adopt our domestic traditions and commitment to human rights.

A 25% voting coincidental is not asking too much. We are not coercing states to vote our position. However, we have right to withhold aid if we believe that the states we are currently aiding do not share our ideals and values. We should not support military assistance to oppressive regimes which consistently oppose American efforts in the U.N. General Assembly. We must ensure the money we spend on foreign assistance best serve the interests of the American taxpayer. If we cut or reform domestic programs that are not working, why not require it of our foreign aid program? Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage Members interested in accountability, reform and fiscal responsibility to cosponsor this timely and imperative initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 24 and 25 and March 4 I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed several votes.

Had I been here I would have voted: "Yes" on passage of H.R. 438; "yes" on passage of

the Journal for February 25; "yes" on passage of H.R. 514; and "yes" on passage of H.R. 707.

DON'T BLOW AWAY SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an article printed in the March edition of the Labor Party Press, and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' benefit:

"DON'T BLOW AWAY SOCIAL SECURITY"

There is no Social Security crisis. But if Democrats and Republicans get their way and privatize the system, there will be.

"It's weird," says economist Dean Baker of the Preamble Center, who has been studying and writing about Social Security reform. "We're all looking at the same numbers, and what the numbers say—even the pessimistic ones—is that we could take absolutely no action on Social Security for the next 34 years, and the program would continue to pay out all its benefits." And yet, politicians of both parties are all fluttering about the need to radically reform Social Security right away.

The picture they paint does sound grim. Mostly because people are living longer, today's workforce is supporting a greater and greater number of Social Security recipients. And the trend will probably continue. In 1995, there were nearly five people under 65 for every one person over retirement age. But by 2030, the ratio will be more like three workers for every retiree. And since Social Security is actually a pay-as-you-go system—current workers pay for current retirees—that spells trouble. (See "Social Security Basics" on page 4.) For the time being, we can supplement the shortfall by drawing from the extra pot of money the Social Security system has amassed (the Social Security Trust Fund). But then, in 2034, according to some projections, that fund will be depleted, and Social Security money will have to come from active workers alone. And, under the current formula, they would only be able to cover about 75 percent of the benefits retirees had been promised from Social Security.

President Clinton and members of Congress say "saving" Social Security is at the top of their agenda (after impeachment, of course). Many recipes have been written for rescuing Social Security. The most extreme plans involve privatization. Some people want the Social Security payroll withholding to go into our own "personal security account" that we can invest ourselves. Less radical plans would allow the Social Security Trust Fund to be invested in the stock market, where it would supposedly get a higher return than where it is invested now, in U.S. Treasury bonds.

President Clinton favors a combination of both ideas. He wants to invest part of the Social Security Fund (eventually up to 15 percent of it) in the stock market. He also proposes setting up voluntary new private accounts for middle- and low-income Americans—but outside the Social Security system.

At a time when the stock market is in the stratosphere, record numbers of Americans are investing, and the airwaves are full of experts advising the general public on how to get the best return, the idea of turning Social Security into a personal Wall Street investment portfolio is appealing to a lot of people.

But not everybody's sold on the idea. To begin with, many people question whether there even will be a Social Security shortfall. They argue that the Social Security hullabaloo is all based on some very gloomy economic projections made by Social Security trustees. In their reports, the trustees assume that over the next 75 years, the U.S. economy will grow at less than half the rate it has grown for the past 75 years. According to a report by the New York-based Century Foundation, an increase in annual economic growth of just .15 percentage points over the next 35 years would raise output by as much as the combined increase in the cost of both Social Security and Medicare. Meaning: Workers of the future may have no trouble supporting the growing ranks of the retired.

And yet, our politicians have managed to convince a majority of Americans that there really is a crisis at hand. Polls of younger Americans show that many believe they can expect little or no money from Social Security when they retire (unless, perhaps, the system is radically changed).

So who started this rush for a "solution" to the Social Security "crisis"? Follow the money. Wall Street could stand to gain \$240 billion in fees within the first 12 years of a privatized system, according to economist Christian Weller. That, he points out, is enough to give 20,000 fund managers an annual salary of \$1 million each. No wonder the financial industry has spent millions of dollars of late to promote the idea of Social Security privatization.

Economist Dean Baker believes there's a deeper motive behind the privatization push: "I think much of this is being driven by people who are just plain anti-government," he says. "And Social Security is the government's flagship social program."

It may be, says Baker, that some minor adjustments will need to be made to allow the Social Security system to continue in good health. (See the sidebar on "What We Should Do.") But privatizing the system and investing Social Security money in the stock market is not the way to go. In fact, he believes, it would take the "security" out of Social Security. Most of us would see our retirement incomes dramatically reduced.

HONORING GAIL WALLACE PETERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the distinguished career of my good friend, Chief Gail Wallace "Pete" Peterson. On March 26th, Pete will step down after 16 years as the Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety for the City of Ceres and retire after 40 years in law enforcement.

Pete has accumulated a very impressive and broad range of experience. Rising through the ranks, Pete proved that setting high standards and meeting them on a daily basis is the key to success. I think we take for granted the role people like Pete play. As critical as the police chief is—particularly in small communities—Pete is more than just the head of law enforcement. He's a role model, a friend, and an excellent example.

I am proud to report Pete proved his commitment to leadership in bringing both police and fire services under one department to better serve the city. He has played an active role in supporting initiatives to enhance school

safety, prevent gang violence and provide a drug-free environment.

I appreciate Pete very much. He's been a good friend to me and he's been very good for the people of Ceres. It's hard to ask anyone for more than that. Under his watch the city met the challenge of developing community-oriented policing with an impressive list of new programs and initiatives including the city's first K-9 unit and motorcycle division. There are more police officers on the street thanks to his efforts. From the Explorer Scouts to the Bicycle Patrol program. Volunteers in Public Safety to working to increase traffic safety, Pete is responsible for several proactive programs to forge an effective bond with the public.

Outside the law enforcement arena, Pete is also a proven leader in a number of other areas including the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary. Pete is one of the invaluable people who always seem to be there for the community on a moment's notice.

I consider it an honor to call Pete my friend. He has served our community well and I wish him and his wife, Karen, much happiness as he begins his retirement. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives rise and join me in honoring Pete Peterson as he retires from a distinguished law enforcement career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLERGY FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Clergy Freedom of Choice Act. Under current law, clergy may opt out of Social Security within 2 years of ordination. My legislation extends this provision, to allow clergy to opt out at any time in their career.

For some clergy, they will choose to opt out for religious reasons, while others will do so because their particular denomination, sect or organization makes other arrangements for their retirement. It is important to note that this opt-out will only apply to income derived from pastoral duties.

I expect this legislation to be non-controversial, as it simply extends the current opt-out option for our religious leaders, providing them with a way to exercise their freedom of choice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in giving our pastors, priests, rabbis, and other clergy this choice.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRAINING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, with the leadership of Congressman CHRISTOPHER SMITH and the bipartisan support of 48 of my colleagues, I sponsored the International Military Training Transparency and Accountability

Act. This legislation will ensure that the United States armed forces ceases to assist foreign militaries that do not share our respect for human rights.

Specifically, the bill prohibits the U.S. from providing military services or training to countries that are restricted by U.S. law from receiving International Military Education and Training (IMET) or other military assistance because of their strong record of human rights violations. This bill will also ensure that the Department of Defense cannot circumvent Congressional intent and find other methods in which to engage with foreign militaries that are notorious human rights abusers.

The Pentagon's relationship with the Indonesian military in recent years demonstrates the urgency and necessity of this legislation. In 1992, Congress banned U.S. taxpayer funded IMET training in the wake of the brutal Dili massacre, where over 270 peaceful demonstrators were shot down in an East Timor cemetery. This ban was enacted in an attempt to put an end to the egregious human rights abuses the Indonesian government committed against its own people and the people of East Timor.

Since 1975, the Indonesian government has engaged in a reign of terror in East Timor, implementing a policy of severe repression of the Timorese people. Since the onset of the occupation, over 200,000—one-third of the original population—have perished. Extra-judicial killings, kidnappings, tortures and imprisonments have become a way of life for those who challenge the authoritarian regime.

In 1997, I wrote Secretary of Defense William Cohen, requesting detailed information on the training of members of the Kopassus, the elite, special forces division of the Indonesian military. The Kopassus is infamous for its role as the ruthless enforcer of Indonesian's illegal occupation of East Timor. Shortly thereafter, I received a response from the Pentagon describing the United States' continued training of the Indonesian military under another program—the Joint Combined Exchange and Training (JCET) program. While the JCET program is legal, it violated the spirit of Congressional efforts to ban any military assistance to the notoriously brutal and repressive Indonesian armed forces.

Under the auspices of the JCET program, U.S. Special Operations forces trained the Kopassus in sniper skills, marksmanship, and close quarter combat, all while the Kopassus continued to repress and terrorize the people of East Timor. In Spring, 1998, the Pentagon announced it would cease its military relationship with Indonesian indefinitely. Yet, the Pentagon's decision to end military exercises with the Indonesian forces should not have come voluntarily. It should be illegal for our armed services to engage in any manner with known human rights violators.

More important, this legislation will limit U.S. assistance to egregious violators of human rights. In Latin America, and in Africa—the U.S. continues to train and engage with forces that are well-known for their disregard for basic human dignity. The International Military Training Transparency and Accountability Act will clarify our stance on engagement with brutal military forces. We have a responsibility to ensure that our national security policy embodies the very democratic principles it seeks to defend.

NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS—ST. PATRICK'S DAY, MARCH 1999

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as Saint Patrick's Day approaches once again, permit me to share some thoughts with my colleagues concerning the peace process in Ireland.

Ireland is at another critical crossroads in its search for a lasting peace and justice. The difficult struggle in the north of Ireland is of concern to millions of Americans, as well as the peace loving people all over the world.

Last year was an historic chapter in Irish history. The Good Friday accord was signed on April 3rd. The Irish people, both in the north and south, overwhelmingly endorsed that peace accord in a public referendum. The people in the north in May then elected, as part of the terms of the peace accord, a new Northern Ireland assembly to govern much of their own internal affairs.

Regrettably, as has so often been the case over the last several years, the issue of IRA arms "decommissioning" is still a major obstacle to further progress in the effort to bring about a permanent lasting peace and real concrete change to the north of Ireland. These are common goals which we, and most of the people in all of Ireland accept, and want desperately for their children and for future generations.

What is still lacking is the political will and leadership on the ground in the north, especially in the unionist community, to begin to bring about the much needed real change, genuine "power sharing" and an end to the unsatisfactory status quo of unionist domination.

The arms issue is once again being used as the old "unionist veto" which blocks progress and full implementation of the Good Friday peace accords.

In particular, the decommissioning issue is being used to block the creation of a new Northern Ireland cabinet level executive intended to help govern the north, as well as to help implement the new North/South bodies under the Good Friday accord. All of the steps needed to devolve that power sharing arrangement have been taken by Westminster, and now all we need is strong leadership from the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, the British government and the unionist leadership in the north to create the new executive.

The new cabinet executive must include the second major nationalist (Catholic) party Sinn Fein. It won that legitimate right through the ballot box and the democratic process to participate and govern the north, as well as to participate fully in the new North/South cross border bodies to govern the new Ireland.

Like it or not, the unionists must acknowledge that Sinn Fein has a legitimate democratic mandate, which under the terms of the accord, entitles them to two ministerial posts on the new Executive Cabinet to be formed.

The Good Friday Accord did not make the issue of IRA decommissioning a precondition to Sinn Fein's entry into government and the new institutions it established. It provides only for best efforts and the hopeful completion of the arms decommissioning process by the year 2000.

What is needed is not more calls for symbolic arms destruction gestures in the midst of a genuine cease-fire, but substantial power sharing as envisioned by the Good Friday accord.

The entire complex Good Friday accord and peace process will work only if everyone keeps their word and does not seek revenge on those portions of the agreement they now profess to dislike.

There can be no unilateral re-negotiations now of portions of the accord that some parties decide they don't want to honor, especially now that the day for power sharing is soon to be upon them.

Yet, sadly, the IRA arms issue is once again being used as a red herring to re-write and undo the Good Friday accord and to thwart the will of the Irish people who voted in massive numbers for the accord and for peaceful political change.

It is time to get on with it, and put an end to the unionist veto which for far too long has been used to maintain the unsatisfactory status quo which is in the north of Ireland today.

We all know far too well how political vacuums in the past have been filled in Northern Ireland. No one wants a return of violence on all sides.

Change must come on the ground. The nationalist community must be given equality and be given their rightful voice in the future of the new north. Many in the nationalist community have chosen Sinn Fein to represent them in the new government and no one has the right to try to undo that election.

We also need to see new and acceptable community policing in the north, and equal opportunity and a shared economic future.

Our House International Relations Committee will be holding full committee hearings on April 22nd on the need for new and acceptable policing in the north. We will be taking constructive testimony from witnesses from the north and the leading international human rights groups on the question of reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), and the compelling need for new and acceptable policing. The new police service must be both responsive and accountable as envisioned by the Good Friday accord.

We look forward to constructive ideas for meaningful police reform in the north to emerge from our hearings and examination of this vital question. More than 9000 witnesses and 2000 written submissions on this important issue have been presented to the Patten Commission which has been examining this issue in northern Ireland.

Our hearing efforts will add to that record and will consider police reform in other parts of the world, which have brought about change and improved public support for the police.

We must work together to bring about concrete meaningful change and reform in the north.

At a minimum, if the RUC is not disbanded, as many in the nationalist community are demanding based on years of harsh experience and great pain and suffering, we need real and concrete responses and a major change as soon as possible. At a minimum, there must be root and branch reforms of the RUC including such proposals as follows:

1. Bringing in new police leadership, starting at the very top, who will publicly apologize to all of the community for past policing abuses

to help bring about much needed reconciliation. The new leadership must also actively work to bring about fundamental changes essential to building broad cross community support through, among other things, actively working to make the police representative of the community as a whole.

2. A new, younger police personnel, including new mid-level officials who truly reflect and substantially represent the whole community they serve, which will help the new policing gain badly needed community acceptance and support. If this fundamental reform requires a one time temporary change in the Northern Ireland Fair Employment laws to help build a representative police service, it will be justified by a current 93% dominated Protestant force.

3. Clear and unequivocal right to dismiss (consistent with due process) by the head of the policing service of any police officers who do not measure up to new performance and human rights standards, and/or who based upon evidence of their human rights records have failed to respect fundamental human rights, and/or the diversity that is the north of Ireland.

Both within the police service (reporting directly to the head of the police), and outside the new police entity as well, there must be independent investigative authorities. These investigative entities must be freely able to conduct inquiries into police abuses and misconduct, which may in turn justify and require the firing of police officers acting under their direction to the head of the police based on their investigative findings; or alternatively where appropriate based upon their investigations, the prosecution of police officers under the law by authorities outside the police.

These strong no nonsense disciplinary actions must regularly follow whenever evidence of wrongdoing is uncovered (either by internal or external methods), and they must result in appropriate and timely disciplinary action and/or prosecution where warranted.

4. Prohibition on police membership in the Orange Order and any other societies whose very principles and practices are inconsistent with developing broad cross community support for the police. This too may require a change in current Northern Ireland law, but is fully justifiable. This is critical to helping develop a working environment that can and will attract, as well as to hold Catholics in the police service. Any on the job harassment or intimidation of the nationalist community members must also be banned, and severely punished, whenever it is established.

5. Repeal of the emergency power authorities, and restoration of the right to silence without any adverse inferences of guilt to be drawn from the exercise of this fundamental right by those detained for questioning by the police in Northern Ireland. Such reforms will help make more routine, as well as clearly define and normalize daily contacts by the police with the community.

6. Increased professional human rights and respect for diversity training, both for new recruits and current police personnel at all levels. The increased training should also include cross border training and exercises with the Garda in the Republic of Ireland.

7. De-centralization of the police force from the few current and large divisional levels down to much smaller units (e.g. precincts, wards, or constituency based units). This would help bring the new police much closer

to the community and increase the ability to communicate and inter-act together. It can serve to build better local community support through greater accountability for the "faceless police force" that serves many nationalist areas today.

8. Close Castlereagh and other interrogation centers as a important gesture of reconciliation and change to many who see it as "symbolic" of so many of the RUC abuses in the nationalist community.

9. Eventual devolution of the policing issue to local government control when true power sharing and equality have been established. This too can help increase "local accountability" and build support for the new policing service.

10. Recruitment and processing for entry into the new police service should be done in as many local communities (including nationalist areas) as possible throughout the north of Ireland and not limited in just one location in a unionist area. This will better serve in helping to outreach, and increase the diversity and attractiveness of the new police force, to the nationalist community.

11. End the paramilitary role and ethos of the RUC, and turn the new service into a community policing service to serve the needs of all the community, not suppressing and politically controlling portions of it. Based on the British policing model, the new policing service in a peaceful north of Ireland, should prevent the carrying of sidearms.

12. Change the title, uniform and other unacceptable symbols of the current police service in order to help create a new and acceptable community policing service. The process of separation of the policing duties from the security situation and concerns, must begin as soon as possible. These symbolic changes must also be made in a sensitive and mindful way, especially for the families of the more than 300 RUC officers who have been killed wearing the current uniform during the troubles.

As we approach Saint Patrick's Day 1999, it is time to get on with the peace process, ending the foot dragging, and implement the will of the good and generous Irish people in the north of Ireland.

May we soon see peace, justice and a unified Ireland.

HONORING HEALTH ADVOCATES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a wonderful organization devoted to improving the quality of life in Michigan and throughout the country, the American Lung Association. On March 18, the American Lung Association of Michigan, Genesee Valley Region, will hold their 16th Annual Health Advocate Awards Dinner, where they will honor Dr. Samuel J. Dismond, Jr. as their Individual Health Advocate and HealthPlus of Michigan as Corporate Health Advocate for the year 1998.

The Association's criteria for Individual Health Advocate includes a minimum of 5 years on a health association board or participation in a health related activity, and out-

standing contributions to health education and promotion of research, Dr. Samuel Dismond, Jr. serves as a shining example of this commitment to health issues.

Dr. Dismond currently serves as Chief of Staff at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Michigan, which employs approximately 2,500 employees and 475 attending physicians who serve more than 20,000 patients annually. He has been honored as Michigan Family Physician of the Year in 1997 by the Michigan Academy of Family Practice, and also as 1999 Family Physician of the United States by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Dismond has made many contributions not only on behalf of family medicine, but throughout the Flint area as well. He has been an influence in non-medical groups such as the NAACP, Boy Scouts of America, the Urban League of Flint, and the Flint Institutes of Art and Music. He has also been honored for his commitment to substance abuse treatment, and his dedication to community service.

For the honor of Corporate Health Advocate of the Year, the American Lung Association has listed as requirements a definitive plan to promote lung health in the workplace, demonstration of commitment to social responsibility on the part of its employees, a positive display of financial support, and a dedication to improving the quality of life for the citizens of the region. HealthPlus of Michigan has consistently proven itself worthy of this distinction.

After determining that smoking was a serious issue in regard to their membership, HealthPlus of Michigan actively set into motion a series of objectives designed to improve the quality of life for their clients, including the implementation of smoking guidelines, behavioral and education programs, and the creation and publication of the HealthQuest Directory of community programs and resources.

Mr. Speaker, since 1904, the American Lung Association has provided an invaluable resource to the country for information and research of lung disease and health. I commend the Association for recognizing and honoring Dr. Samuel Dismond, Jr. and HealthPlus of Michigan as their Health Advocates of the Year. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Samuel Dismond, Jr. and HealthPlus of Michigan.

THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF RE-ENACTMENT OF CHAPTER 12, TITLE II, UNITED STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill H.R. 808 which extends Chapter 12 of Title 11 of the U.S. Code. This short-term extension is a good start, but it does not give our small farmers the security of mind they need in an already desperate agricultural economy. I recently introduced legislation, H.R. 763, to make the farm bankruptcy provisions a permanent part of the bankruptcy law. A sense of stability is needed to help farmers and financial planners alike.

We know that during these periods of low commodities prices that some farmers simply won't be able to cash flow their operations.

Current Chapter 12 bankruptcy law helps farmers restructure their debts to allow them to keep farming during the toughest times. We need to permanently extend this law because it works. Families are able to save their farms and map out a manageable repayment schedule. And we have seen that creditors are comfortable with this debt reorganization approach because it simply allows families to lengthen the period they have to repay their loans.

IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER DANIEL ALDAY AND HIS 26 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MILPITAS, CA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Officer Daniel Alday, a dedicated member of the Milpitas Police Department for over two decades. Officer Alday retired on February 14, 1999 and will be honored later this month by the Milpitas Police Department.

Office Alday joined the Department on January 31, 1977, after four years of experience as a County Animal Control Officer. Officer Alday's bilingual abilities were a great asset to the Department over the years. His ready assistance was much appreciated by other officers and the Hispanic community.

Office Alday was a K-9 officer from 1980 to 1983. During this time, he and his dog were productive in locating and apprehending suspects; they received numerous commendations from the community, and neighboring police agencies.

From 1983 to 1992, Officer Alday served in the traffic division as a Motorcycle Traffic Officer. He attended the California Highway Patrol Academy for motorcycle training, and surpassed their rigorous requirements. During his tenure as a traffic officer, Officer Alday was certified by the courts as an expert in DUI cases. He advanced to accident reconstructionist after completion of accident reconstruction school and certification by the State of California.

From 1989 to 1996, Officer Alday served as a hostage negotiator. He assisted in many difficult situations that ended peacefully.

Officer Alday returned to patrol in 1992 and was selected for the position of DARE Officer. In 1994, Dan was assigned to the Public Relations Unit as a DARE Officer. He taught the DARE curriculum each year to four elementary schools, where he was instrumental in bringing new ideas to the DARE program. DARE activities included Skate Night for DARE students, lunch with the DARE Officer, and slide presentations of Student DARE activities that promoted parent participation to DARE graduations.

Officer Alday's duties also included giving safety presentations to women's groups, businesses, and the community-at-large. He also conducted Mock Robbery Training courses for bank employees. Officer Alday continued to receive commendations from the community during his time with the Public Relations Unit.

Regrettably, Officer Alday's police career is ending early because of a job-related injury. He has been an asset to the Milpitas Police Department because of his long-term service

to the community. His contributions are numerous and his example is an inspiration. I join the Milpitas community in applauding Officer Alday's dedication, expertise and achievements. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF RE-ENACTMENT OF CHAPTER 12, TITLE II, UNITED STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 808, a measure that would extend by an additional 3 months the Chapter 12 farm bankruptcy code. This legislation is a stopgap measure that would continue the program past its April 1 expiration date.

Farmer friendly bankruptcy and reorganization provisions are needed now more than ever before. This past Friday, dairy farmers saw their price collapse by 39% as the February Basic Formula Price fell to \$10.27 per hundredweight, a \$6 decline from the preceding month.

When Congress originally passed the Chapter 12 farm bankruptcy code in the mid-1980s they realized that our nation's family farmers oftentimes face economic difficulties that were not of their making and are essentially out of their control. The prices of nearly all commodities including livestock, milk, grains and feedstuffs were or are at near record low prices. As a result, it is imperative that Congress work to create federal financial mechanisms that recognize these difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join my colleagues in supporting this worthwhile measure.

HONORING THE JAMES H. QUILLEN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University located in the First District of Tennessee. This month, the Quillen College of Medicine celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University was established in March of 1974 by the Tennessee General Assembly. It was formally dedicated as the James H. Quillen College of Medicine in honor of the tireless efforts of my predecessor and friend, Congressman James H. (Jimmy) Quillen, who served the First District with distinction for 34 years. Congressman Quillen recognized the severe shortage of primary care physicians in the 1970's, especially in many of the rural areas in East Tennessee, and was instrumental in the efforts to establish this school.

In August of 1978, the first class of 24 students enrolled at the College of Medicine.

Since their graduation in 1982, the college has awarded more than 850 Medical Doctor degrees, including a significant number of resident physicians, fellows, and biomedical students. A substantial number of these students are serving the health care industry today as primary care physicians, filling many of the shortages which led to the creation of the institution in 1974.

The Quillen College of Medicine remains focused today on primary care and has earned notes of recognition by several national organizations and publications for the institution's successful rural medicine programs and its efforts to train more primary care physicians.

One of the more innovative approaches utilized by the Quillen College of Medicine is its utilization of the region's hospitals. Rather than having one teaching hospital, East Tennessee State University has affiliated itself with nine area hospitals, providing its students with access to more than 3,000 beds in the areas and training in every area of primary and tertiary care medicine. Furthermore, the immediate success of the college in its primary care work led to the receipt of the largest grant in the university's history, \$6 million in 1991 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This financial support allowed the college to move into two additional rural communities in the First District, training over 80 students on site using a team approach in which the medical, nursing, and public and allied health students learn together.

The ETSU Quillen College of Medicine continues to expand its scope while remaining focused to its original purpose of creating primary care physicians. All of the teaching and research facilities at the university and its affiliated hospitals are fully supported by modern classrooms, laboratories, and clinical facilities. New facilities are being built to serve the expanded demands of this popular school, and I am confident that the Quillen College of Medicine will continue to meet the growing needs of the health care industry in the next millennium.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the great accomplishments of the James H. Quillen College of Medicine in its 25th year of existence. It has served the region and the country well, providing a wealth of trained, experienced doctors to serve our health care needs. Its presence has been a leading force in revolutionizing the health care industry in the Upper East Tennessee/Southwest Virginia region. There will be many great things to come from this fine institution, and it is my hope that my colleagues here in the Congress will join me in honoring the college's alumni, students, residents, fellows, faculty, staff, and others for their past and future contributions to improving health care in America.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. OZUNA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to Robert L. Ozuna, Chief Executive Office of New Bedford Panoramex Corporation from 1966 to date. My good friend died on Saturday, March 6, 1999, at Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Coquina at the age of 69.

Robert Ozuna was the oldest of four children born in Miami, AZ to Mexican-American parents. In 1940, after his father's early death, the family moved to East Los Angeles where he grew up with his mother, brother, and two sisters. Robert was required to seek steady work at an early age to assist the family in meeting their financial burdens.

Robert Ozuna emerged as one of the leading Mexican-American entrepreneurs in Southern California as Founder and President of New Bedford Panoramex Corporation (NBP). He gained his business experience on the job and his engineering education by attending night school in the California community and junior college system.

In 1966, Mr. Ozuna began to build his company with a second mortgage on his residence, a few electrician's hand tools, hard work and entrepreneurial instincts into the thriving electronic manufacturing business it is today in Upland, CA. NBP engages in the design, development, and manufacturing of electronic communication systems and remote monitoring systems for its primary client, the U.S. Government.

Mr. Ozuna's hard work and dedication has been rewarded by receiving the Department of Transportation Minority Business Enterprise Award in both 1987 and 1991. He received the Air Traffic Control Association Chairman's Citation of Merit Award in 1994. He continued to be an active member of the California Chamber of Commerce for various cities and a founder of Casa De Rosa Annual Golf Tournament which he instituted to raise funds for the Rancho de Los Niños Orphanage in BajaMar, Mexico.

As industrious as he has been in business, he has been equally involved in sharing his prosperity with many philanthropic activities in his community. He is the sponsor of many events in the Hispanic neighborhood where he grew up and was a founding director in the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Youth Athletic Association, which promotes educational, athletic and drug awareness programs for more than 60,000 youths in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area.

Robert Ozuna is remembered by his employees at New Bedford Panoramex Corporation as a handsome man who had a passion for life. His concern for his employees and their families along with his abundant generosity to them was always present.

Robert Ozuna was married for 35 years to Rosemary, who passed away in November 1998. He is survived by his mother, Amelia Ozuna; his sons, Steven Ozuna and Jeff Dominelli; his daughters, Nancy DeSilva and Lisa Jarrett; his sisters, Lillian Gomez and Vera Venegas; and his brother, Tony Ozuna. He also leaves eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Ozuna epitomized the American Dream. It is a dream that promises that any citizen of this country can achieve anything to which he or she aspires, as long as they work hard and play by the rules. Robert Ozuna achieved that dream and he will be greatly missed. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him today.

"A SENSE OF AUTHENTIC
FREEDOM"

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday October 4, 1998, Francis Cardinal George, OMI, the Archbishop of Chicago, delivered the homily at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C. at the annual Red Mass, celebrated on the Sunday prior to the first Monday in October, which traditionally marks the opening of the Supreme Court's new term.

I am pleased and honored to place into the RECORD the text of Cardinal George's inspiring remarks, for the edification of my colleagues: "Homily, 1998 Red Mass."

RED MASS

(By Francis Cardinal George, OMI)

Your Eminence, Cardinal Hickey. Your Excellency, Archbishop Cacciavillan. Members of the judiciary and of the bar and of the government and Congress Members of the John Carroll Society and friends.

The picture of Jesus given us by the evangelist Luke places him in the synagogue of Nazareth, his home town, ready to begin his public ministry under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This was to be his only, his last occasion to preach in Nazareth, for his mission took him elsewhere in Judea and Israel and, finally, to his death outside Jerusalem. In the mission and preaching of his disciples after Jesus' resurrection from the dead, Luke has Jesus taken farther: to Antioch and Corinth and Rome, to the ends of the earth.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus does not preach until after listening and proclaiming the word of God. In the text within our Gospel text, the prophet Isaiah proclaims a time of Jubilee, of deliverance from captivity, a time of liberation; only then does Jesus speak and explain the prophet in such a way—"This day, these words are fulfilled in your hearing."—that Jesus' friends and neighbors, far from being liberated by his words, took him to the edge of the hill on which their city was built and tried to kill him. Jesus listened, he spoke, he escaped to take up elsewhere the mission given him by his Father. That mission makes possible our coming together today at this end of the earth as we and the entire world, with renewed self-consciousness as a globe, look toward the celebration of a new millennium.

If we today believe that where there is Jesus there is Jubilee, how is it that we are still enslaved? Every five years, as you may know, each bishop of the Catholic Church goes to Rome to pray at the tombs of Peter and Paul; then he goes in to talk with Peter's successor. This year, the bishops of the United States are making their visits *ad limina apostolorum*, and the bishops of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin made theirs together last May. When I went in to talk with the Holy Father, he listened politely as I explained that the report he had received had been drawn up by my staff since I had only recently come to Chicago. He looked at it, put it aside and asked me a single question: "What are you doing to change the culture?" I was surprised, but shouldn't have been, for the Pope has spoken often of how culture liberates us, creates the world in which what is best in human experience can be passed on and celebrated and of how, conversely, culture can also blind us, enslave us and must sometimes be changed in the light of God's word.

Taken by surprise, I spontaneously began to speak to the Holy Father about the Church's relation to the legal profession in Chicago, of the many contacts and gatherings, of the several Chicago priests who are also civil lawyers, of the pro bono work for the poor, of the Catholic law schools and of many initiatives similar to what takes place here through the good offices of the members of the John Carroll society. Then I backed up and began to explain that, in the United States, the law is a primary carrier of culture. In a country continuously being knit together from so many diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic threads, legal language most often creates the terms of our public discourse as Americans. A vocation to make and to serve the law is a calling to shape our culture.

We live in worded worlds. If there is no common language, very likely there is no common vision and citizens find themselves trapped in separate worlds. Listening to God's liberating word, in this Mass and elsewhere, believers must wonder where the language of civil law and the language of faith might share a common vocabulary. The Catholic Church has tried for some generations to speak here a language of natural law, a language that presupposes God speaks in nature as well as in history, a language, therefore, able to speak of God's ways without explicitly confessional terminology. But our various attempts have not really provided a dictionary shared between American culture and Catholic faith. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops often tries to speak the language of policy, hoping that well argued policy statements will influence legal discussion; but the common understanding generated has clear limitations. There is the language of Holy Scripture itself, common to great extent to all Christians and Jews, but the Bible's phraseology and stories are no longer common cultural parlance in our country.

Speaking, in order to be heard today, a language largely shorn of religious nuances, the believer can still ask two questions of the vision behind legal discourse:

First, can the vision of courts and legislatures expand to see at least dimly God's actions and purposes in history? Abraham Lincoln of Illinois used public language to speak of God's purpose at the end of a bloody American civil war. "With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in." Lincoln, who wrestled like a biblical prophet with God's purposes in history and his judgment on this nation, grew, because of his public service, in his ability to bring together, always tentatively, the law he defended finally with his own life and God's word which, like a two-edged sword, cuts through the rhetoric of public as well as personal deceit. Lincoln knew that God judges nations as well as persons, and he forged a language which, and the end, placed even the personal liberty to which this nation was dedicated second to the designs of God himself. Are we permitted to speak similarly today or must the language of law, rather than setting us free, blind us and leave us mute in any world not constructed by our private interests and intentions?

And a second question, put to us often these days by Pope John Paul II: does the vision of the human person found in public laws and decisions adequately express what it means to be human? Do our laws not only protect contracts but also tend to force all human relations into them? Is the language of contract becoming the only public language of America? Does the model of association which is accorded public rights tend more and more to constrain or even exclude the natural family, the life of faith, cultural

and racial groupings, relations which cannot be unchosen without destroying the human person shaped by them.

Christian faith gives us a vision of a person we call the Word of God, made flesh. Crucified and risen from the dead, Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit, who speaks every language and gives every good gift. This vision should set us free from any lesser picture of things; the language of faith should keep us from supposing that we adequately understand reality in its depths and heights. This is a vision that should humble and, in humbling us, open us to other worlds. Approaching a third Christian millennium (using what is now a common calendar), we gather to worship the God we believe to be the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ and therefore, in Christ, our Father as well. It is good to do so, for if we do not worship God we will inevitably end up worshipping ourselves. Nations worshipping themselves have plagued this last century of the second millennium, and God's word prompts us now to examine anew ourselves and our history. Without warrant, we have associated ourselves with the biblical city on a hill, not Nazareth but Jerusalem itself. Without right, we too often judge other people and nations by our standards and interests, assuming that our interests must be universal. Without sense, we even seriously consider if this nation is the end of history, as if our present political and economic arrangements were surely the culmination of God's designs for the universe. Lincoln, who had the good grace to speak of us only as an "almost chosen people", would surely blush, and so should we.

Today, as yesterday and tomorrow, the Church speaks a language of respect for public office holders, whose vocation is shaped by the constraints of law; but the Church, today as yesterday and tomorrow, also speaks as best she can to judge the actions and decision of public officials, and the culture shaped by them, when these are inadequate to the vision given us by the truths of faith. "Faith must become culture," Pope John Paul II says. "What are you doing to change the culture?" he asks. But how can we speak of change in America today when the law itself blinds us to basic truths? One egregious blind spot is our very sense of liberation construed as personal autonomy. An autonomous person has no need of jubilee, of freedom as gift; he has set himself free. The fault line that runs through our culture, and it is sometimes exacerbated rather than corrected by law, is the sacrificing of the full truth about the human person in the name of freedom construed as personal autonomy. It is a blind spot as deep as that in Marxism's sacrifice of personal freedom in the name of justice construed as absolute economic equality. Such a profound error makes our future uncertain. Will the United States be here when the human race celebrates the end of the third millennium? Not without a very changed, a very converted culture.

The Church, however, must also listen first to God's word before she speaks, before she translates God's word into the words of our culture or any other. Hence the Church can speak only with deep humility a language which purports to give definitive access to God's designs in history. Even prophetic judgment, while certain in its proclamation, is tentative in its final outcome. The Spirit is always free, but never self-contradictory.

Tentatively, then, let us try the language of prayer and ask that God's judgment fall lightly on us and our nation. Gratefully, I pray that God reward your dedication to public service and your desire to create a common language adequate to the experience of all our people and open to all others. Joyfully, let us hope that the Jubilee introducing the coming millennium may restore

to the United States a sense of authentic freedom rooted in an evergrowing generosity of spirit. May God bless us all. Amen.

A TRAGIC LOSS

HON. TOM CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, my state and our nation recently suffered a grievous loss in the passing of California State Senator Milton Marks. I expressed my sorrow in a letter to his wife, the Honorable Carolene Marks, San Francisco Commissioner on the Status of Women, and I would like to put into the RECORD of the House of Representatives my letter to her, as a tribute to him.

DEAR CAROLENE: My heart sank with an empty feeling the moment I learned of Milton's passing. Both Susanne and I send our heartfelt condolences to let you know that we share your loss. It was my personal joy and honor to call Milton a colleague and dear friend. He will be missed by those who knew of his dedication and service to the citizens of San Francisco and the State of California.

Carolene, there are no words that can be spoken, no words that can be written, to relieve the pain and sorrow of losing Milton. He was the consummate statesman who worked hard at his profession using his drive, dedication and spirit to champion many causes. He lived life with compassion by creating laws that protected our youth from harm, by improving the quality of our environment, and by encouraging the development of economic policy that makes California the greatest state in the nation. His service to the public will be a lasting memory for the next generation. May God bless you and your loved ones in this time of grief.

THE SOAP BOX DERBY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, for the last eight years, I have sponsored a resolution for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby to hold its race along Constitution Avenue. Yesterday, I proudly introduced H. Con. Res. 47 to permit the 58th running of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, which is to take place on the Capitol Grounds on July 10, 1999. This resolution authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police Board, and the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to negotiate the necessary arrangements for carrying out running of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby in complete compliance with rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol Grounds.

In the past, the full House has supported this resolution once reported favorably by the full Transportation Committee. I ask for my colleagues to join with me, and Representatives ALBERT WYNN, CONNIE MORELLA, and JIM MORAN in supporting this resolution.

From 1992 to 1998, the Greater Washington Soap Box derby welcomed over 40 contestants which made the Washington, DC race

one of the largest in the country. Participants range from ages 9 to 16 and hail from communities in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. The winners of this local event will represent the Washington Metropolitan Area in the National Race, which will be held in Akron, OH on July 31, 1999.

The Soap Box Derby provides our young people with an opportunity to gain valuable skills such as engineering and aerodynamics. Furthermore, the Derby promotes team work, a strong sense of accomplishment, sportsmanship, leadership, and responsibility. These are positive attributes that we should encourage children to carry into adulthood. The young people involved spend months preparing for this race, and the day that they complete it makes it all the more worthwhile.

IN HONOR OF GARY A. POLIAKOFF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary A. Poliakoff, soon to be awarded the Learned Hand Human Relations award by the American Jewish Committee. This prestigious award is given annually to members of the legal profession, and there could be no better candidate that embodies the spirit of the award than Gary Poliakoff. Gary's work on co-ownership housing personifies the thoughtful and humane spirit of Judge Hand, one of the most distinguished scholars in American jurisprudence.

Recognized internationally as an expert in co-ownership housing, Gary's contributions to this important legal field epitomize the ideals on which this award is based. After receiving his law degree from the University of Miami in 1969, Gary established his strong roots in the South Florida community as founding principal of Becker and Poliakoff, P.A. Serving as President of the firm since its inception, Gary has dedicated much time and effort to become an authority on co-ownership housing. He has provided his expertise to State legislatures, Senate Committees, and the White House, helping to draft legislation and addressing concerns regarding the sale, development, and operation of condominiums. Additionally, he has lectured internationally, addressing the Parliament of the Czech Republic on issues relating to the conversion of State housing to private ownership, as well as the Russian Academy of Jurisprudence in Moscow on co-ownership issues.

Serving on the Board of Governors of the Shepard Broad Law Center of Nova Southeastern University, Gary shares his wealth of knowledge on co-ownership housing through his course on Condominium Law and Practice. He has served as chairman of the State Advisory Council on Condominiums and as a board member of the Board of Governors of the College of Community Association of Lawyers. Finally, Gary is an accomplished author, creating a national treatise, *The Law of Condominium Operations*, West Group 1998, and co-authoring *Florida Condominium Law and Practice for the Florida Bar Association*.

Aside from his wealth of knowledge and experience in the legal profession, Mr. Poliakoff

is a known leader in philanthropic and community causes in South Florida. Serving as Chairman of the Southeast Region of the American Jewish Committee for the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem and as a pro bono counsel to the Miami Youth Museum, Gary recognizes the importance of community spirit and dedicates a good part of his time to the betterment of society.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Poliakoff has shown a tireless devotion to both his profession and his community. I could not think of a more deserving recipient of this prestigious award. I wish to convey a heartfelt congratulations to Gary, his wife, and his children on this special day, as well as many thanks to him for his work on behalf of the entire South Florida Community.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, March 11 marks the 75th anniversary jubilee of the founding of the Borough of Fair Lawn, NJ, a town in New Jersey's 9th Congressional District where I, and more than 30,000 other residents, make our home.

Fair Lawn is a compact community located in the Northwest corner of Bergen County, one of the most densely populated areas of our State. But it is a very liveable community, with interesting sites, and a distinctive history that I would like to briefly call to the attention of the House.

The 75th Anniversary jubilee celebration kicks off on March 11. To get the year-long series of anniversary events underway, the Fair Lawn League of Women Voters has invited residents to tour the building which houses the office of their local government, and to "Meet Fair Lawn's Government-Live!"

Beginning at 7 p.m., guests can be escorted into the Council Chambers and greeted by League members, Mayor David Ganz, Borough Manager Barbara Sacks, the Borough Council, 75th Anniversary Committee Chairman John Cosgrove, and some 75 year Fair Lawn residents.

Visitors will be able to select five or six departments to visit and Borough employees will be available to explain how their department works and to answer any questions guests may have. Among the departments available will be: Recreation, Fire, Engineering, Public Works, Finance, Building Tax Collector/Assessor, Police, Borough Clerk, Health, and Welfare.

Local students will act as ushers and help to distribute literature. As a special bonus, the first 300 visitors will receive a copy of the League's popular 45-page book, the "1999 Citizen Guide," which is everything you wanted to know about New Jersey Government.

No historic account of Fair Lawn would be complete without recognition of the Lenni-Lenapi ("original people"), native tribes of northern New Jersey. Their trails, campsites, rock shelters and hunting grounds became the roads and towns that Fair Lawn uses today.

When the first Dutch settlers made their way up to what we know as the Hackensack and

Passaic Rivers, it was to establish fur trading posts with the Hackinghaesaky Indians, one of the tribes of the Lenni-Lenapi. The great chief of the tribes was Oratam. As settlements grew, the Lenni-Lenapi were forced further west to unsettled land.

They left behind place names of Indian origin. Few of us realize how many such names are still with us, for example: Passaic (either "where the river goes over the falls" or "valley"), Paramus ("fine stream" or "place of wild turkeys"), Wagaraw ("crooked place" or "river bend"). Typically, River Road, one of the oldest roads in the eastern part of our country, was once an Indian trail, leading to the "Great Rock" tribal council site in Glen Rock.

The most interesting Indian relic in Fair Lawn is the fist trap (weir) in the Passaic River. It can be seen during low water 200 yards upstream from the Fair Lawn Avenue bridge. The trap consists of two rows of stones forming a V-shaped dam into which the Indians drove the fish during migration, closing the opening at the point of the "V" with weighted nets. The Dutch called this the "soltendam," or "sloterdam" from the verb sluiten, "shut."

This give rise to the name of Slooterdam (also spelled Sloterdam) which was used to describe the surrounding area. Fair Lawn was known as Slooterdam as late as 1791, and River Road was called the "Slauterdam Road" until after the Civil War.

Probably the oldest structure standing in Fair Lawn is the Garreston-Brocker home, now known as the Garreston Forge and Farm Restoration, on River Road, south of Morlot Avenue. The west wing, the kitchen, was the original building built some time between 1708-1730. The main wing was built before 1800 but the gambrel roof, dormer and porch were added in 1903. The property, known at its purchase in 1719 as the Sloterdam Patent, was originally a huge plantation stretching between the Passaic and Saddle Rivers.

Another structure, almost as old, was built by Jacob Vanderbeck. It is located off Fair Lawn Avenue (formerly Dunkerhook Road) east of Saddle River Road. Nearby, on Dunkerhook Road ("Donckerhoek" or "dark corner" in old Dutch) is the Naugle House, built in the 18th century by Jacob Vanderbeck's son-in-law, a paymaster to General Lafayette's troops. Lafayette stayed in this house for several days in 1824 when he returned to this country after the Revolutionary War.

Another old structure is on Fair Lawn Avenue, east of Plaza Road. It is known as the "Dutch House" and has been a restaurant or tavern since 1929. The sandstone construction is typical of the early Flemish Colonial style. No early ownership has been established but it is believed to be the Bogert House built between 1740 and 1760. The land stretched to the Glen Rock area and was farmed until the Radburn developers bought it in the late 1920's.

The Thomas Cadmus House was moved to its site north of the Radburn railroad station from nearby Fair Lawn Avenue to save it from demolition. It is now the official Fair Lawn Museum. It has a typical dressed stone front and roughly coursed sides, wide board floors and hewn beams. It is thought to have been built before 1815.

The only other old sandstone house still standing in Fair Lawn is the G.V.H. Berdan

House on River Road between Berdan and Hopper Avenues. Although the exterior was carefully reconditioned with respect for its historic style when the building was converted to offices, the end facing the street has since been marred by numerous signs.

The "Old Red Mill," which is located along the Saddle River south of what is now Route 4, is another well-known landmark of the area. The original mill, believed to have been located on the Fair Lawn side of the river, was a central meeting place for the neighboring farmers. It gave the name "Red Mill" to the area. The mill, a large red wooden building, was built in 1745 and stood two and one-half stories high.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the mill was converted to manufacture woolen blankets and yarn from flax grown in Fair Lawn. During the Civil War, the mill produced blankets for the Union Army. The mill was visited by at least two famous persons: Aaron Burr was honored at a Christmas party there during the Revolution and President William McKinley visited Easton's renowned lake and fountains.

Only a few minor skirmishes were fought during the Revolutionary War in the area later to be known as Fair Lawn. But Bergen County had the distinction of being the only county in all the nation which saw George Washington during each of the eight years of the War. When Washington and his troops retreated from the British across New Jersey to Pennsylvania in 1776, it was John H. Post of Sloterdam who dismantled the bridge across the Passaic River, preventing pursuit by Cornwallis after Washington's troops reached safety on the other side. With foresight, Post stacked the bridge planks on the far side of the river for future use.

The railroad came through town in the early 1880's and the trolley line to Hackensack and the Hudson River in 1906. Toward the end of the 19th century and in the early 20th, homes were built near the Passaic River, off Fair Lawn and Morlot Avenues ("the flats") and at Columbia Heights, to house workers for Paterson's mills and factories and for the Textile Dyeing and Finishing Co. on Wagaraw road. Warren Point also developed at the end of the 19th century, with a railroad station and post office, but most of the development was in what is now Elmwood Park.

Within Fair Lawn's boundaries is a unique community called Radburn. One of the first modern planned communities in the United States, it was intended originally to be a self-sufficient entity known as "Town for the Motor Age." The architect-planners Clarence S. Stein and Henry Wright enlisted the practical aid of financier Alexander Bing who had organized the City Housing Corporation in 1924. Bing's enthusiasm brought his corporation to New Jersey, and Radburn was born in 1928.

Unhappily, the Great Depression in 1929 struck Radburn hard and in 1933 the corporation went bankrupt. Unfortunately, the hope for self sufficiency for 25,000 residents in Radburn reached only 5,000 by 1964 when Anthony Bailey wrote his "Radburn Revisited" report in the New York Herald-Tribune. The Radburn idea did not die, however; it was admired, copied and improved on in England, Scandinavia, India, Canada, Russia, and in many "new towns" in the United States.

Fair Lawn's greatest period of growth was during the 1940's and 1950's. Vast areas of

farm lands were developed for single-family homes and several large garden apartment complexes. The population grew from 9,000 in 1940 to an estimated peak of about 37,000 in 1968. Fair Lawn Industrial Park on Route 208 was developed during the 1950's with several additions in the following decade. Among the Industrial Park's corporate residents are internationally known firms such as Kodak, Nabisco and Lea & Perrins.

By 1970, the last large tracts of land had been utilized. The last farm in Fair Lawn was a 20-acre tract in the Industrial Park at Fair Lawn Avenue. In 1998 this tract started development as apartments, and by the end of this year, there will be more than 340 new apartment units open. The certificates of occupancy for the first units were issued just a few weeks ago.

What began as an agricultural hamlet has grown into a suburban town providing homes, schools parks and shops for residents and jobs for thousands of workers in businesses, offices and industries.

All of us who reside in Fair Lawn are proud of our community and Mr. Speaker, I thought it would be appropriate to bring to your attention that this jubilee celebration gives us all the opportunity to celebrate not only a town and good government, but its good people.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. OZUNA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to Robert L. Ozuna, Chief Executive Officer of New Bedford Panoramex Corporation from 1966 to date has died. Robert Ozuna died Saturday, March 6, 1999 at Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Covina. He was 69.

Robert Ozuna was the oldest of four children born in Miami, Arizona to Mexican-American parents. In 1940, after his father's early death, the family moved to East Los Angeles where he grew up with his mother, brother and two sisters. Robert was required to seek steady work at an early age to assist the family in meeting their financial burdens.

Robert Ozuna emerged as one of the leading Mexican-American entrepreneurs in Southern California as Founder and President of New Bedford Panoramex Corporation (NBP). He gained his business experience on the job and his engineering education by attending night school in the California community and junior college system.

In 1966, Mr. Ozuna began to build his company with a second mortgage on his residence, a few electrician's hand tools, hard work and entrepreneurial instincts into the thriving electronics manufacturing business it is today in Upland, California. NBP engages in the design, development and manufacturing of electronic communication systems and remote monitoring systems for its primary client, the United States Government.

Mr. Ozuna's hard work and dedication has been rewarded by receiving the Department of Transportation Minority Business Enterprise Award for 1987 and again for 1991. He received the Air Traffic Control Association Chairman's Citation of Merit Award in 1994.

He continued to be an active member of The California Chamber of Commerce for various cities and a founder of Casa De Rosa Annual Golf Tournament, which he instituted to raise funds for the Rancho de Los Ninos Orphanage in BajaMar, Mexico.

As industrious as Mr. Ozuna has been in business, he has been equally involved in sharing his prosperity with many philanthropic activities in his community. He is the sponsor of many events in the Hispanic neighborhood where he grew up, and he was a founding director in the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Youth Athletic Association, which promotes educational, athletic and drug awareness programs for more than 60,000 youths in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area.

Robert Ozuna is remembered by his employees at New Bedford Panoramex Corporation as a handsome man who had a passion for life. His concern for his employees and their families along with his abundant generosity to them was always present.

Robert Ozuna was married for 35 years to Rosemary, who passed way in November of 1998. He is survived by his mother, Amelia Ozuna; his sons, Steven Ozuna and Jeff Dominelli; his daughters Nancy DoSilva and Lisa Jarrett; his sisters, Lillian Gomez and Vera Venegas and his brother Tony Ozuna. He also leaves 8 grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, March 12th at 12:00 noon, at St. Gregory's Church, 1393 E. Telegraph Rd., Whittier, CA. The burial will follow at Queen of Heaven Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Ozuna epitomized the American dream. It is a dream that promises that any citizen of this country can achieve anything to which he or she aspires, as long as they work hard and play by the rules. Robert Ozuna achieved that dream and he will be missed.

HONORING MR. WALTER D. WEBDALE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who has dedicated the past 25 years of his career and life to serving the people of Fairfax County, VA. On Friday, February 26, 1999, Mr. Walter D. Webdale will retire as Director of the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Department of Housing and Community Development was established in 1974, and Mr. Webdale has been the Director since its inception. Under his leadership of the last 25 years the HCD has won nationwide recognition as one of the preeminent policy leaders and innovators in the fields of affordable housing and community development. The Agency has been the recipient of more than 40 major awards and special recognitions for project design and development, community development, property management, and affordable housing finance.

But more important than the national accolades are the tangible improvements he was able to provide to the people of Fairfax County. During Mr. Webdale's 25 years of service,

the HCD built or acquired more than 800 units of public housing. Additionally, 1,500 more units were developed under the Fairfax County Rental Program, an initiative of Mr. Webdale's, which preserved existing affordable housing and made it available to seniors and moderate income households not able to find housing through Federal housing projects.

One of Mr. Webdale's most lasting contributions to Fairfax County, and the Nation, will be the mixed income/mixed financing program which combines the use of Low Income Housing Tax Credits with Public Housing development funds, and has become the model which is being replicated across the Nation. Because of this innovative program, coupled with the Agency's financing expertise, the HCD secured the designation as an FHA Risk-Sharing Agency in Virginia. The Fairfax County Housing and Community Development Agency was the only local housing authority in Virginia to qualify for this designation.

While Mr. Webdale dedicated much of the Agency's resources to developing low-income housing, the HCD also implemented a strong series of programs to support and encourage first-time home buyers. All told over the past 25 years more than \$26 million was invested in needed home improvements to almost 1,700 qualified homeowners under the Home Improvement Loan Program. Complimenting the improvement funds, two separate home ownership programs were created which have subsequently provided more than 1,000 first-time home buyers with home ownership opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I have merely hinted at the contribution Walter Webdale has made to Fairfax County. He is recognized nationwide as one of the leading Housing and Community Development professionals in the country. A number of the initiatives he developed in Fairfax County have been adopted by other Housing Authorities across the Nation. Mr. Walter D. Webdale has dedicated the best years of his life in the service of others, and has done it with a determination and professionalism well beyond the norm. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Fairfax County, VA, I wish to sincerely thank Mr. Webdale for all he has done and wish him well as he enjoys a long-overdue vacation.

TRIBUTE TO THE WHITE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS M CHAMPION GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the White Mountain Regional High School Class M Champion Girl's Basketball team. On Saturday, February 27, 1999, the Regional Girl's Basketball team capped what can only be described as a perfect season. It was perfect not only because the team won the first Class M Girls Basketball Title in the 30 year history of the regional high school, but because they did so by going an impressive 22-0 over the course of the entire season.

It should be said, however, that the climax of this spectacular season was not a fluke, as they say, but, instead, the result of years of

practice, preparation, and commitment. In particular, the dedication of the team's coach, James Haley, has been instrumental to the success of the team over the last several years. Coach Haley revitalized the girl's basketball program by instituting summer programs and traveling teams that developed the girls' skill on and off the court. The results for Coach Haley have been obvious. Over the last four seasons, the White Mountain Regional Girl's Basketball program has amassed a record of 79 wins and only 6 losses.

Coach Haley deflects any praise he receives to his talented team and players. A few highlights from this team include all six seniors being selected for the 1999 Class M All-Academic Team. Senior Becky Hilton broke the her own school record for the most 3-point shots made during a season. Senior Jennifer Martin scored her 1000th high school career point during the team's quarter final game against Mascoma, which is a tremendous achievement for any high school basketball player.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to list all the coaches, members, and managers of the 1999 Class M Champion Girl's Basketball Team: Coach James Haley, Coach Adrianna Champney, Captain Jennifer Martin, Captain Becky Hilton, Stephanie Wallace, Kris Odell, Keira Russell, Liz Ehler, Jaclyn Comeau, Kerry Brady, Jessica LaPlante, Becky Quay, Martha Harris, Amanda Kay, Gail Snowman, Adriane Kilby, Liz Samson, Manager Christi Nugent, and Manager Emily Tenney.

Mr. Speaker, the White Mountain Regional Girl's Basketball Team's coaches, team members, fans, family, and school should be extremely proud of this accomplishment. Through no small effort are state championships won, and for 1999 the Class M Girl's Basketball Championship is going home to the White Mountain Regional High School.

THE SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
DEMOCRACY ACT OF 1999

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Serbia and Montenegro Democracy Act of 1999, a bill which will target much needed assistance to democratic groups in Serbia and Montenegro. I am joined by Representatives BEN GILMAN, STENY HOYER, JOHN PORTER, DAN BURTON, ELIOT ENGEL, DANA ROHRBACHER, LOUISE SLAUGHTER and JIM MORAN, all strong promoters of human rights worldwide and the original co-sponsors of this Act.

It is fitting that this important piece of legislation be introduced today, as a high-level envoy for the United States is in Belgrade to seek the blessing of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for a political settlement which hopefully will restore peace to the troubled region of Kosovo. We are dealing directly with the man most responsible for the conflict in Kosovo, not to mention Bosnia and Croatia. Milosevic has maintained his power from within Serbia throughout the 1990s at the cost of 300,000 lives and the displacement of 3 million people. He has relied on virulent Serbian nationalism to instigate conflict which will divide the people of the region for decades.

The most fundamental flaw in U.S. policy toward the region is that it relies on getting Milosevic's agreement, when Milosevic simply should be forced to stop his assaults on innocent civilians. It relies on Milosevic's dictatorial powers to implement an agreement, undermining support for democratic alternatives. In short, U.S. policy perpetuates Milosevic's rule and ensures that more trouble will come to the Balkans. There can be no long-term stability in the Balkans without a democratic Serbia.

Moreover, we need to be clear that the people of Serbia deserve the same rights and freedoms which other people in Europe enjoy today. They also deserve greater prosperity. Milosevic and his criminal thugs deny the same Serbian people they claim to defend these very rights, freedoms and economic opportunities. Independent media is repeatedly harassed, fined and sometimes just closed down. University professors are forced to take a ridiculous loyalty oath or are replaced by know-nothing party hacks. The regime goes after the political leadership of Montenegro, which is federated with Serbia in a new Yugoslav state but is undergoing democratic change itself. The regime goes after the successful Serb-American pharmaceutical executive Milan Panic, seizing his company's assets in Serbia to intimidate a potentially serious political rival and get its hands on the hard currency it desperately needs to sustain itself. The regime also goes after young students, like Boris Karajcic, who was beaten on the streets of Belgrade for his public advocacy of academic freedom and social tolerance.

Building a democracy in Serbia will be difficult, and it is largely in the hands of those democratic forces within Serbia to do the job. However, given how the regime has stacked the situation against them,—through endless propaganda, harassment and violence—they need help. This Act intends to do just that. It would allocate \$41 million in various sectors of Serbian society where democratic forces can be strengthened, and to encourage further strengthening of these forces in neighboring Montenegro. It would ensure that this funding will, in fact, go to these areas, in contrast to the Administration's budget request which indicates that much of this funding could be siphoned off to implement a peace agreement in Kosovo. Another \$350,000 would go to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly, which could provide assistance on a multilateral basis and demonstrate that Serbia can rejoin Europe—through the OSCE—once it moves in a democratic direction and ends its instigation of conflict.

This Act also states what policy toward Serbia and Montenegro must be: to promote the development of democracy and to support those who are committed to the building of democratic institutions, defending human rights, promoting rule of law and fostering tolerance in society.

This funding, authorized by the Support for East European Democracy Act of 1989, represents a tremendous increase for building democratic institutions in Serbia and Montenegro. This fiscal year, an anticipated \$25 million will be spent, but most of that is going to Kosovo. The President's budget request for the next fiscal year is a welcome \$55 million, but, with international attention focused on Kosovo, too much of that will likely go toward implementing a peace agreement. Make no

mistake—I support strongly assistance for Kosovo. I simply view it as a mistake to get that assistance by diverting it from Serbia and Montenegro. We have spent billions of dollars in Bosnia and will likely spend at least hundreds of millions more in Kosovo, cleaning up the messes Milosevic has made. The least we can do is invest in democracy in Serbia, which can stop Milosevic from making more problems in the future.

Building democracy in Serbia will be difficult, given all of the harm Milosevic has done to Serbian society. The opposition has traditionally been weak and divided, and sometimes compromised by Milosevic's political maneuvering. There are signs, however, the new Alliance for Change could make a difference, and there certainly is substantial social unrest in Serbia from which opposition can gain support. In addition, there are very good people working in human rights organizations, and very capable independent journalists and editors. The independent labor movement has serious potential to gain support, and the student and academic communities are organized to defend the integrity of the universities. Simply demonstrating our real support for the democratic movement in Serbia could convince more people to become involved.

Finally, Montenegro's democratic changes in the last year place that republic in a difficult position. A federation in which one republic is becoming more free and open while the other, much larger republic remains repressive and controls federal institutions cannot last for long, yet Montenegrins know they could be the next victims of Milosevic. It would be a mistake to leave those building a democracy in Montenegro out on that limb. They need our support as well.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Serbia and Democracy Act of 1999 because I feel our country's policy in the Balkans has all too long been based on false assumptions about the region. Granted, social tensions, primarily based on ethnic issues, were bound to have plagued the former Yugoslavia, but it is an absolute fact that violence could have been avoided if Slobodan Milosevic did not play on those tensions to enhance his power. As we prepare debate the sending of American forces to Kosovo to keep a peace which does not yet exist, we must address the root cause of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia from 1991 to today. This Act, Mr. Speaker, does just that, and I urge my colleagues to support its swift and overwhelming passage by the House. The Senate is working on similar legislation, and hopefully the Congress can help put U.S. policy back on the right track.

WINTHROP EAGLES WINS THE BIG
SOUTH CONFERENCE TOUR-
NAMENT

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to salute the Winthrop Eagles—the men's basketball team at Winthrop University, located in my district in Rock Hill, South Carolina. For the first time in the program's 20-year history, the team has won not only the regular season

championship, but the Big South Conference Tournament as well, and will go on to compete in the NCAA tournament.

The Eagles racked up 12 wins in a row—the longest winning streak in the history of the university and the conference. Nine were against Big South teams, the most Winthrop has ever had. It is no wonder the Eagles were the top seed in the Big South Conference Tournament, and no wonder that Coach Gregg Marshall, in his first year, was named the Big South Conference men's basketball coach of the year.

This is a sports success story I wanted to share with the House. Congratulations on a job well done are due all of the Eagles, Coach Gregg Marshall and his fine staff, and everyone who helped make this a real win for Winthrop.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SSI BENEFIT PROTECTION ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "SSI Benefit Protection Act."

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program serves some of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens. SSI recipients qualify because they are elderly, blind, or disabled, and have annual income of less than \$6,000 a year—a total income of less than \$500 a month. Qualified medical personnel have determined that their disabilities are so severe that they are incapable of gainful employment. Nationally, about 6.6 million people qualify for SSI.

SSI is a subsistence income that barely pays for life's basic necessities. The maximum federal payment is less than 75% of the poverty level. And the average federal SSI payment is about \$340 a month—over \$100 less than the maximum.

15 states and the District of Columbia offer additional help to their aged and disabled citizens by sending money to the Social Security Administration to supplement payments to their residents. The average state supplement is between \$50 and \$100 a month, which brings SSI recipients a little closer to the poverty line.

A little-noticed provision in the 1993 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act began charging the states that supplemented SSI payments a small monthly "processing fee" for each check. The fee was not based on any assessment of SSA's costs and in fact, did not go to SSA. It was simply a revenue-raiser. The fee was increased substantially in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, and it is now scheduled to increase to \$8.50 per recipient, per month, in 2002. This year in my home state of Pennsylvania, the governor's office estimated that the fees paid for "processing" totaled about \$24 million. In Pennsylvania, if the whole fee was passed on to recipients it would reduce their state supplement by almost 25%.

Understandably, this rapidly increasing fee has had a chilling effect on state willingness to increase the supplement. State program costs have continued to increase because of the fee, but no state being charged the fee has increased its payment to beneficiaries since

1993, not even to keep up with inflation. Six states have reduced their supplement and one eliminated it.

The Congress should be encouraging states to maintain and increase the supplement so that our most vulnerable citizens can afford food and shelter, not punishing those states that have reached out to help. Even a small increase in benefits can markedly improve life for SSI recipients, and even a small cut has devastating consequences.

That is why I have introduced the "SSI Benefit Protection Act." It would repeal this unfair fee, which is not justified by any analysis of SSAs costs. I hope removing this burden from states will encourage them to reassess their current SSI supplementation levels and increase them to a reasonable level. I hope the Congress and the states can work together to provide for our aged and disabled citizens.

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY, WTOP

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I want to wish WTOP, 1500 AM, 107.7 FM, a happy 30th birthday. From the Apollo XI mission to put a man on the moon to home rule for the District of Columbia, from the Reagan Revolution to the first Republican Congress in 40 years, this top-flight radio station has established a tradition of excellence for delivering comprehensive, up-to-the-minute coverage of news, traffic, weather, and sports.

WTOP Congressional correspondent Dave McConnell's informative "Today on the Hill" broadcasts are a prime source of the latest developments on Capitol Hill and an integral part of WTOP's thorough news coverage. I truly hope Dave stays on the Congressional beat another 30 years.

So on behalf of all House Republicans, happy birthday, WTOP. May you have many more.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JAMES T. TAYLOR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most solemn duties an Army Soldier can perform is to protect the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Those soldiers fortunate enough to serve as honor guards at the Tomb of the Unknowns refer to their watch simply as "the walk."

Recently one of my constituents, Staff Sgt. James T. Taylor, completed his 785th walk, thus concluding his memorable service as a sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire Congress when I say that our fallen soldiers, both identified and unknown, deserve this fitting tribute and recognition at Arlington National Cemetery. They also deserve to be guarded by soldiers like Staff Sgt. James T. Taylor and other members of the "Old Guard," who are prepared to make personal sacrifices

in order to preserve the sanctity and memory of their fallen comrades.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally commend Staff Sgt. Taylor on his dedicated and meritorious service to this grateful Nation. Our country is a better place because of his service.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I have attached a copy of an article from the Pentagram that honors the "last walk" of Staff Sgt. Taylor and would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Pentagram, Jan. 22, 1999]

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SENTINEL MAKES HIS
LAST WALK, PAYS HIS FINAL RESPECTS

(By Renee McElveen)

An ice storm the night before left everything encased in crystal, creating a surreal atmosphere.

The only sounds at that hour were the popping sounds of tree branches breaking off under the weight of the ice, and the measured clicks of metal on marble as Staff Sgt. James T. Taylor's boots traced a precise pattern.

It was 6:45 a.m. on Jan. 15 in Arlington National Cemetery. Taylor was making his final preparations for what would be his 785th walk, his final walk, as a sentinel. He had a chance to prepare now, before the cemetery opened to the public, and run through one time with others the last-walk ceremony that would mark the end of his tour as an honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This day was a long time coming for the 32-year-old Tennessee native. He was a materiel storage and handling specialist attending Advanced Individual Training in 1986 at Fort Lee, Va., when his platoon traveled to Washington, D.C., to see the guard-change ceremony at The Tomb of the Unknowns.

He was so impressed by the ceremony, he asked his platoon sergeant how he could go about becoming a sentinel. At that time, the duty Military Occupational Speciality was limited to Infantrymen. Taylor did not think he could ever become a sentinel since he was serving in a logistics MOS.

He completed his enlistment in 1988 and left active duty to join the Tennessee National Guard back home. Taylor attended college in Berea, Ky., then transferred to Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in special education in 1993.

He re-enlisted that same year as an infantryman. Taylor said he decided to go back on active duty because he missed the Army and the camaraderie of military service.

"You don't get that anywhere else," he explained.

Taylor was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) in the Military District of Washington in 1994 and spent a year in Delta Company performing ceremonial duties in the cemetery. He volunteered to become a sentinel for The Tomb of the Unknowns, and was transferred to Hotel Company.

Taylor then entered an intensive training program for his new assignment. The training period for a sentinel is about six months. "It just depends on how quickly a soldier grasps the knowledge and progresses," Taylor explained.

Not only does the sentinel have to learn "the walk," he must become proficient in the manual of arms for the M-14 rifle, prepare his uniform to standard, learn a seven-page history of The Tomb of the Unknowns, memorize 150 locations of headstones as well as pages upon pages of facts about the cemetery in "The Knowledge Book."

Some of the facts about the cemetery which the sentinels must memorize are:

1. Name the caparisoned horse for the funeral of President John F. Kennedy.

Answer—Black Jack.

2. How many POWs are buried in Arlington National Cemetery?

Answer—Three (2 Italian and 1 German).

3. What is a cenotaph?

Answer—A headstone erected in memory of someone whose remains are not recoverable.

The purpose of learning all of these facts about the cemetery is for the sentinel to be able to answer questions during the frequent visitor tours of their quarters below the amphitheater, Taylor said. Also, the sentinels are often stopped on their way to their cars by the tourists and asked about locations of burial sites of famous individuals.

The Knowledge Book also contains the mission statement of the sentinel, the "guard of honor" for the Tomb of the Unknowns. The sentinel is to be responsible "for maintaining the highest standards and traditions of the U.S. Army and this nation while keeping a constant vigil at this national shrine." The sentinels' "special duty is to prevent any desecration or disrespect directed toward The Tomb of the Unknowns."

Sentinels are tested periodically throughout their training, according to Master Sgt. Richard K. Cline, sergeant of the guard for the sentinels. Oral exams are administered at the three-, six-, nine-, and 12-week intervals. Cline said a timed performance exam accompanies these tests. Sentinels must take the test administrator to the headstones of persons named by the administrator and give biographical sketches on the notables within the time allotted.

In order to "graduate" and qualify to wear the Tomb Badge, sentinels must take and pass a written exam, pass a uniform inspection, and demonstrate proficiency in the time-honored ritual of maintaining the guard sentinel, referred to simply as "the walk."

Taylor said that he had to learn how to eliminate any bounce whatsoever in his walk, which translates to a technique of rolling the feet in a particular manner. His trainer told him the walk should make people think of the way a ghost might move, drifting along smoothly with no up and down movement.

In addition, the sentinel's arms must not bend at the elbows during the walk, but instead swing in a straight line like a pendulum on a grandfather clock. The eyes must stay focused straight ahead, ignoring the crowds of tourists, which can number up to 2,000 at a single changing of the guard ceremony during the summer months, Cline said.

Taylor said it irritates him when soldiers outside The Old Guard tell him he has "easy duty" because all he does is "walk back and forth." He says they have no idea of the intensive training involved, the performance standard required in all weather conditions, and the level of commitment sentinels have to their job.

"This is probably the greatest honor I ever will have," he said.

Taylor said he has performed his sentinel duty under all types of weather conditions. Snow, sleet, rain, heat, or even thunderstorms do not deter the sentinels from guarding The Tomb of the Unknowns.

A poem submitted by a visitor (known only as Simon) to The Tomb of the Unknowns in 1971 has since been adopted as "The Sentinel's Creed."

"My dedication to this sacred duty is total and wholehearted. In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter, and with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection. Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the element, I will walk my tour in humble rever-

ence to the best of my ability. It is he who commands the respect I protect his bravery that made us so proud. Surrounded by well-meaning crowds by day, alone in the thoughtful peace of night this soldier will in honored glory rest under my eternal vigilance."

Sentinels are on duty for 24 hours, then off for 24 hours. During the winter months, sentinels perform two of three hour-long walks each 24-hour period and two hour-long night shifts. During the summer months, sentinels perform six or seven 30-minute walks, and two night shifts.

Cline said the walks are shortened to 30 minutes during the summer months to accommodate the large number of tourists visiting the MDW area. Shorter walks result in more changing-of-the-guard ceremonies, which are a popular tourist attraction at the cemetery.

Taylor said he has had many memorable moments as a sentinel. Two moments, one very public and one very private, stand out in particular.

In 1997, he was selected as the presidential wreath bearer for President Bill Clinton during the Veterans Day Ceremony at The Tomb of the Unknowns. Taylor admits he was nervous, but once the National Anthem started playing, he said, "I felt like a giant out there."

The private moment occurred during one of his early morning walks. The only visitor at the cemetery at that hour was a man wearing uniform items from the Vietnam War era. Taylor said the man stood at attention at the end of the plaza near the guard booth, saluting him. The man watched him for the entire hour and appeared to be very emotional, watching him perform his duty.

"It was a real moving experience for me," Taylor said.

He said he changed his uniform after his tour, then went back up to the amphitheater to try to find the man so that he could speak with him, but he was already gone.

While assigned to Hotel Company, Taylor held five positions at The Tomb of the Unknowns. He was a sentinel, an assistant relief commander, a relief commander, an assistant sergeant of the guard and a trainer.

One of the sentinels he trained, William Q. Hanna, returned for Taylor's last walk. Hanna completed his enlistment in the Army in December. He said he served with Taylor for more than two years, and wanted to be present for his "special moment."

Hanna explained that the last walk is a "rite of passage" and an extremely emotional event for a sentinel as he pays his final respects to The Tomb of the Unknowns. "I could hardly get through mine," he recalled.

At 10:45 a.m., Taylor asked Hanna to drive to the Visitors Center to pick up his family and bring them back to the amphitheater. His mother, Sandra S. Taylor of Knoxville, Tenn., had driven 10 hours through the ice storm so that she could be there for his last walk. His father, James L. Taylor, and stepmother, Linda Taylor, of Middlesboro, Ky., had spent nine hours on the road as well.

While waiting for his final hour-long walk as a sentinel, Taylor made adjustments to his uniform. He pulled the brim of his Dress Blues service cap down and adjusted it over his eyes, checking his reflection in the mirror. Pfc. Daniel Baccus took a large piece of masking tape and blotted up any stray lint on Taylor's raincoat. Taylor then went to the water fountain and ran water over his white gloves and rubbed them together. The water provides a better grip on the wooden stock of the M-14 rifle.

At 11 a.m., the bells toiled the hour and Taylor made his way down the marble sidewalk to take his place on the plaza for the

last time. Cline inspected his uniform and weapon. The guards were changed, and Taylor spent the next hour guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns.

At noon, the bells toiled the hour again, Taylor walked to the center of the plaza to retrieve four red roses from his fiancée, standing at the base of the steps.

He placed one red rose at the base of each of the three crypts, and the fourth rose at the base of the marble tomb. A bugler played "Taps." Taylor saluted. His last walk as a sentinel at The Tomb of the Unknowns was over.

HONORING MORRIS KING UDALL,
FORMER UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FROM ARIZONA

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice in commemoration of the remarkable career of Mo Udall.

During my first term in Congress, the great respect that we all had for Mo was demonstrated in an incident that took place in the Rules Committee. We had under consideration the rule on the Alaska National Land Act, the landmark legislation which preserved thousands of acres of pristine wilderness in the state of Alaska.

There were two competing versions of the bill: one that was reported from the Interior Committee and one that was authored by Mo. Mo's bill was defeated in his own committee and the reported bill was supported by interests who sought to drill for oil in the Alaska wilderness, a position Mo vigorously opposed. Mo acknowledged his defeat in committee but still sought the right to offer his bill as a substitute on the floor.

There was a fierce battle over the rule. Everyone knew that Mo had the votes in the House to pass his substitute. Mo's bill was favored by the environmental community and they lobbied furiously to allow the Udall substitute to be considered in the House. However, the opponents of Mo's bill were lobbying just as hard to deny him the chance to present his substitute once the Alaska Lands bill came to the floor.

The Rules Committee was closely divided on the question of whether or not to specifically make Mo's substitute in order. I was the most junior Member of the committee and would thus vote last on the roll call. When the vote got to me, the vote was tied: everyone in the room assumed that since I was from Texas, an oil producing state, that I would side with the oil industry and against Mo.

However, I held Mo Udall in such high regard as a person and as a legislator, that I voted with him to allow him to offer his substitute on the floor. He was, after all, the Chairman of the Interior Committee and a champion of protecting the wilderness, and there was little doubt in my mind, in spite of my home-state loyalties, that he should be given that opportunity.

Ultimately, the rule passed and when Mo's substitute was voted on, it passed by a vote of 268 to 157. The bill itself, as amended with the Udall substitute, was ultimately passed by an overwhelming vote of 360 to 65.

I can honestly say that had it been any other Member of Congress who had asked to have this far-reaching version of the Alaska Lands bill made in order that, as a freshman, I probably would not have gone against an important industry in my home state.

However, there was no way in good conscience that I could have denied Mo his day in court and his vote on the floor of the House. He was that good a man; that good a legislator. Mo had the moral authority to command fair treatment. And that, Mr. Speaker, is what made him a great legislator.

I am honored to have known him and more honored still to have served with him in this House. His legacy will live on for many generations of Americans both in the crown jewels of our national park system in Alaska and here in the House of Representatives.

LEHIGH VALLEY HEROES

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to deliver a Report from Pennsylvania's 15th District.

So many good things are happening in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. There are scores of good people doing amazing things that make our communities better places to live and I would like to share their stories with my colleagues and the American people. These good people should be recognized, lifted up and known as Lehigh Valley Heroes.

In my book, Lehigh Valley Heroes are individuals who reach out and lend a helping hand to others. Today's I'd like to recognize all the individuals involved with Lehigh Valley's Summerbridge after-school-tutoring program in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

The Summerbridge Program tutors and mentors young children from inner city schools. These young children may be the first-member in their family who has an opportunity to go to college. These volunteers help young students with their homework and take them on field trips. Additionally, the primary goal is to help ensure they are on a path for college.

Mr. Speaker I'd like to recognize all of the tutors at the Summerbridge Program for making a difference. By helping young students learn, these heroes are making our community a better place to live.

LEHIGH VALLEY TUTORS

Jen Auman, Matthew Schultz, Sarah Noblitt, Kelly Cannon, Michelle Hoffman, Chris Balassano, Harry Foley, Michelle Anderson, Daniel Surria, Jessica Rappa, Maria Calafati, Natalie Paraska, Danny Pichardo, Rebecca Kross, Dave Yuan, Payal Shah, Steph Katsaros, Rich Taylor, Brian Brunner, and Kristin Vasquez.

Tami Votral, Brooke Kraus, Sunil Samtani, Michelle Williamson, Kelly Schaeffer, Albert Kelly, Brandi Gilmore, Darren McGill, Lori Wehr, John Fritzky, Steph Kilgge, Dorene Brill, Terri Ertle, Cheyenne DeMulder, Allison Sheniak, Mays Nimeh, Elizabeth Hohenstein, Jaime Siffies, Jarred Weaver, and Nicole Oertman.

Jason Erk, Suzanne Mlynarczyk, Nicky Rothdeutsch, Emily Deck, Nicky Krupa, Brandi

Christine, Melissa Hummel, Claudi Reycraft, Chris Verdier, Capri Thornton, Brandi Schultz, Vanessa Boyer, Steph Ropel, Brandi Gilmore, Alicia Giasi, Jessica Almond, David Rodriguez, Sunil Samtani, Molly Shank, and Justin Christein.

Marisol Ocasio, Shawna Hasford, Kori Newman, John Fritzky, Mandy Burkhardt, Stacey Barron, Steve Weiss, Corrine Reph, Tabitha Hymans, Diana Rodebaugh, Autumn Rainere, Maria Baingbridge, A.J. Bradley, Jeannot Gangwisch, Asad Nawaz, Megan Markulies, Amber Zettlemoyer, Robyn Christine, Sarah Clautier, and Sarah Eitzen.

Kari Druckenmiller, Amy Simonka, Steph Miller, Jacquin Pierce, Steve Schenk, Dana Popkave, Becky Balog, Crystal Leidy, Christine Tessier, Vanessa Vanderberg, Jodi Glenn, Jen Yamerik, and Holda Adams.

PLANTING TREES TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request that the following be included in the Extension of Remarks. It is a op-ed written by a Mr. Chester Thigpen, a constituent of mine from Montrose, Mississippi, that appeared in the Clarion-Ledger on February 27, 1999.

Mr. Chester Thigpen has worked his entire life as a tree farmer to provide for his family—his wife and four children.

Mr. Thigpen's first day's work, in 1918, yielded him 35 cents but, today he is a successful tree farmer. He has been a tree farmer for over forty years and is living the American dream.

In his editorial, he raises some valuable points that members should bear in mind and I encourage them to read this editorial.

[From the Montrose Clarion-Ledger, Feb. 27, 1999]

PLANTING TREES MAY HELP REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

(By Chester A. Thigpen)

I hope that I can be forgiven for feeling like a bystander in the national debate on global warming. As I try to sift through the news coming out of Washington, the problem seems to pose a high environmental as well as economic danger.

Yet something can be done about it, if President Clinton and Congress will mobilize Americans in a campaign to plant trees everywhere they will grow, especially on millions of acres of marginal farmland.

As a farmer in Mississippi, I know something about the value of trees. Stands of loblolly pine on my 650-acre farm provide shade and prevent erosion, and they soak up huge amounts of carbon dioxide.

There is plenty of reason to believe that a coordinated program to plant trees and properly manage our nation's forests is precisely the way to minimize the greenhouse warming problem, and it can be done without harming American living standards.

Climate change affects us all, yet I'm struck by how little attention is being paid to actually dealing with the problem. Yes, President Clinton has asked Congress for \$105 million to conduct research into how forest can offset greenhouse gas emissions by absorbing carbon dioxide. But convincing proof of nature's role in carbon storage already exists.

Recently, a team of scientists, including experts from Columbia University and Princeton University, determined that more carbon may be stored by forests and other ecosystems in the United States than is released by industrial activities in this country. Scientists believe that one reason global temperatures have not increased as much as expected over the past half century may be that the forested portion of the Western world has grown during that time.

Because young trees take in and store carbon dioxide, they act as nature's "sink" for vast amounts of carbon. It is through photosynthesis that trees and other vegetation generate life-giving oxygen and store carbon for decades in the form of wood.

A nationally coordinated program to plant large numbers of trees and improve the health of the nation's forests could have a major impact. A study by American Forests, the nation's oldest conservation organization, estimated that such a program could offset 20 percent to 40 percent of the estimated 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emitted each year in the U.S.

Why not launch a serious tree planting effort now? Anything that can be done to save forests and plant trees on millions of acres might have more effect on global warming than all the emission regulations combined.

Acre-for-acre, U.S. forests store 20 times more carbon than croplands do. Under the Federal Conservation Reserve Program, an estimated 4 million to 5 million acres of eroded land once used to grow crops have been converted to timberland. But with appropriate incentive to landowners, more than 100 million acres of marginal land considered biologically suitable for trees—an area three times the size of North Carolina—could be reforested.

Planting large numbers of trees would provide many additional benefits—erosion control, protection of drinking water sources and better habitat for wildlife. Moreover, forests provide great economic benefits in valuable wood products.

We should also plant more trees in cities and suburbs. By increasing the amount of shade in residential areas, trees and shrubs reduce the need for air conditioning while storing carbon from automobile exhausts and other fossil-fuel combustion. More trees mean cleaner air, and they provide green space for recreation.

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN UPRISING AGAINST CHINESE SUBJUGATION—TIBETAN NATIONAL DAY 1999

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today the international human rights community commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the uprising of the Tibetan people against Communist Chinese oppression. On March 10, 1959, the people of this sparsely populated mountain region rose up against a despotic regime intent on destroying its liberty, its culture, and its ancient religious heritage. Inspired by the leadership and courage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan people stood up and repulsed Chinese efforts to deny them their individuality and their rights. We celebrate Tibetan National Day to pay tribute to their brave crusade.

The uprising of March 10, 1959, was crushed by China's immense military might. The Beijing authorities promptly instituted martial law and used armed soldiers in their brutal effort to suppress the Tibetan people. The Dalai Lama was forced to flee to India in order to preserve his own life, and some 120,000 Tibetans joined him in exile. The government of India has graciously permitted the Tibetan people and His Holiness to remain in India.

Chinese guns and tanks, however, could not destroy the indomitable spirit of the Tibetan people. Guided by the moral strength of the Dalai Lama, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his peaceful effort to resolve the conflict over Tibet, knowledge of the tragedy of the Tibetan people has spread from the Himalayan foothills to the consciousness of the international community.

China's heavy-handed brutality continues to this day. Buddhist monks and nuns as well as others who value and seek to preserve Tibet's unique cultural and historical heritage have suffered imprisonment, torture, and constant abuse at the hands of Beijing authorities. All signs of Tibet's pre-1959 existence, from its religion to its architecture to its music, have been targets for Chinese officials seeking systematically to destroy every vestige of Tibet's identity.

Mr. Speaker, our American democratic and pluralistic heritage and our principled views on religious tolerance and cultural diversity mandate that we stand firmly against these outrageous crime against international law and human decency.

The Chinese Government has marked the 40th Tibetan National Day by continuing its decades-long strategy of spewing deceitful propaganda about the Dalai Lama and his followers. The chairman of the so-called "People's Congress of Tibet" declared that the Dalai Lama "is the chief representative of the feudal serf system," and that "under his rule, the Tibetan people were reduced to animal status." The overseas edition of the official People's Daily accused the Dalai Lama of attempting "to stir up riots and terrorist activities."

In stark contrast with these Chinese absurdities, the Dalai Lama has expressed a genuine desire to achieve a just and fair resolution of the Tibetan issue. His Five Point Peace Plan—one of the principal reasons for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize—reflects a thoughtful and reasoned position in his quest for a peaceful settlement. As his Holiness stated ten years ago in his Nobel acceptance speech in Oslo, his sole desire is that his homeland to become "a sanctuary of peace and non-violence where human beings and nature can live in peace and harmony." The Dalai Lama is not asking too much.

I invite my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in urging Chinese authorities to take a more reasonable and more forthcoming position in dealing with representatives of His Holiness. It is time to make a serious effort to bring peace, justice, and religious freedom to the Tibetan people so that the Tibetans have the opportunity to preserve and perpetuate their unique culture.

Mr. Speaker, this 40th anniversary is a sorrowful event, an occasion that we mark in sadness and regret. But we also mark this event with rejoicing that, despite four decades of brutal repression, the people of Tibetan continue their struggle. The Chinese have not

succeeded. Growing legions of friends of Tibet around the world join them in their fight. This anniversary reminds us that the struggle will be long, but it also reminds us that ultimately it will be successful.

NURSING HOME RESIDENT
PROTECTION AMENDMENTS OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 540, the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments. This much needed legislation will protect nursing home residents from being unfairly evicted just because they are on Medicaid. I commend my colleagues from Florida, Mr. DAVIS and Mr. BILIRAKIS, for introducing this measure and I am very proud to support it.

Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits nursing homes that decide to withdraw from the Medicaid program from evicting current residents already admitted under the Medicaid program.

Nursing home residents should not have to live in fear of eviction simply because they must depend on Medicaid for help in paying their nursing home bills. After we pass this bill and get it signed into law, families can be confident their elderly loved ones won't be evicted because of economic factors.

This is a problem in the United States today. One nursing home in Florida tried to evict Medicaid residents and replace them with higher-paying, privately insured residents last year. After a relative of one of the residents of that Florida nursing home brought suit, a federal judge issued an injunction and the residents were allowed to remain in the nursing home. The Wall Street Journal reported last year that similar evictions were attempted at thirteen homes in nine states. We cannot allow this to happen.

Under the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, a nursing home that decides to withdraw from Medicaid must provide notice to future residents that it no longer participates in the program and won't accept Medicaid payments. Existing residents, however, are protected.

Mr. Speaker, all of us want to do something to help our senior citizens. We talk about that every day in Congress, sometimes in terms of saving Social Security, sometimes in terms of strengthening Medicare. But today, we can do more than just talk about helping our seniors. Today, we can actually do something to help millions of our senior citizens who face the real threat of being unfairly evicted from their nursing homes. Let's pass H.R. 540. Let's help our senior citizens. Let's protect them from these unfair evictions.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ANTONIO CRUZ CRUZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 29, 1999, the island of Guam lost one

of its most prominent legislators. The Honorable Antonio Cruz Cruz passed away at the age of 86.

A member of the House of Assembly during the days of the Guam Congress and an eight-term member of the Guam Legislature, the late Senator Cruz was one of the most honored and active members of the Democratic Party on Guam. Better known as "Ton Gaga," he was born in the city of Hagåtña on May 21, 1912—the son of Maria Perez Cruz and Vicente Iglesias Franquez.

He attended the Guam Public High School and later worked as a clerk messenger for the Naval Government's Department of Public Works and the Bank of Guam in the late 1920's and early 1930's. After holding on the position of bookkeeper at the Bank of Guam for several years in the 1930's, he gained employment with the government serving in administrative capacities for a Refugee Camp in the mid-1940's, the Land Claims Commission, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the Federal Housing Administration.

Prior to being elected to the Guam Legislature, Senator Cruz served as a member of the pre-Organic Act Guam Congress and House of Assembly, serving from 1946 to 1950. He was elected to the Guam Legislature serving in the First through the Sixth legislatures. At the conclusion of the First Session of the Sixth Legislature, Senator Cruz opted to resign in order to fill the post of chief of the Department of Labor and Personnel's Retirement Division. Later that year, he was named assistant Director of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority. He also served in the Ninth and Tenth Legislatures.

In the eight terms that he served in the Legislature, the late senator introduced and co-sponsored numerous bills focused on the issues of education. He was instrumental in establishing a student loan program, developing the Government of Guam retirement system, enhancing personnel benefits for government employees, and funding a number of community projects.

Taking time off his official duties, the former senator always made it a point to be an active member in the village of Barrigada. He served as Secretary for the Barrigada Democratic Party of Guam Precinct. In addition, he also served as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Holy Name Society at San Vicente Catholic Church.

The legacy he leaves behind includes over three decades of government service, of which twenty years were spent as Assemblyman and senator. I join his widow, the former Mercedes Garrido Camacho, and their children Julia, Joseph, David, John, Frank, and Edward in celebrating his accomplishment and mourning the loss of a dutiful husband, a loving father and fellow legislator. Adios Senator Cruz.

CHARTER DAY CLOSING AT THE
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you a speech I recently heard at my alma mater, the College of William and Mary. It was delivered by the President of the

College, Timothy J. Sullivan, at the college's Charter Day ceremonies on February 6, 1999 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Charter Day, which is held annually, commemorates the anniversary of the granting of the royal charter by King William III and Queen Mary II for the establishment of the college in 1693.

CHARTER DAY CLOSING

(President Timothy J. Sullivan, February 6, 1999)

"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just." So wrote Thomas Jefferson—about slavery—the great stain on our national story. Might we not today—for different reasons—borrow Jefferson's words. Should not we "tremble for our country when we consider that God is just?"

Our President has broken a bond of precious trust. He has degraded the great office that was our gift to him. He has embarrassed his country. And if that were all, it would be tragedy enough.

But this is not a one-man show. The full dimensions of this sad tale verge on the operatic—with principal players—secondary figures—extras by the hundreds—and multiple story-lines.

And no matter how many times the tenor gets stabbed, he'll sing loud enough to reach the cheap seats.

It is as sickening as it is astounding—an American epic that most wish would just go away.

But it will not. Nor should we delude ourselves that closure beckons with the end of the impeachment process. It may take a long time to fully measure what this means for our Republic or to discover what we have done to ourselves.

For in the end, it is to ourselves that we must turn. Leaders do not spring from the ground in full flower. We grow them, water them, allow them to bloom—we the people—we bear the ultimate responsibility for the Republic. Whatever it becomes says much about what we have become. So—yes—the impeachment debacle is cause for pain. But what really worries me—what causes me to "tremble for my country"—is the almost certain accelerating effect that this sorry spectacle will have upon an already cynical popular view of politics, of politicians and of the making of public policy.

For at least a generation we have borne the burden of politicians—some in office—some merely hungry for office—who have based their campaigns—indeed their careers on the crackpot notion that *our* government—the *American government*—is the mortal enemy—of our liberty—of our honor—of our legitimate aspirations.

It is one thing—and a right thing—to argue about the cost of government—about its scope—about its competence. These are legitimate—these are vital issues. It is quite another to suggest that by its very nature our freely elected government is evil. That idea—in our America—is historically inaccurate—constitutionally unimaginable—and profoundly dangerous.

Dangerous because the growth of such a distorted notion was first a cause—and later a justification—for the damaging flight of so many from the vital duties of active citizenship.

There are other forces which have degraded our public life and fueled public cynicism about our elected leaders. Perhaps the most potent of these is a stunning popular ignorance about our constitutional system and the defining events in our national history. In a 1996 Washington Post national poll, only 24% of those surveyed could name their United States Senators, just 26% knew the length of a United States Senator's term, and 6% could identify the Chief Justice of the United States.

We have all read the full results of these surveys. They need no further repetition.

But here is the terrible truth. Our founders created a government that will survive as a guardian of liberty only with the active support of citizens who are both engaged and informed. Those honored with the power to govern must be accountable to voters who care about the vitality of our public institutions—and who understand what is required to preserve that vitality.

Last November, 36% of eligible voters participated in congressional elections. In 1996, barely 49% of our fellow citizens voted in the presidential elections. These are signs of sickness—not of health—these are clear warning signs that the foundation upon which our representative government depends is weakening and growing weaker.

A public culture crippled by apathy and infected by ignorance spawns other enemies of freedom. As more and more reject the idea of active citizenship, many who remain engaged embrace intensely focused but narrow views. These activists are passionate about a single issue and indifferent to all others. They are one-cause citizens, and they see the complexities of our time through the distorting prism of a glass that makes balance impossible and context irrelevant. Name of subject—you will find a "one-cause caucus" eager to impose what are inevitably minority views upon an indifferent—and thus unrepresented—majority.

We have—to take one example—seen the rise of preacher-politicians or politician-preachers who seem convinced that God is a politician with views just like their own. Does God really have a firm opinion about the right number of rest stops on interstate highways? I hope He doesn't. In the American system, you cannot make a religion of politics and you should not make religion political. But we are in danger or doing both.

Our founders took measured—determined steps to insure that our country would never be *constitutionally* a Christian nation—that we would never be a nation with a state religion of any kind. But they took equally measured—determined steps to guarantee that the private right to worship would be meticulously protected. Understanding that critical constitutional difference demands a thoughtful and engaged electorate. That so many of our fellow citizens manifestly do not understand is yet another of the dangers we confront.

The rising tide of constitutional and historical ignorance is exacerbated by the popular media's increasing abdication of its responsibility. The columnist, Russell Baker, has written about

"Our dependence on entertainments that are almost ritualistic in their repetitious shootings, capers, chases, carnal congresses and witless humor—thought is almost entirely absent from these entertainments. Their producers clearly assume that there is no audience for thought."

And thought is not the only thing absent. Also nearly invisible is any serious attention to important matters of public policy. The capers—congresses—and chases—are dominant almost to the point of exclusion.

Mine is a somber message. Many—even those who share some of these concerns—will argue that I have missed the larger point—the larger point being that America has never been richer—safer—or more content. We do enjoy unprecedented prosperity. As journalist Greg Easterbrook reminds us, "Even home runs are at an all-time high."

To those who argue that proposition—and I respect them—I reply that you have missed an even larger point. Economic progress, social stability, the true happiness of our people—none can be long sustained if our public life is impoverished by citizen neglect—if our

constitutional system is left to the mercy of accidental leaders unaccountable to an informed electorate. Political liberty—economic freedom both depend upon citizens who understand and who care and who are passionate about the discharge of their duties as free men and women. Upon this proposition our founders staked their "lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor." What was true for them—remains true for us.

The citizen leaders who imagined and created our government were not afraid to remind us of its demands. As the delegates to the Constitutional Convention left Independence Hall for the last time, the crowd that met them was anxious and concerned. One in that gathering shouted out above the din, "What have you given us?" To that question, Benjamin Franklin replied—"a republic—if you can keep it." A republic—if you can keep it.

And throughout our history, our greatest leaders have been those who knew that government's purpose is far more than to preserve public ease—it is also to promote public service. And so these leaders—true leaders—were not afraid to remind us of our public obligation. More than 60 years ago, in the midst of the great depression—in the shadow of the Second World War, Franklin Roosevelt spoke words that still stir—and still shine:

"There is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny."

To my generation and the one which follows, much has been given. But not much has been expected. We turn now to face *our* destiny—a destiny I believe that will depend upon whether—we have the will—the intelligence—the civic soul—to place safely into later hands the glorious republic it has been our honor to inherit.

Of our destiny, what would we have history say?

IN HONOR OF POLICE CHIEF
WILLIAM J. HARRIS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Chief William J. Harris of Manhattan, Illinois as he retires from the Village of Manhattan's police department which he served for over 30 years.

Chief Harris was born on December 15th, 1938 in Joliet, Illinois where he resided until he and his family moved to Manhattan in 1945. Following his high school years, William Harris served our country in the United States Air Force's Security Division from 1956 through 1960. On October 20, 1962 Mr. Harris joined Ms. Mary Jane Buitenwerf in a marriage that has produced three sons; David, Daniel, and Michael. Bill and Mary Jane have lived their entire married life in Manhattan.

While working for the Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet, Mr. Harris began his tremendous record of public service while working as a part time Manhattan police officer in 1965. Nearly four years later, Mr. Harris took over the position as acting police chief on June 1, 1969. Only six months later, on January 1, 1970, William Harris was hired as Manhattan's full time police chief where he has served to present day.

In addition to his dedication to keep Manhattan a peaceful community, Mr. Harris was a

member of the Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department for several years. He still enjoys active memberships with both the Will County Police Chief Association and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the lifetime of service Mr. Harris has given to his community. Undoubtedly, there are many families in Will County who are thankful each day for the service Bill Harris has done for Manhattan. The Village of Manhattan is a quiet and safe community, and its residents can point to Chief Harris' good work as the reason for this.

I wish Chief Harris, his wife Mary Jane, and their children and grandchildren all the best life can offer in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Vote No. 35, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district due to weather constraints. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this vote to pass H.R. 540.

TRIBUTE TO WTOP RADIO ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement about WTOP Radio to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

It is with great pleasure that I note that today is the 30th anniversary of WTOP Radio in Washington, D.C. This organization plays a vital part in our city by being a prime source of information on major news events. Over the past 30 years, WTOP has offered extensive, up-to-the-minute coverage of all the important happenings in the nation's capital and around the world.

On this occasion of WTOP's 30th anniversary, it is with great honor that I wish the entire organization a hearty congratulations on its many accomplishments. From detailing the weather to helping our children know how to dress for school each morning to providing the latest sports scores, WTOP has provided comprehensive reporting.

Through my personal experience of being interviewed by WTOP's congressional correspondent Dave McConnell, I know that WTOP—and Dave—always provide fair, balanced and accurate reporting. It's always been a pleasure to work with Dave and WTOP.

To all the hard-working staffers of WTOP, I offer my sincere congratulations. I look forward to hearing news from you for the next 30 years!

TRIBUTE TO JERRY REGAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 9, 1999, the Jersey Shore area lost one

of its leading citizens with the passing of Jeremiah F. Regan of Oceanport, NJ. Jerry Regan was one of those individuals who could find time for a seemingly endless list of professional, community, political and religious activities, and yet still devote himself to his family and friends. His contributions will continue to be felt across the community, particularly by our young people to whom he devoted so much time and heartfelt concern.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Regan's influence was felt throughout New Jersey, as well as here in our nation's capital. Jerry served as campaign director and comptroller for the late Rep. James J. Howard, a Member of this body for nearly a quarter of a century. He had a long-standing involvement in education issues, including his service as New Jersey delegate to the National School Boards Association and represented school boards in New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District on the Federal Relations Network, a public school advocacy effort. He was a member of the Oceanport Board of Education, and adjunct professor at Monmouth College, and an active leader in the Monmouth County and New Jersey school boards associations. He was President of the Executive Board of the New Jersey School Boards Association from 1988 to 1990, and held other senior posts with the Association.

An Army veteran of World War II, Jerry had a long and highly decorated career at Fort Monmouth. He was promoted to the highest civilian level in the Department of Defense. He also served with me and several of my Congressional colleagues past and present on the Save Our Fort Committee.

Jerry also served on the Diocesan Education Advisory Council of the Diocese of Trenton. He was a communicant of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Long Branch, NJ, and was active in the St. Vincent DePaul Society. He was a Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 58 in Oceanport for 12 years. Jerry was also a member of the Oceanport Senior Citizens and the Oceanport Division of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he served on the Public Employees Relations Commission.

Born in Skibbereen in County Cork, Ireland, Jerry came to the U.S. in 1932. He became an American citizen while serving in Germany with the Army. Throughout his life, Jerry maintained a strong devotion to both America and Ireland.

My heart goes out to Jerry's wife Marilyn (Pinky) Regan, who has for many years done an absolutely superb job in my campaign office. I also extend my heartfelt condolences to their two sons and three daughters, six grandchildren and other relatives on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr. Speaker, even if I didn't know Jerry Regan personally, I would be proud to pay tribute to such an outstanding citizen. But, besides working with him on public policy matters, I was proud to call Jerry a friend. His passing leaves a big void in all of our lives, but the memory of his hard work, his generous spirit and his wonderful sense of humor will continue to be an inspiration for me and everyone lucky enough to know Jerry Regan.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT OZUNA

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Robert Ozuna, a businessman, philanthropist, and friend, who truly lived the American dream. The son of Mexican-American parents, Mr. Ozuna was a self-made success story. He worked his way through school, and started New Bedford Panoramex, a firm that has become an important regional employer and leading supplier of advanced electronics equipment to the FAA and other agencies. Through his career Mr. Ozuna came to be respected by many as a leading entrepreneur, and a supporter of charitable causes through Southern California. Mr. Ozuna's passing on Saturday is a major loss to the community, and he will be missed.

Robert Ozuna was born in Miami, Arizona, the oldest of four children, and he lost his father when he was only about ten years old. After his father's death, Mr. Ozuna's family moved to East Los Angeles, where he began working to help support his mother, brother, and two sisters. Through his years on the job he acquired important business experience, and he both supported himself and paid for his education in electrical engineering.

In 1966 Mr. Ozuna founded New Bedford Panoramex. Under his leadership as CEO for the last 33 years, NBP has grown into a thriving electronics-manufacturing business, a leader in the development and manufacture of electronic communications systems and remote monitoring systems. For his work Mr. Ozuna earned the Air Traffic Control Association Chairman's Citation of Merit Award, and was twice honored with the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise Award.

Over the years Mr. Ozuna ensured that his community benefitted from his success. He sponsored many philanthropic activities, and was a founding director in the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Youth Athletic Association.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ozuna will be missed. I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to his mother Amelia Ozuna, his sons Steve Ozuna and Jeff Dominelli, his daughters Nancy DeSilva and Lisa Jarrett, his sisters Lillian Gomez and Vera Venegas, his brother Tony Ozuna, and his eight grandchildren.

UPLAND ENTREPRENEUR OZUNA DIES AT 69

(By Joan Kite)

UPLAND.—Robert L. Ozuna, a Mexican-American entrepreneur who turned a garage-based electronics manufacturing business into one of the largest companies in Upland, selling instrument landing systems to the American government, died Saturday. He was 69.

Mr. Ozuna, president and CEO of New Bedford Panoramex Corp., died of cancer at Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Covina, months after his wife died of leukemia, said Mr. Ozuna's daughter-in-law, Gina Ozuna.

"He was a real fighter. He was only given two months to live, but he lasted six months," Gina Ozuna said. "He worked up until the day before he went into the hospital."

That was two weeks ago.

Mr. Ozuna was born to Mexican-American parents in Miami, Ariz.

In 1940, his father died of cancer, and Mr. Ozuna assumed much of the responsibility for his brother and two sisters while his mother worked.

Taking out a second mortgage on his Whit-tier home, Mr. Ozuna used that money to start his business in 1966. He built that business up and attended community college to learn about electronics engineering.

The business took off. Mr. Ozuna's most important customer was the American government. He flew back and forth from Washington, D.C., hobnobbing with politicians.

At the peak of the company's growth, Mr. Ozuna had about 500 employees working for him at 1037 W. Ninth St.

Mr. Ozuna was married twice. His first wife, Yolanda, died of cancer when Mr. Ozuna's son, Steve, was 8.

Gina Ozuna's husband, Steve, will now take over New Bedford Panoramex Corp.

A humanitarian as well, Mr. Ozuna founded the East Los Angeles Sheriff's Youth Athletic Association, which promotes healthy living and smart choices for about 60,000 young people.

Mr. Ozuna is survived by his mother, Amelia Ozuna; sons Steven Ozuna and Jeff Dominelli; daughters Nancy DeSilva and Lisa Jarrett; sisters Lillian Gomez and Vera Venegas; brother Tony Ozuna; and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be noon Friday at St. Gregory's Church, 13935 E. Telegraph Road, Whittier. Interment will follow at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Rowland heights.

The family requests donations to Make a Wish Foundation, Rancho de Los Niños Orphanage and City of Hope.

NURSING HOME PROTECTION
AMENDMENTS OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 540, The Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments. I am an original co-sponsor of this legislation and want to thank Chairman BILIRAKIS and Chairman BLILEY for their support of this measure. In addition, I want to thank Mr. DAVIS of Florida for his hard work as well as the Democratic Ranking Members Mr. DINGELL and Mr. BROWN.

Mr. Speaker, for senior citizens a nursing home is a home. Our Nation's elderly or disabled should not have to worry that they will be evicted from their nursing homes, merely because they are on Medicaid.

This bill will prevent incidents, like the one in Florida, where a nursing home lied to the residents and their families about undertaking renovations as a pretext for evicting their Medicaid residents.

Some of my colleagues have voiced concerns during the markup in committee that since we repealed the Boren amendment, States could readjust their payments to pay nursing homes less than the cost of service. I would be very concerned if this would occur, because the Governors lobbied Congress to repeal the Boren amendment, based on a promise they would not lower rates below reasonable payments. However, I agree with my colleagues that we need to be vigilant in watching whether States lower their Medicaid payments to unreasonable levels and believe we should take action if that occurs. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 34, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district due to weather constraints. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this Journal vote.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MARCH 17

MARCH 22

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 12

9 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Justice. SD-226

MARCH 16

9:30 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine education programs for the disadvantaged. SD-430
Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Management Plan Program of the Clean Air Act. SD-406

10 a.m.
Small Business
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Small Business Administration. SR-428A

2 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To resume oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. SD-366

9 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-406

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S.400, to provide technical corrections to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to improve the delivery of housing assistance to Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the right of tribal self-governance. SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to markup S.326, to improve the access and choice of patients to quality, affordable health care, and to consider pending nominations. SD-430

10 a.m.
Veterans Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Disabled American Veterans. 345 Cannon Building

Governmental Affairs
To resume hearings on the future of the Independent Counsel Act. SH-216

Energy and Natural Resources
Foreign Relations
To hold joint hearings on proposals to expand Iraqi oil for food. SD-419

10:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on loss of open space and environmental quality. SD-406

MARCH 18

Time to be announced
Finance To resume hearings to examine spending trends in the Medicare program, the impact on those trends of Medicare savings in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for Medicare, including the fifteen-percent surplus funding proposal. SD-215

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To resume hearings on loss of open space and environmental quality. SD-406

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the readiness of the United States Air Force and Army operating forces. SH-216

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters. SH-219

1 p.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine the quality of care in nursing homes. SH-216

MARCH 23

9 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings on a proposal to support family care givers. SD-106

MARCH 24

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S.399, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. SR-485

10 a.m.
Veterans Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Retired Officers Association. 345 Cannon Building

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Defense, focusing on active and reserve military and civilian personnel programs and the future years defense program. SR-222

APRIL 14

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the published scandals plaguing the Olympics. SR-253

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of welfare reform for Indians. SR-485

APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on Bureau of Indian Affairs capacity and mission. SR-485

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.
Veterans Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion. 345 Cannon Building