

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REMOVE THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND AND MEDICARE OFF-BUDGET

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, over the years, the Federal Government has raided the Social Security trust fund and Medicare and diverted the money earmarked for retirement and medical benefits to a host of other programs. This would be bad enough if Social Security faced no financial crisis. But the program is projected to start running cash-flow shortages around 2013, which makes the misuse of the trust fund unconscionable. I have recently introduced legislation calling for a constitutional amendment to remove the Social Security trust fund and Medicare off-budget. I encourage each of my colleagues to support this measure.

Supporters of the Social Security accounting system claim the trust fund is in fine shape, storing the surpluses in a massive fund that will ensure that benefit checks keep flowing until 2032. The truth is when Social Security's costs exceed tax receipts, the Government will have to raise taxes and/or borrow more money to help pay benefits.

Since 1983, Social Security has collected more in taxes than it spends on benefits and other costs. This year, the payroll tax surplus will total about \$52 billion. By 2007, the cumulative surplus is estimated to be \$435 billion.

In the past, these funds have been spent on everything from defense to welfare. In return, the trust fund has been issued nonmarketable Treasury bonds, which are merely promises to repay the money with interest at a later date in time. In short, IOU's from the Government to itself. To date, the IOU's in the trust fund total over \$800 billion.

The best and only way to shield the Social Security and Medicare trust funds from spending raids is to exclude their funds from Federal budget calculations. Currently, several bills have been introduced that would do just that. However, none of those bills call for amending the U.S. Constitution to ensure that raiding the fund is impossible.

The fundamental goal of the Social Security and Medicare programs is ultimately to guarantee savings and medical coverage for retirees. The Federal Government has made a contract with the American people. Let's show that we are serious about addressing the retirement system's long term solvency problem. Again, I urge each member to support this constitutional amendment.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN JOSLIN AND ROGER BISHOP

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the humanitarian acts of Justin Joslin and Roger Bishop, two students of Sandia High School in Albuquerque, NM.

In November 1998 these two young men were driving around after school when they saw a slow-moving vehicle veer dangerously across oncoming traffic toward houses. The driver of this vehicle appeared passed out, her head tipped back against the seat. Without exchanging a word, both young men sprang into action to stop the car, saving the woman and possibly others, from injury. Justin stopped his car, and he and Roger jumped out and ran along opposite sides of the other vehicle. Roger grabbed the passenger's door, which was locked and Justin grabbed the drivers' door and was able to jump in. Justin pressed on the brake and put the vehicle in park. The 66-year-old driver had apparently fallen unconscious. She was treated at a local hospital and released.

Too many times we hear of bad news in our communities or situations that could have concluded better if someone would have acted with concern and compassion as these young men did. Justin Joslin and Roger Bishop showed that they care about others and are willing to act in a humanitarian way when they see a need.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES DOLAN

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. First Class James Dolan, of Jonestown, PA, who recently earned the title of Soldier of the Year for the Pennsylvania National Guard. SFC Dolan, who serves full-time at Fort Indiantown Gap in Annville, is the assistant inspector general for the PA Army National Guard.

This award is well-earned by an individual who carries himself with great professionalism and distinction in the finest traditions of our country's military history. The noncommissioned officers corps serves as the backbone of the army, and the benchmark that SFC Dolan has set is emblematic of the lofty standards traditionally set by our nation's non-commissioned officers. In order to achieve this honor, SFC Dolan was interviewed by evaluation boards who ranked his technical proficiency, leadership skills, and military knowledge and bearing.

This award was given to an excellent soldier who has maintained a brilliant military record.

In addition to the almost 13 years he has spent in the National Guard, he served for 4 years in the Marine Corps, enlisting after graduating from high school. Despite his success, SFC Dolan remains modest, citing the exemplary work of other Pennsylvania Guardsmen. He is in quite a good position to determine the proficiency of his colleagues, as it is his duty to inspect unit readiness throughout the state. In this capacity, he helps review a third of the National Guard every year.

SFC Dolan, in the true spirit of the minuteman, initially joined the same National Guard unit in which his father served. He currently lives with his wife, Vincenta, who is also a member of the PA Guard, and their 10-month old daughter, Kaitlin.

The honor of the title of Soldier of the Year is a great one. That the award is in such good hands bodes well for the future of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The people of Pennsylvania can feel secure in the knowledge that men and women like SFC Dolan are working for them. It is an honor to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING COLORADO GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL 3A CHAMPIONS—EATON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Eaton High School girls basketball team on their impressive State 3A Championship. The victory, a hard fought 50-47 win over Pagosa Springs High School, was a thrilling contest between two talented and deserving teams. In championship competition, though, one team must emerge victorious, and Eaton proved themselves the best in their class—truly second to none.

The State 3A Championship is the highest achievement in high school basketball. This coveted trophy symbolizes more than just the team and its coach, Bob Ervin, as it also represents the staunch support of the players' families, fellow students, school personnel and the community. From now on, these people can point to the 1998-1999 girls basketball team with pride, and know they were part of a remarkable athletic endeavor. Indeed, visitors to this town and school will see a sign proclaiming the Girls State 3A Championship, and know something special had taken place there.

The Eaton basketball squad is a testament to the old adage that the team wins games, not individuals. The combined talents of these players coalesced into a dynamic and dominant basketball force. Each team member also deserves to be proud of her own role. These individuals are the kind of people who lead by example and serve as role-models. With the increasing popularity of sports among young

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

people, local athletes are heroes to the young in their home towns. I admire the discipline and dedication these high schoolers have shown in successfully pursuing their dream.

The memories of this storied year will last a lifetime. I encourage all involved, but especially the Eaton players, to build on this experience by dreaming bigger dreams and achieving greater successes. I offer my best wishes to this team as they move forward from their State 3A Championship to future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ST. GREGORY
THE ILLUMINATOR CHURCH OF
FOWLER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Fowler, CA, upon its re-opening. St. Gregory the Illuminator is the fourth oldest Armenian Church in the United States.

St. Gregory first opened its doors in 1906 as the Armenian Apostolic Church. The services were held in the Episcopal Church of Fowler, and officiated by Father Sahag Vartabed Nazaretian, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Fresno. During this time, the congregation of the St. Gregory Church consisted of 75 to 100 families.

In 1907, the First Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Church was celebrated. Immediately following the liturgy, the congregation elected a board of trustees, their objective being the selection of a suitable site for a church building. On April 15, 1909, the present church site in Fowler was selected and purchased.

Construction of the church building on February 3, 1910. On April 17, the church was consecrated in a ceremony in the presence of a large congregation. The St. Gregory Church became the fourth established Armenian Apostolic Church in America, under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

Over the years, the original church building has expanded, and a church hall and Sunday school classes have been added. In 1993 the church decided to expand further. The site has since been enhanced by a park, basketball and volleyball courts, a playground and a courtyard, all of which are frequently used and enjoyed by parishioners. Most recently, construction has taken place to expand the sanctuary and church offices; a library and conference room have also been added. During this time of construction, services have been held in Markarian Hall, and a drastic increase in the congregation has been observed, making the re-opening of the sanctuary highly anticipated.

It is the memorable event that St. Gregory celebrates as it serves its third generation of Armenians, as well as many converts. It is the prayer of the parish that St. Gregory will be able to meet the challenge of inspiring those who worship in and make St. Gregory their spiritual home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Fowler on its longtime serv-

ice to the Christian community, and its efforts to serve better through expansion. May it long continue its growth and success.

UNITED CONFEDERATION OF
TAINO PEOPLE DAY

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the taino people and the importance of observing the United Confederation of Taino People Day.

The Taino people are the descendants of the first Native Peoples of the Americas to greet Cristobal Colon (Christopher Columbus) in the year 1492, and have a distinctive spiritual and material relationship with the lands, territories, waters and coastal seas which they have traditionally been connected to, occupied and used from time immemorial.

The Taino people have the collective and individual right to identify themselves as indigenous, to be recognized as such, and to practice, revitalize, develop and transmit to coming generations the past, present and future manifestations of their distinct identity, ethnic, cultural and spiritual traditions, history, language, and customs.

The Taino people, beyond international and political borders, have taken positive steps for the recognition, promotion and protection of their collective and individual rights and freedoms, by organizing themselves for their spiritual, social, political, economic, and cultural enhancement.

The Taino people, being represented by indigenous organizations, such as Caney Quinto Mundo, Concejo General de Tainos Borincanos, Fundacion Social Luz Cosmica Taina, Presencia Taina, Taino Ancestral Legacy Keepers, Ciboney Tribe, and Cecibajagua, have in solidarity chosen representatives themselves and established the United Confederation of Taino People.

The United Confederation of Taino People is celebrating its first historic anniversary, which coincides with, and recognizes the United Nations International decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and the equinox that signals the beginning of the planting cycle that the Taino People have observed for thousands of years.

Mr. Speaker, March 27, 1999 is the United Confederation of Taino People Day. I encourage my colleagues and all of the people of the United States to observe that day with the respect and dignity it deserves and to learn more about the great contributions of this people to our country and civilization.

TRIBUTE TO ONORINA LEACH

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention an honor received by Onorina Leach, Science Teacher at Highland High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mrs. Leach was profiled in the November 1998 na-

tional magazine Cable in the Classroom for her innovative methods to use technologies in the classroom.

Mrs. Leach is a regular user of video in her science class. She has found that by supplementing the traditional text method of teaching she is able to reach different kinds of learners. Some students favor auditory and visual information processing. Mrs. Leach has found that to reach more students more effectively she must present the material in as many different ways as she can.

In addition to her responsibilities as a science teacher, Onorina Leach is the coach of Highland High School's United States Academic Decathlon team. Also, Mrs. Leach is using video to help prepare the Highland High School Decathlon team for competition. The students participating in the United States Academic Decathlon learn study skills, time-management skills and social skills. A compliment given to Mrs. Leach by a student she had years ago summarizes Ms. Leach's dedication to her students. "You know, Mrs. Leach, Academic Decathlon did not necessarily prepare me for graduate school, but it did prepare me for life."

Please join me in honoring and thanking Onorina Leach for the difference she is making in the lives of her students and to our great community of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

MY COMMITMENT TO FREE AND
FAIR TRADE FOR AGRICULTURE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Colorado agriculture increasingly depends upon the export market to expand sales and increase revenues. The expanding world trade in agriculture has a significant impact on both the U.S. trade balance and on specific commodities and individual farmers.

No sector of the U.S. economy is subject to more international trade barriers than agriculture. The import quotas, high tariffs, government buying monopolies and import bans imposed by other nations, coupled with the overwhelming number of trade sanctions and embargoes imposed on other countries by our own government, cost the American agriculture industry billions of dollars each year in lost export opportunities.

These barriers continue to grow in spite of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Without question, they are devastating the ability for American agriculture to effectively compete, particularly at a time when exports now account for 30% of U.S. farm cash receipts and nearly 40% of all agricultural production. It is abundantly clear, that in addition to free trade, America must guarantee fair trade.

The 1996 Freedom to Farm Act returned control of farming operations to producers in exchange for sharp restrictions on the level of government support. The goal was to provide U.S. farmers with the flexibility to run their operations according to the marketplace. But in exchange, the U.S. government has a clear responsibility to ensure that our farmers and ranchers have the ability to compete fairly

against other exporters, not against foreign governments. I will continue my efforts in Congress to compel the executive branch to vigorously fight foreign trade barriers and utilize available tools such as the Export Enhancement Program and the Market Access Program to promote U.S. products abroad.

Furthermore, the State Department and the current administration must be forced to understand the economic consequences of utilizing food as a diplomatic weapon. Our farmers and ranchers cannot continue to bear the overwhelming burden of ineffective unilateral sanctions. The federal government should be required to identify funding sources to reimburse farmers for the reduction in prices caused by our government's actions, and this must occur before such actions are permitted to take place.

Agriculture is the bedrock of the American economy, and our agricultural productivity is the envy of the world. Assuring Colorado's farmers keep this edge in the global economy is one of my highest priorities in Congress.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 820) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes:

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, the U.S. Coast Guard provides many valuable services to our country. Among them are ice rescues. As many of us along the Great Lakes know, the Coast Guard has saved countless lives and provided invaluable services to our communities.

In the district which I represent, Macomb and St. Clair Counties, recreational uses of Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River, and Lake Huron are not just limited to summer activities. Ice fishing is a growing and popular recreational activity, but from time to time wayward fishermen find themselves in need of help.

Our communities do a great job in rescuing individuals from critical circumstances, but their rescue capacity could be greatly aided by a Husky Airboat stationed at the St. Clair Shores Coast Guard Station. As we consider the Coast Guard authorization bill, I hope the Coast Guard and committee authorizers will consider the import role the Coast Guard plays in ice rescues and will work toward providing adequate resources to satellite stations, like the one in St. Clair Shores, to fulfill their mission. I look forward to working with the Coast Guard and the committees of jurisdiction in this important matter.

THE WORK INCENTIVES
IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that has one goal and one goal only—enabling individuals with disabilities to pursue their desire to work. In today's workplace, less than one-half of one percent of disabled Americans successfully move from disability benefits to employment and self-sufficiency. A recent Harris Survey, however, found that 72 percent of Americans with disabilities want to work but nearly 75 percent of persons with disabilities are unemployed. What is the problem, here?

Let me tell you about a man from my district. He is a 39-year-old Navy Veteran from Bay Shore, NY. Several years ago, he worked on Wall Street with the hopes of becoming a stockbroker. Unfortunately, an accident in 1983 left him a quadriplegic. Because of his injury, this man relies on a tracheostomy to help him breath and speak.

He requires nurses or caregivers to clean his tracheostomy and requires 24-hour home care to assist him bathing, dressing, housekeeping, and numerous other daily activities. This individual's physical challenge, however, does not inhibit his ability to become a stockbroker. Ten years after his tragic accident, he successfully passed the "Series 7" test, a grueling 6-hour exam, to become a licensed stockbroker. Except for Federal barriers, he would be a stock broker today. He cannot, however, because he would lose his Medicaid and Medicare, which he needs to survive.

His situation is not unique. His predicament is replicated all across this country—by the millions. Suffolk County, NY, alone has 261,000 disabled individuals—most of whom want to work. Yet, disabled Americans must choose between working and surviving. Federal benefit programs such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provide benefits, including eligibility for health coverage through Medicare and Medicaid. Services that many disabled workers require, such as personal assistance, are often not covered by employer health care. So, when a disabled American secures a job and earns income, he or she may lose their government benefits and, subsequently, their health coverage.

This is why I have introduced the Work Incentives Improvement Act in the House of Representatives. The Federal Government should remove existing barriers and allow these individuals to work. Like all other Americans, disabled Americans deserve economic opportunity. They deserve the satisfaction that only a paycheck can bring. They deserve to be in control of their lives and have the peace of mind of independence and personal security. The Work Incentives Improvement Act takes significant steps toward reforming Federal disability programs, improving access to needed services, and releasing the shackles of dependency.

Look at today's disability program: more than 7.5 million disabled Americans receive benefits from SSI and SSDI. Providing assistance to these individuals costs the Government \$73 billion a year—making these dis-

ability programs the fourth largest entitlement expenditure in the Federal Government. Now, if only one 1 percent, or 75,000, of the 7.5 million disabled adults were to become employed, Federal savings in disability benefit would total \$3.5 billion over the lifetime of the individual. Removing barriers to work is a major benefit to disabled Americans in their pursuit of self-sufficiency, and it also contributes to preserving the Social Security trust fund.

The Work incentives Improvement Act would create new State options for SSDI and SSI beneficiaries who return to work to purchase the health care coverage they would otherwise be entitled to if they did not work. It would support a user-friendly, public-private approach job training and placement assistance for individuals with disabilities who want to work, and it provides for new ways to inform SSDI and SSI beneficiaries of available work incentives.

The man from Bay Shore, NY, said, "I want to work. I do not want to be a burden to taxpayers." The Work Incentives Improvement Act will help him become a successful stockbroker. When he does so, he hopes to open to open his own firm and hire people with disabilities.

Now is the time to make major progress toward removing barriers and enabling people with disabilities to work. Millions of Americans are waiting eagerly to unleash their creativity and pursue the American dream. They are waiting for us to act, Mr. Speaker. Let's act now.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 975, REDUCING VOLUME
OF STEEL IMPORTS AND ESTABLISHING
STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION AND MONITORING
PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Steel Recovery Act of 1999. I believe this initiative provides a comprehensive approach to enforcing trade laws by stating clearly and forcefully that the United States does not and will not tolerate violations of trade laws by foreign corporations.

As we enter a new millennium, we must face and embrace globalism by ensuring that all our citizens have the skills required to compete in the international economy. Export-driven job growth ensures that our communities' living standards continue to rise.

The primary forces shaping our economy—globalization, digitalization, deregulation, and diversity—require that we consider a broader array of international trade and investment opportunities. The city of Memphis is considered America's Distribution Center, and trade liberalization will help us become the World's Distribution Center.

But, while I support free trade, I also support fair trade. When other countries employ unfair trading practices, we must respond in kind. The rules of the international trading system, as laid out in the World Trade Organization, are predicated upon fair trade. If a country violates these rules, the system itself suffers.

That is why we must respond forcefully when foreign firms are dumping their products in the United States at prices under the fair market value. That is why we must respond forcefully when huge import surges threaten American jobs. This bipartisan measure demonstrates to the rest of the world that there is a right way and a wrong way to pursue globalization.

The plight of Birmingham Steel, which operates a mini-mill in the Ninth District of Tennessee, is an example of how the current crisis is affecting working families in our country. In Memphis, Birmingham Steel employees manufacture steel that is eventually fashioned into wire rods. Since 1993, wire rod imports from non-NAFTA nations have increased 60 percent, and in the past 18 months these imports have increased by 16 percent. Surely, we need to rectify this situation.

We also need to be wary of the macroeconomic effects of the surge in imports. A recent Business Week article noted that the merchandise trade deficit widened by 25 percent in 1998, to a record \$248 billion. Most of this can be attributed to surging imports, such as the steel surges from Brazil, Russia, and Japan. Economists agree that while the U.S. economy continues to prosper and grow, a ballooning current account deficit could prompt a correction in stock prices, a weaker dollar, and possibly even a recession. In other words, our unprecedented record of high growth—while keeping inflation and unemployment low—is jeopardized by import surges.

About two decades ago, the U.S. steel industry was widely criticized for lagging competitiveness, excessively high prices, and low labor productivity. Both management and labor realized that they had to reinvent the way steel was produced in the United States. They did so through reinvestment, streamlining, and hard work. The steel industry has since turned itself into one of the most admired, productive sectors of U.S. business.

Now, as world trading rules are being flaunted, it is time for us to come to the aid of this proud industry, an industry that is crucial to our national defense and our American heritage. Our steel workers deserve better. The world trading system deserves better. For these reasons, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Bipartisan Steel Recovery Act of 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF A SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DAMS ON THE COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Pacific Northwest are currently engaged in a debate on the best way to ensure the survival and recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead. These fish are very important to the people of our region, and we are dedicated to ensuring their survival.

However, Mr. Speaker, ongoing studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service into the feasibility of removing federal dams to enhance fish runs have focused the fish recovery debate too narrowly. We do not need to choose be-

tween our economy and our salmon, which is precisely what those advocating the removal of dams are asking us to do. Instead, I believe we can have both a strong economy and healthy fish runs.

This Congress must make it clear that destroying the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers is not a "silver bullet" solution to restoring salmon runs. Losing the flood control, irrigation, clean power generation, and transportation benefits of these dams would be a grave mistake, and one not easily corrected. Instead, the federal government and the people of the Pacific Northwest must work together to address the entire range of factors impacting fish populations: habitat, harvest levels, hatcheries, dams, predators, and natural climate and ocean conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the people of the Northwest will save our salmon. But we must do so in a realistic and comprehensive way, and not by grasping for easy answers. I encourage all my colleagues to who believe that we can balance human needs with the needs of endangered and threatened species to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF STEVE POPOVICH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Popovich, founder of the Cleveland International Record label.

Over the past 36 years Mr. Popovich has achieved considerable success in the music business by taking chances on artists and music at the fringes of the mainstream. For example, Popovich signed Meat Loaf to the Cleveland International label after Meat Loaf had been rejected by several record companies. After signing Meat Loaf, Popovich launched what is considered one of the most successful marketing campaigns ever. Popovich mixed the powerful CBS marketing department with grassroots efforts to make Meat Loaf a national icon.

Popovich's success with Meat Loaf provides just one example of how and why Popovich has been successful. Once he believes in someone he puts everything he has into making that person successful. This dedication has worked for Popovich regardless of the artist or type of music he is promoting.

In 1986 Popovich applied this formula to Polygram Nashville and turned the label into a success. Acts like Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, the Everly Brothers, and Kathy Mattea signed with Popovich and Polygram Nashville.

Popovich also signed polka legend Frankie Yankovic, the Polka King, to the label. Yankovic won a Grammy for his 1986 album "70 Years of Hits", which Popovich co-produced. Yankovic and his polka music were quick hits in Nashville. Popovich has since started Our Heritage, a polka and ethnic music subsidiary of Cleveland International.

In the fall of 1998 Popovich, along with his son, Steve, Jr., Ed Shimborske, and Michael Seday, formed another subsidiary of Cleveland International, Grappler Unlimited. With Grappler Unlimited, once again, Popovich is focusing on music that is perhaps outside the mainstream—punk.

His ear for music that is outside the mainstream, and his willingness to dedicate himself to it and the musicians who perform it, has enabled him to be successful for over 36 years. With his son at his side, Steve will undoubtedly continue to help all types of great music find an audience.

Ladies and gentlemen please join me in honoring Steve Popovich.

THE POLKA PUNK ROCKER

By Laura Demarco

Steve Popovich made Meat Loaf a main course and helped tell the world "Cleveland Rocks." Now, he's looking to strike gold again with the ethnic music of his roots—polka—and the DIY spirit of his son's passion—punk rock.

The walls of Steve Popovich's office don't have to talk to tell his story. Mixed in among the rows of gold and platinum records hang "I love kieska" and "polka naked" bumper stickers. A "Cleveland Rocks" sticker decorates the window. His son's high school class photo hangs near a backstage snapshot of Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel. A huge, psychedelic poster of Meat Loaf is framed near a smiling reproduction of Frankie Yankovic.

It's a scene as colorful and complex as the man himself. Each memento stands for a part of Popovich's life: Music mogul. Proud ethnic. Even prouder father. Genius Meat Loaf marketer. Polka promoter. The man who helped Ian Hunter tell the world "Cleveland Rocks."

He's also the busy head of two new subsidiaries of his Cleveland International Record label, the ethnic/polka Our Heritage * * * Pass It On line and the punk/metal offshoot, Grappler Unlimited.

Why polka and punk? Like the other music Popovich has championed through his 36-year music industry career, they're styles that often get overlooked. Both have a devoted core of fans who buy the records, wear the fashions and seek out the shows. Neither gets radio play nor respect in mainstream media. Then again, neither did a certain hefty singer, until Popovich made Meat Loaf a household name.

Popovich may look like anything but a music mogul in his jeans, Cleveland International T-shirt and Pat Dailey's baseball cap, but he has struck gold more than once by betting on the underdog. Today, he's trying it again.

COAL MINER'S SON

Popovich doesn't like to talk about the past. He's rather discuss what he's working on now—expanding Our Heritage * * * Pass It On and promoting Grappler's first band, Porn Flakes.

But to understand how Popovich got to this cluttered, homey midtown office, you have to look at where he came from.

Born in 1942 to a Serbian father and Croatian-Slovenian mother in the coal-mining town of Nemacolin, Penn., Popovich's early life was a long way from the Manhattan office buildings he would find himself in years later. His father was a miner who opened a grocery store in the last two years of his life. It was from him and another father figure, Popovich's lifelong friend, Father Branko Skaljic, that his love for music began.

"My dad played in a tamburitza band with his two brothers and a couple other guys. They always played music around the house and sang. Fr. Branko came and taught us tambura [a stringed Balkan instrument] every Thursday."

Looking back, Popovich sees the importance of music for people in a place like Nemacolin.

"I really believe polka was our people's Prozac," he says. "When they were working

in the mines, factory jobs, they'd get depressed, so they'd throw on their music or pick up their accordion or tambura."

A few years after learning the tambura, another stringed instrument caught Popovich's attention: the upright bass. He formed a polka-rock band called Ronnie and the Savoys that played out at local hotels and the Masontown, Penn., Italian Club.

When Popovich's father died in 1960, he moved to Cleveland with his mother and sister, where they had family. He attended John Carroll on a football scholarship, but quit after a year, spending the next few years doing odd jobs.

Then in 1963, two articles in a paper he was reading caught his attention. The first was a notice that Columbia Records was opening a Cleveland warehouse. The second was a story saying one of his favorite polka artists, Cleveland's Frankie Yankovic, who recorded for Columbia, had been injured in a car accident.

"So I called Frank out of the blue and said 'hey you don't know me, but I play your music back in Pennsylvania. Can you get me an interview?'" says Popovich. "And he did that from his hospital bed. I never forgot that."

Popovich got the job and thus began his music industry career; schlepping boxes around 80 hours a week for \$30. On his nights off he would play with the Savoys, who had followed him up to Cleveland.

But with his strong work ethic, Popovich quickly climbed out of the warehouse. He soon found himself working promotions in the local Columbia office, and in 1969 was offered a promotions job in the label's New York office.

A year later, at age 26, Popovich became the youngest vice president of promotions ever at CBS Records (Columbia's parent company). While there, he worked with the label's roster, including rising stars Bruce Springsteen, Boz Scaggs and Chicago. He was the first and youngest recipient of the Clive Davis Award for promotion (named for the legendary president of CBS Records), and for two years in a row was named top promotion executive in the country by *Billboard*. Quite an accomplishment for a "hunky" (Popovich's slang term for ethnics) from a part of America most record execs not-so-fondly dub "fly-over country."

Promoting artists led to signing artists when Popovich became head of A&R (artists and repertoire) in 1974 at CBS subsidiary Epic. If his promotions career seemed remarkable, his time in A&R was even more impressive. Popovich presided over the signing of Michael Jackson, Cheap Trick, Boston, Ted Nugent and Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes. He also helped Steubenville's Wild Cherry, of "Play that Funky Music (White Boy)" fame, and Michael Stanley find a home on Epic. (Decades later, Popovich helped another local band when he took a tape of Dink to Capitol Records head Gary Gersh, who signed the band).

Sales at Epic rose from \$12 million to over \$100 million in three years under Popovich. He credits this to his ability to look for artists where other A&R pros never bothered. "Small-town America, I always try to represent that," he says. "What's going on with the blue-collar people . . . those have always been the fans."

Cleveland (International) rocks "Cleveland, in fact, back then did rock," says Popovich, leaning forward in this chair, the red sticker with the motto he brought to the world looming on the window behind him. "Through it sounds really trite and old-fashioned to now even say the words 'Cleveland rocks.'"

For Popovich, this wasn't just a slogan. In 1976, he and two other CBS Records execu-

tive left New York to form an independent label called Cleveland International that was backed by Columbia.

"Cleveland was a very important market in those days," says Popovich. "It really was WMMS . . . they made a real big impact nationally. That was the reason I moved back here from New York. It was such a viable record breakout market that I thought basing a company here would be a good idea."

He was correct. Not seven months after the label started, Popovich signed another underdog no one else would be near, but one who soon put Cleveland International on the map.

"Meat Loaf was too fat, too ugly. His hair was too long, the voice was too operatic," says Popovich.

That's what the labels that passed on Meat Loaf thought. But the fans thought otherwise. The product of songwriter Jim Steinman, producer Tod Rundgren and a one-of-a-kind singer with a voice big enough to match his girth, Marvin Aday (a.k.a. Meat Loaf), *Bat out of Hell* is an album few rock fans can claim not to have heard—it has sold an astonishing estimated 28 million copies. But at the time New York attorney David Sonenberg was shopping it around, no one in the music business new what to think about it. So they just stayed away. Except for Popovich.

After signing Meat Loaf, Popovich embarked on what is regarded as one of the most successful marketing campaigns ever in the music industry. It included radical tactics, such as Popovich showing up at radio stations and retailers across the nation to drop off Meat Loaf tapes—an unheard of activity for a record company president. He also convinced CBS to make a \$25,000 Meat Loaf promotional film for play in movie theaters—a novel idea will before the video age. He also battled CBS to put the full force of its marketing department behind the album. "Adroit marketing propels Meat Loaf up the charts," proclaims the *Wall Street Journal* in a 1978 front-page article that raved about Popovich's tactics.

But though he may have been the biggest, Meat Loaf wasn't the only act on Cleveland International. The label was also home to Ellen Foley, Ronnie Spector and others; it was the management company for Ian Hunter. It was Popovich who convinced the E Street Band to back Hunter on his 1979 *You're Never Alone With a Schizophrenic* record, which includes the now infamous "Cleveland Rocks."

LAWSUITS, TV SHOWS AND MEAT LOAF

"We were conveniently left out of it. Hey, people try to change history, but a fact's a fact," says Popovich.

He's referring to a recent VH-1 "Behind the Music" show on Meat Loaf that failed to mention of his role in the making of Mr. Loaf.

"It's been well documented everywhere, the historical role the marketing of that record played, the fact that it had been [rejected by] three or four other labels before we got it."

Popovich says that when he found out the show was in the works, he called the president of VH-1, John Sykes, whom he had worked with when Sykes was a promotions man for Columbia in Buffalo.

"I called him before it ran and said 'John, just tell the truth,' and [the show] didn't. He's the president of VH-1, he knows better."

When questioned about Popovich's absence, the producers of "Behind the Music" replied that "regrettably, in the course of telling a person's life story, someone always feels left out." Sykes did not return a call asking for a comment.

Why the black out? Considering that the show was obviously sanctioned by Meat

Loaf, who appeared in multiple interviews, it could have something to do with a 1995 lawsuit that Popovich's Cleveland Entertainment Inc. filed against Sony Music Entertainment Inc. and CBS Records in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. The suit alleged that Popovich was defrauded out of royalties for *Bat Out of Hell* through various devices, including fraudulently calculated royalties for the sales of CDs. Meat Loaf, who re-signed to Sony following the filing of Popovich's initial complaint, was expected to testify against Popovich at the trial.

But the suit never made it to court. Popovich, who sought \$100 million, and Sony settled for a confidential amount last February. Ancillary litigation filed in New York federal court by Meat Loaf against Sony and Cleveland Entertainment was dismissed at the same time.

Today, Popovich will only say that his suit was settled "amicably." For the first time in two decades, Meat Loaf is off his plate—though Popovich says that as a result of his Sony lawsuit he does receive royalties from sales of *Bat Out of Hell*.

OLD WORLD

Popovich grabs a black-and-white photo off a pile of papers on his desk. "Here, look what I found," he says, talking to his son, Steve, Jr., who just walked into his office, a muscular, spiky haired, tattooed contrast to his father.

The photo shows a young boy, about 6-years-old, standing proudly, hands on his hips talking to a group of men around him. The men are Johnny Cash, Hank Williams Jr. and Cowboy Jack Clements. The boy is Steve, Jr.

"You're talking to them like you're Clive Davis," his father continues, laughing.

The photo was taken during Popovich's years as vice president of Polygram Nashville, a position he took in 1986.

"I had been through a pretty intense divorce . . . there had been a whole series of misadventures, including coming out of having one of the biggest acts in the world and ending up with very little," says Popovich about his decision to shut down Cleveland International. "The reality of that set in, and out of the blue an old friend of mine who took over Polygram in New York called and said 'hey, you want to have some fun,' and I was like, 'I'm ready for that.'"

In typical Popovich fashion, he took Nashville's least successful label and built it into a powerhouse, signing Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson and the Everly Brothers and turning Kathy Mattea into a star.

In not so typical Nashville fashion, Popovich signed his old friend, Frankie Yankovic—whose 1986 Grammy Award-winning album, *70 Years of Hits* he co-produced—to the label. Yankovic became a quick favorite in Nashville, selling out concerts and recording one album, *Live In Nashville*.

But Popovich wasn't a country boy for long. In 1993, he returned to Cleveland.

"My son wanted to go to Lake Catholic High School to play football and wanted to see more of his mother. My family's up here, and I thought it was an opportune time to start another label."

It wasn't long before he revived Cleveland International, this time in partnership with Cleveland businessman and metalwork factory owner Bill Sopko, a friend since the '70s.

"The concept was to try to find some new people that the big companies were not interested in, to try to do something regionally," says Sopko. "And he would keep his ears open and possibly pick another winner. We're still trying to accomplish that."

Since Cleveland International's humble rebirth—it has a staff of two, including

Popovich, who often even answers the company phone—the label has released 31 albums.

The diversity of sounds is striking: Danish pop-rock from Michael Learns to Rock to Hanne Boel; a Browns protest compilation called *Dawg Gone*; a Cockney folk duo called Chas and Dave; the cast album from the touring Woody Guthrie American Song production; Ian Hunter's 1995 *Dirty Laundry*; new releases from Polish polka king Eddie Blazarczyk; and the Grammy-nominated 1995 release by Frankie Yankovic and Friends, *Songs of the Polka King*. But it's his return to his ethnic roots that Popovich is most excited about.

"Maybe that's what I'm supposed to do at 56 years old. This is what I grew up with, so maybe as you get older what you grew up with becomes more important. Or maybe it's a reaction to the Sony-fication of the world," he says.

His roots revival has led Popovich to create *Our Heritage* . . . *Pass It On*, a mid-priced label he describes as "meant to reflect the ethnicity of Cleveland and the Midwest." So far, the label features releases by Cleveland crooner Rocco Scotti and the *Here Come the Polka Heroes* compilation, and Popovich plans to expand the variety of nationalities represented on the subsidiary. He's looking into working with Irish and Latin music groups, and he recently assisted Cleveland's Kosovo Men's Choir, a Serbian church group, in releasing a record on their own label that he may pick up for *Our Heritage*.

But while his first reason for *Our Heritage* may be his love for the music, it's not Popovich's only impetus. "I'd like to see this break through, and I'd be the king of polka records. If Sony wanted to deal with polka music, they'd have to come to me," he says.

He sees a real future in celebrating the past.

"There is a hunger for the Euro-ethnic. Whether it's in books, music or videos. I'm not saying on a titanic level at all, but there's something very interesting going on," he says.

To prove his point, he pops a video into the VCR next to his desk. Groups of brightly clad dancers emerge on the screen, doing a Croatian folk dance.

"You have this group [The Duquesne University Tamburitans] in Pittsburgh, 35 born and raised in America Euro-ethnic kids who go and do two hours shows to standing ovations and play all over the country. And then you go see them after the show, and they're wearing their Nine Inch Nails T-shirts."

He pops in another video, and the screen is filled with polkaing twentysomethings.

"He pops in another video, and the screen is filled with polkaing twentysomethings.

"This goes on at Seven Springs on July 4th every year," he explains, referring to an annual polka-fest held at the Pennsylvania ski resort. "I'm the oldest one there.

"They should get PBS in Pittsburgh down there. This is America, man. If I say polka, people are like, 'the p word'. . . but you see the ages of these dancers. The whole floor's going nuts.

"We need someone with a TV camera. Someone interviewing these people about the history of this thing and why they love this. They don't hear it on the radio, they don't see it on TV, they don't see it on movie theaters, but it stays alive. Why? It's an underground thing and has been for the greater part of this century. That's what I love about it."

NEW WORLD

"Show her your tattoo, Pop," says Steve Popovich to his son, using the nickname they call one another.

Steve, Jr., in chain-clad baggy jeans and a button-down Adidas shirt, pulls up his sleeve to reveal the words *Zivili Brace, Zivili Sestra*, a Serbo-Croatian saying meaning roughly "to life brother, to life sister." It's also the name of a polka by Johnny Krizancic.

Like father, like son.

A cliché perhaps, but a saying that rings true for the Popoviches. Nineteen-year-old Steve, Jr. has just made his move into the music world, in partnership with his father and the owners of Toledo-based punk-metal label *Sin Klub Entertainment*, Ed Shimborske and Michael Seday. The four have just formed *Grappler Unlimited*, a subsidiary of *Cleveland International*.

Unlike *Our Heritage*, this label has nothing to do with Popovich's love for the Old World. It has everything to do with his love for the little boy who once stood talking to Johnny Cash and Hank Williams Jr.

Steve, Jr. was a major reason *Sin Klub* first caught his father's attention. Seday was dating Popovich's daughter, Pamela. He and Steve, Jr. became friends, and he took the younger Popovich to Toledo to see some of *Sin Klub*'s bands, including a heavy rap-punk called *Porn Flakes*.

"Something just clicked, I was just drawn to it," says Steve, Jr. "It was like a disease. It was catchy, it really was."

Steve, Jr. was so impressed with *Porn Flakes* that he came back to Cleveland and, at age 16, promoted his first show, a concert at the Agora featuring *Porn Flakes*, *Fifth Wheel*, *Cannibus Major* and *Cows in the Graveyard*. He also told his father about what he saw. Steve, Sr. began to take notice of this young label that was taking the same kind of regional marketing approach that he had always practiced.

"Popovich started putting his hand into [*Sin Klub*] and helping us out, giving us advice. He was kind of like a father figure to the label," says Shimborske. "He helped throw his weight around a little, getting us some better shows."

"He admired the fact that we stuck it out for so long," he says. "Plus, I think he needed, or wanted, to kind of fill the void with his conglomeration of labels, as far as having a younger, more cutting-edge sound. A fresher, alternative sound."

Popovich admits appealing to a younger audience was a factor behind *Grappler*.

"We established a certain kind of image for *Cleveland International*, and I got a little concerned when people would think it was only a polka label," he says.

Grappler was finally formed in the fall of '98 with *Porn Flakes* as the first signing. Though in some ways the new subsidiary has a loose, family feel—Shimborske's parents help out with art and photo work, and Popovich once took Frankie Yankovic to Shimborske's grandparents' house for homemade pierogis—all four partners are very serious. Seday and Shimborske, who still run *Sin Klub*, are doing A&R and marketing. Steve, Jr. is doing promotions out of his father's office. And Steve, Sr. is doing what he can to help without trying to run the show.

"I don't want my rules to apply to that label. It's whatever they feel people their age want. These are three pretty talented guys who know the music business," he says. "They're real passionate, and that's the key word."

"Cleveland International funded it. I try to stay in the background and bring these guys along with what contacts I have."

So far this has meant making calls to radio stations on the label's behalf and taking the label's product to conventions. This week, Popovich, his son and Seday have taken *Porn Flakes* product to the Midem conference in France, the world's largest

music-industry convention, in hopes of getting world licensing for the group.

Despite his connections, Popovich realizes it's not going to be easy to break *Porn Flakes* or any other new band. The times have changed since he started in the music industry, and different rules now apply. High-priced consultants who dictate playlists across the country rule contemporary radio, making a grassroots regional push like the one used with *Meat Loaf* almost impossible. And Cleveland is far from the music hub it was in the days when WMMS mattered.

"The problem is you have five major companies that control American radio. You have great local radio people still, people like Walk Tiburski and John Lannigan. The people are here. The ownership unfortunately is not here, and the consultants for the most part are not based here. They live in Washington, D.C. or Texas and are adding records in Cleveland, Ohio."

Still, Popovich predicts a future when radio might not matter that much.

"Mushroomhead is not on the radio, and they're packing bars. People love it, and they still manage to attract a crowd. It's beyond that now going into the next century. You don't need A&R people now. If you believe in what you do, get somebody to put up the money to press up a thousand records and put them in stores in consignment. If those records go away, get a thousand more. And then go on with your Website. You can start that way. Then at some point you need to be seen at South by Southwest or one of those New York gigs."

Popovich also has some forward thinking ideas about *Cleveland International*. He's talking about starting an Internet radio station and believes that to sell records you need to get them into unorthodox places, like hotel lobbies and drug stores, not just mega-record stores.

"I need a person who is a head of sales who has no rules, who can think into the next century," he says.

Still, there are some troublesome factors. "It's a questionable time to be doing what I'm doing, given the fact that people can now make their own CDs and that there's MP3," says Popovich. "The industry's going through a lot of changes."

So why start *Grappler*?

"They're kind of keeping me in balance," he says. "There's a whole new world of 19-year-olds out there who don't necessarily love 'N Sync or Backstreet Boys or what MTV is trying to shove down their throats. I've always loved that end of the business. Most of the artists I dealt with no one believed in, in the beginning."

That's how he got all of those records on the wall.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the NFL owners approved the use of an "instant replay" system to review controversial calls in football games. Well, it looks like the NFL is one step ahead of Congress. The Government Shutdown Prevention Act would be an "instant replay" for the budget, so there is never a threat of a shutdown as the clock ticks down on the fiscal year. There have been innumerable "controversial calls" as budget negotiations have stalled and even completely broken

down. The Government Shutdown Prevention Act allows appropriators to finish their work as funding levels automatically continue at the rate of the previous year: an "instant replay" that allows the Government to operate until a budget agreement is reached. An "instant replay" that allows senior citizens to get their social security checks on time, allows veterans to receive their benefits, and keeps federal workers on the job during budget negotiations. I'd say Congress ought to take a page out of the NFL play book and pass H.R. 142, the Government Shutdown Prevention Act.

MY COMMITMENT TO REPEALING THE JONES ACT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, American agricultural producers today do not have access to domestic deep-sea transportation options available to their foreign competitors. There are no bulk carriers operating on either coast of the United States, in the Great Lakes, nor out to Guam, Alaska, Puerto Rico, or Hawaii. This places Colorado producers at a competitive disadvantage because foreign producers are able to ship their products to American markets at competitive international rates whereas U.S. producers are not.

Colorado agricultural producers also need access to deep-sea transportation options because other modes of transportation are often expensive, unpredictable, or unavailable. The rail car shortage we experienced in 1997 could have been averted if just 2% of domestic agricultural production could have traveled by ocean-going vessel. With continued record harvests anticipated across our state, the bottlenecks and congestion on rail lines could easily happen again. This raises rail rates to artificially high levels at a time when commodity prices are already depressed. This in turn raises the costs of production, lowers income, and makes it more difficult for Colorado's producers to compete against subsidized foreign products.

The reason there are no domestic bulkers available to agriculture shippers is because of an outdated maritime law, known as the Jones Act, which as passed in 1920 in an effort to strengthen the U.S. commercial shipping fleet. This law mandates any goods transported between two U.S. ports must travel on a vessel built, owned, manned, and flagged in the United States—no exceptions. The domestic fleet has languished under the Jones Act because it is prohibitively expensive to build new ocean-going vessels in U.S. shipyards.

Only two bulkers have been built in U.S. shipyards in the last 35 years, which has left our country with the oldest fleet in the industrialized world. To contract for a new ship would cost an American operator over three times the international non-subsidized rate, almost assuring no new bulkers are built in the United States.

At a time when we should be fighting ever harder to open foreign markets, reduce unnecessary costs and regulatory burdens, and promote sales of American products, we should not be imposing artificial costs and burdens on Colorado's hardworking agriculture producers.

I will continue my work in Congress to repeal the Jones Act and assure a more efficient and cost-effective system for transporting agricultural goods to market.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS FERNANDEZ

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention an award won by Thomas Fernandez, a 12-year-old resident of our great community, Albuquerque, NM. Thomas Fernandez is the 1999 BMX Grand National Champion for his age group.

Thomas began competing when he was 4½ years old. He has more than 200 trophies displayed at his family's home in Barrio de Duranes. This is the second time Thomas has taken this prestigious national title. The first time was in 1992 at the age of 6.

Please join me in recognizing this achievement of Thomas Fernandez and wish him continued success.

OPPOSING COMMUNISM

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following remarks given by Paul Harvey in a radio broadcast on March 16, 1999 to my colleagues.

[Excerpt from Paul Harvey News, March 16, 1999]

When Communism was threatening to take over the world there were Americans with divided allegiance. Communists had infiltrated some high places into the United States. A lean young traitor was able to walk out of the Supreme Court building with two character references in his briefcase.

In Hollywood individuals suspected of communist sympathies were blacklisted. Some were denied employment for years. Less well known is the Hollywood blacklist of ANTI communists and this one still exists.

March 21, next Sunday; in Los Angeles, California at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion there will be a ceremony of support for the actors and actresses who have been blacklisted because they dared oppose communism. Adolph Menjou, Elia Kazan, and recognition for his red-white and blue colleagues: Writer Jack Moffitt, Richard Macaulay, Morris Ryskind, Fred Niblo, Junior. Albert Mannheimer who dared fight communists within the Screen Actors Guild.

Most of these who opposed communism never worked in Hollywood again. They represent the "other blacklist." And it is not limited to Hollywood.

All media include some whose patriotism is diluted and to whom anybody consistently on the right is anathema. They hated Reagan and still do.

Such is the "new discrimination" a new organization has taken root to protect the civil rights of the American right. The American Civil Rights Union chaired by Robert Carlson and with a board comprised of Bob Bork, Linda Chavez, Ed Meese, Joe Perkins, Ken Tomlinson.

In my professional experience there is less—left-right—polarization in our nation

than ever in this century. But what it is is insidious, entrenched, tenacious. Until the day when there will be need for an ACLU or an ACRU . . . it is constructive that we now have both.

AFL-CIO MAKES GOOD SENSE ON TRADE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important issues on which many of us are now working is to forge policies which allow us to get the benefits of the global mobility of capital while dealing with the negative impacts that accompany that movement of money throughout the world in the absences of sensible, humane public policies.

No organization in America has done as much to articulate the important, principles that we need to follow in this regard than the AFL-CIO, and the statement on Trade and Deindustrialization issued by the AFL-CIO's executive Council last month is an excellent presentation of this problem. A significant number of us here in the House believe that unless we are able to embody these principles in legislation, the chances of adopting further trade legislation will be substantially diminished, an support for international financial institutions will be similarly negatively affected. Because the AFL-CIO does such a good job of spelling out the approach that is economically, morally and politically called for in dealing with the international economy, I ask that the Council's statement be printed here.

TRADE AND DEINDUSTRIALIZATION

The financial crisis that began in Asia more than a year-and-a-half ago continues and spreads. The countries hit first struggle to recover, and new countries succumb to the contagion. Millions of workers have lost their livelihoods in the crisis countries and hunger and poverty have grown alarmingly. The United States is not immune, and many American workers are already paying a high price for global turmoil.

It is clear that the crisis is neither temporary, nor easily fixed. The cause of the crisis is systemic, and solutions must go straight to the heart of a global trade and investment regime that is fundamentally flawed. Deregulated global markets, whether for capital and currencies, or for labor and goods, are not sustainable. They produce speculative, hot money explosions and a relentless search for lower costs that devastate people, overturn national economies and threaten the global economy itself. The so-called Washington consensus on "economic reform"—trade and investment liberalization, privatization, deregulation, and extreme austerity—is a recipe for instability, social strife, environmental degradation, and growing inequality, not long-term growth, development, and broadly shared prosperity.

The combination of the global financial crisis and long-term trends in trade and investment have inflicted deep wounds in the U.S. manufacturing sector. The United States has lost 285,000 manufacturing jobs since March of 1998. Trade-related job loss will likely grow in 1999, as the trade deficit in goods is projected to climb from about \$240 billion in 1998 to close to \$300 billion this year.

This trade imbalance is accelerating industrialization in a broad array of industries—

steel, textile, apparel, auto, electronics, and aerospace. No region has escaped the ravages of the crisis. The impact is not only job loss, but also the quality and composition of jobs, and therefore the distribution of income. Despite the recent growth in wages, the typical American worker's real hourly compensation is lower today than it was almost a decade ago—even as productivity grew by 9 percent.

We must address these problems by insisting upon a set of principles that will guide our trade, investment, and development policies at home and in all of the multilateral fora. We will strenuously oppose any new trade or investment agreements that do not reflect these principles, and we will work to remedy the deep flaws in our current policies.

First, excessive volatility in international flows of goods, services, or capital must be controlled. Countries must retain the ability to regulate the flow of speculative capital in order to protect their economies from this volatility.

Second, we must not allow international trade and investment agreements to be tools which businesses use to force down wages and working conditions or weaken unions, here or abroad.

Third, we need to pay more attention to the kind of development we aim to encourage with our trade policy. Our current policies reward lower barriers to trade and investment, and encourage developing countries to dismantle domestic regulation. These policies encourage developing countries to grow by tapping rich export markets abroad, while keeping wages low at home. This focus on export-led growth shortchanges developing countries and places undue burden on our market.

As Congress considers trade initiatives this year, and as the Administration prepares to host the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial in November, they must adhere rigorously to these principles. This requires that:

The U.S. government must radically reorder its priorities, so that our trading partners understand that enforceable worker rights and environmental protection are essential elements in the core of any trade and investment agreements. Unilateral grants of preferential trade benefits must also meet this standard. The African Growth and Opportunity Act and the proposed extension of NAFTA benefits to the Caribbean and Central America fall far short and are unacceptable.

We should strengthen worker rights provisions in existing U.S. trade laws and enforce these provisions more aggressively and unambiguously to signal our trading partners that failure to comply will not be tolerated.

The U.S. government must enforce the agreements it is currently party to, before looking to conclude more deals. China's failure to abide by the 1992 memorandum of understanding and the 1994 market-opening agreement must not go unchallenged, and China's recent jailing of trade unionists is yet more evidence that WTO accession should be denied. Congressional approval should be required for China's accession to the WTO.

Current safeguard provisions in U.S. law are clumsy and ineffective. We must strengthen and streamline Section 201 and the NAFTA safeguards provisions, so that we can respond quickly and effectively when import surges cause injury to domestic industries. Until this can be accomplished, we should be ready to take unilateral action to protect against import surges when necessary.

Immediate steps must be taken to address the flood of under-priced imported steel coming into our market. U.S. workers must not

be the victims of international financial collapse.

Fast track—the traditional approach to trade negotiating authority—has been decisively rejected by Congress and the American people. Trade negotiations are increasingly complex, and Congress must have a stronger consultative role. Congressional certification that objectives have been met at each stage must be required before the negotiations can proceed. Both the process of negotiation and the international institutions that implement these agreements need to be more transparent and accessible to non-governmental organizations.

We need to address the problems faced by developing countries more directly, by offering deep debt relief and development funds as part of an overall program of engagement and trade. Trade preferences linked to improved labor rights and environmental standards change the financial incentives for countries seeking market access and increased foreign direct investment; debt relief and aid can help provide the resources necessary to implement higher standards.

The U.S. government needs to address the problems of chronic trade imbalances and offset agreements, whereby U.S. technology and jobs are traded for market access.

But before Congress and the Administration craft fundamentally different trade policies, we must take urgent steps to fix problems in our current trade agreements. NAFTA has been in place for five years now and has been a failure.

We must strengthen the labor rights protections in NAFTA, so that violations of core labor standards come under the same strict dispute settlement provisions as the business-related aspects of the agreement.

We must renegotiate the provisions on cross-border trucking access. It is clear that fundamental safety issues are far from being satisfactorily addressed. The safety of our highways must not be compromised for the sake of compliance with a flawed trade agreement.

The safeguard provisions in NAFTA have proven ineffective in the cases of auto and apparel imports, which have surged unacceptably since NAFTA's implementation in 1994. These provisions must be corrected. We must insist on an equitable sharing of automotive production among the three North American countries, so that all three countries can benefit from growth in the North American market, as well as sharing in its downturns. And we must ensure that the investment provisions of NAFTA, which grant new powers to corporations in their disputes with governments, are fixed and not used as a model for any future agreements.

In addition to fixing trade policy, we have to make sure that our policies toward investment, development, taxation, and the international financial institutions support economically rational, humane, and worker-friendly rules of competition. We must change the rules of the international economy, not so we can have more trade, but so we can build a better world, for working families here and abroad.

Finally, it is important to remember that the United States has the right to withdraw from trade agreements to which it is a party. The U.S. government should undertake an aggressive review of existing trade agreements to determine whether they adequately protect U.S. interests or whether the U.S. should exercise its withdrawal rights.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 774, the Women's Business Center Amendments Act. This bill increases the authorization for the Women's Business Center Program from \$8 million to \$11 million in FY 2000.

I support this bill because the Women's Business Centers are instrumental in assisting women with developing and expanding their own businesses. The Centers provide comprehensive training, counseling and information to help women succeed in business.

Women are starting new businesses at twice the rate of men and own almost 40 percent or 8 million of all small businesses in the United States. Women of color own nearly one in eight of the 8 million women-owned businesses or 1,067,000 businesses.

Women start businesses for a variety of reasons. With the recent spate of corporate downsizing in large companies and the various changes in the marketplace, small businesses are becoming a vital part of the economic stability of the country.

Women often start businesses because they want flexibility in raising their children, they want to escape gender discrimination on the job, they hit the glass ceiling, and many desire to fulfill a dream of becoming an entrepreneur. We should encourage this current trend of women-owned businesses by supporting the Women's Business Center Amendment appropriation.

The Women's Business Centers offer women the tools necessary to launch businesses by providing resources and assistance with the development of a new business. This includes developing a business plan, conducting market research, developing a marketing strategy, and identifying financial services. The centers also offer practical advice and support for new business owners.

Access to this information is essential to success in small business. The Women's Business Centers provide a valuable service to aspiring entrepreneurs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

ASSISTING SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFICIARIES IN THEIR RETURN TO WORK: THE WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the introduction of "The Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999." This legislation is designed to help Social Security Disability Insurance and SSI beneficiaries participate more fully in our nation's economy. It provides new opportunities and new incentives for people with disabilities to return to the work force.

The Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 enjoys widespread support. It has gathered bipartisan sponsorship in the House and has already been approved by a bipartisan majority in the Senate Finance Committee.

Many, many beneficiaries urgently want to return to work and to make the most of their talents and abilities, but they are simply unable to do so for a variety of reasons. For instance, while people with disabilities possess the clear desire to work, they often require vocational rehabilitation, job training, or some other form of assistance in order to find a job and to hold that job over the long run. This bill would create incentives for providers of services to offer necessary assistance and to stay involved with the individual to assure as he adjusts to the work force.

At a hearing before the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee last week, the General Accounting Office reported that the single most important barrier to work for people with disabilities is the fear of loss of medical coverage. People with disabilities are discouraged from securing employment, as they lose not only their SSDI or SSI benefits but also their medical coverage if they are successful in returning to work.

This legislation would extend medical coverage for people with disabilities who wish to return to work. The bill that the House passed last year by an overwhelmingly bipartisan margin—the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Act—made admirable progress in this regard. But I believe we can, and should, do more. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee to remove this barrier to work.

Rather than maintain the current barriers to work, we should strive to facilitate the transition back to the workforce for people with disabilities. Rather than penalize people with disabilities once they do return to work, we should ensure that they do not have to bear the costly burden of health insurance before they are able to do so. The Work Incentives Improvement Act accomplishes both those goals.

The Act would provide disability beneficiaries with a "Ticket to Work," which could be presented to either a private vocational rehabilitation provider or to a State vocational rehabilitation agency in exchange for services such as physical therapy or job training. The "Ticket to Work" would afford SSDI and SSI beneficiaries a much greater choice of providers and would thus enable them to match their particular needs with the capacities of private entities or public agencies more readily. Moreover, the Ticket program would spur providers, both public and private, to offer the most effective services possible, since, under the Ticket program, providers share in the savings to government that arise when a SSDI or SSI beneficiary returns to the workforce and no longer receives benefit payments.

The Work Incentives Improvement Act would also help to remove the most formidable obstacle that people with disabilities face in returning to work—the loss of their health care coverage. Last year's House-passed bill would have extended Medicare coverage for an additional two years beyond current law for individuals who leave the disability rolls to return to work. The Work Incentives Improvement Act that I am introducing today would build upon the foundation laid last year in a number of ways. First, it would ex-

tend Medicare coverage to 10 years for disability beneficiaries who return to work. Second, it would allow states to offer a Medicaid buy-in to people with disabilities whose incomes would make them ineligible for SSI.

Taken together, these provisions offer people with disabilities the support and the incentives they need as they strive to return to work. Consequently, I hope Members of both parties will join me and the other sponsors of the Work Incentives Improvement Act in enacting this innovative legislation this year and in helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities, people who want to work and who want to contribute, even more than they already do, to a brighter future for all Americans.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BUDGET AUTONOMY ACT OF 1999
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY
ACT OF 1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 1999 and the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 1999, continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a process of transition to democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia. The first provision of the first bill in my D.C. Democracy Now series, the District of Columbia Democracy 2000 Act (D.C. Democracy 2000), has already been passed and signed by the President as Public Law 106-1—the first law of the 106th Congress. This provision repeals the Faircloth attachment and returns power to the Mayor and City Council.

The Revitalization Act passed in 1997 eliminated the city's traditional, stagnant federal payment and replaced it with federal assumption of escalating state costs including prisons, courts and Medicaid, as well as federally created pension liability. Federal funding of these state costs involve the jurisdiction of other appropriations subcommittees, not the D.C. appropriations subcommittee. Yet, it is the D.C. subcommittee that must appropriate the District's own locally-raised revenue derived from its own taxpayers before that money can be used by the District government. My bill corrects an untenable position whereby a national legislature appropriates the entire budget of a local city jurisdiction. The District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act would allow the District government to pass its own budget without congressional approval.

Congress has put in place two safeguards that duplicate the function of the appropriation subcommittees—the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (Financial Authority). Today, however, the District has demonstrated that it is capable of exercising prudent authority over its own budget without help from any source except the CFO. In FY 1997, the District ran a surplus of \$186 million. Last year, the District's surplus totaled \$444 million, and the city government is scheduled to continue to run

balanced budgets and surpluses into the future.

Budget autonomy will also help the District government and the Financial Authority to reform budgetary procedures by: (1) streamlining the District's needlessly lengthy and expensive budget process in keeping with the congressional intent of the Financial Authority Act to reform and simplify D.C. government procedures, and (2) facilitating more accurate budgetary forecasting.

This bill would return the city's budget process to the simple approach passed by the Senate during the 1973 consideration of the Home Rule Act. The Senate version provided a simple procedure for enacting the city's budget into law. Under this procedure, the Mayor would submit a balanced budget for review by the City Council with only the federal payment subjected to congressional approval. Under the Constitution's District clause, of course, the Congress would retain the authority to intervene at any point in the process in any case, so nothing of the prerogatives and authority of the Congress over the District would be lost ultimately. A conference compromise, however, vitiated this approach treating the D.C. government as a full agency (hence the 1996 very harmful shutdown of the D.C. government for a full week when the federal government was shut down). The Home Rule Act of 1973, as passed, requires the Mayor to submit a balanced budget for review by the City Council and then subsequently to Congress as part of the President's annual budget as if a jurisdiction of 540,000 residents were an agency of the Federal Government.

The D.C. budget process takes much longer compared to six months for comparable jurisdictions. The necessity for a Financial Authority significantly extended an already uniquely lengthy budget process. Even without the addition of the Authority, the current budget process requires the city to navigate its way through a complex bureaucratic morass imposed upon it by the Congress. Under the current process, the Mayor is required to submit a financial plan and budget to the City Council and the Authority. The Authority reviews the Mayor's budget and determines whether it is approved or rejected. Following this determination, the Mayor and the City Council (which also holds hearings on the budget) each have two opportunities to gain Authority approval of the financial plan and budget. The Authority provides recommendations throughout this process. If the Authority does not approve the Council's financial plan and budget on second review, it forwards the Council's revised financial plan and budget (containing the Authority's recommendations to bring the plan and budget into compliance) to the District government and to the President. If the Authority does approve the budget, that budget is then sent to the President without recommendations. The proposed District budget is then included in the federal budget, which the President forwards to Congress for consideration. The D.C. subcommittees in both the House and Senate review the budget and present a Chairman's mark for consideration. Following markup and passage by both Houses, the D.C. appropriations bill is sent to the President for his signature. Throughout this process the bill is not only subject to considerations of fiscal soundness but individual political considerations.

This procedure made a bad budgetary process much worse causing me to write a consensus budget provision in the President's Revitalization Act that allows the parties to sit at the same table and write one budget. Even so, instead of that budget becoming law then, the District remains without a budget for months, often after the beginning of the fiscal year.

Under the legislation I introduce today, the District of Columbia still remains subject to the full appropriations process in the House and Senate for any federal funds. Nothing in this bill diminishes the power of the Congress to "exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever" over the District of Columbia under Article I, section 8, clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution should it choose to revise what the District has done concerning locally raised revenue. Nothing in this legislation prevents any Member of Congress from introducing a bill that addresses her specific concerns regarding the District. The Congress should grant the District the power to propose and enact its own budget containing its own revenue free from Congressional control now during the period when the Authority is still the monitoring mechanism providing an important incentive to help the District reach budget balance and meaningful Home Rule.

The second bill I introduce today, the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 1999, eliminates the congressional review period of 30 days and 60 days respectively, for civil and criminal acts passed by the D.C. City Council. Under the current system, all acts of the Council are subjected to this Congressional layover period. This unnecessary and undemocratic step adds yet another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to an already overburdened city government.

My bill would eliminate the need for the District to engage in the byzantine process of enacting emergency and temporary legislation concurrently with permanent legislation. The Home Rule charter contemplates that if the District needs to pass legislation while Congress is out of session, it may do so if two-thirds of the Council determines that an emergency exists, a majority of the Council approves the law and the Mayor signs it. Emergency legislation, however, lasts for only 90 days, which would (in theory) force the Council to the pass permanent legislation by undergoing the usual congressional review process when Congress returns. Similarly, the Home Rule Charter contemplates that the Council may pass temporary legislation lasting 120 days without being subjected to the congressional review process, but must endure the congressional layover period for that legislation to become law.

In actual practice, however, most legislation approved by the City Council is passed concurrently on an emergency, temporary and permanent basis to ensure that the large, rapidly changing city remains running. This process is cumbersome and inefficient and would be eliminated by my bill.

It is important to emphasize that my bill does not prevent review of District laws by Congress. The D.C. Subcommittee would continue to scrutinize every piece of legislation passed by the City Council if it wishes and to change or strike that legislation under the plenary authority over the District that the Constitution affords to the Congress. My bill merely eliminates the automatic hold placed on

local legislation and the need to pass emergency and temporary legislation to keep the District functioning.

Since the adoption of the Home Rule Act in 1973, over 2000 acts have been passed by the council and signed into law by the Mayor. Only thirty-nine acts have been challenged by a congressional disapproval resolution. Only three of those resolutions have ever passed the Congress and two involved a distinct federal interest. Two bills to correct for any federal interest, rather than a hold on 2000 bills, would have served the purpose and saved considerable time and money for the District and the Congress.

I ask my colleagues who are urging the District government to pursue greater efficiency and savings to do your part in giving the city the tools to cut through the bureaucratic maze the Congress itself has imposed upon the District. Congress has been clear that it wants to see the D.C. government taken apart and put back together again in an effort to eliminate redundancy and inefficiency. Congress should therefore eliminate the bureaucracy in D.C. that Congress is solely responsible for by granting the city budgetary and legislative autonomy.

Only through true budgetary and legislative autonomy can the District realize meaningful self-government and Home Rule. The President and the Congress took the first step in relieving the District of costly escalating state functions in the Revitalization Act. This bill takes the next logical step by granting the District control over its own budgetary and legislative affairs. I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure.

HONORING MARIE THERESE
DAMRELL GALLO

HON. GARY A. CONDT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. CONDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marie Therese Damrell Gallo in recognition of her being awarded the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award for the Central Pacific Region. Marie has established standards for charity and voluntarism which are remarkable—all the while, gaining the admiration and love of the many people who have had the pleasure and enjoyment of working with her.

I'm proud to report that first and foremost in Marie's life is an incredibly strong commitment to her family. Marie married Bob Gallo in 1958 and together they have raised 8 children, and have 10 grandchildren.

Yet while raising her family, Marie never forgot her commitment to her friends of her community. In tribute to her many accomplishments, Marie has also received the Liberty Bell award from the Stanislaus County Bar Association, the Standing Ovation Award from the Modesto Symphony Guild, the Outstanding Women of the Year award from the Stanislaus County Commission for Women, and The Cross for the Church and the Pontiff Papal award from His Holiness, John Paul II.

The diversity and breadth of her interests and concerns are amazing. She has been the founder and chairwoman of innumerable fund-raising events for charitable organizations, in-

cluding the Modesto Symphony Guild's Holiday Overture, the American Diabetes Association of Stanislaus County's The Great Caper; the Opening Night Gala for the Central California Art League's Spring Show, the Bishop of Stockton's Celebration of Charity; An Evening Starring Loretta Young for the benefit of the Sisters of the Cross Convent; the YMCA of Stanislaus County's An Autumn Affair; and the Fashion Show for the benefit of St. Stanislaus School.

A native of Modesto, in my district in California's great Central Valley, Marie attended Lincoln Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High, and Modesto High School. She is a graduate of the College of Notre Dame and taught in the San Francisco school system before her marriage to Bob. Marie is an accomplished pianist and studied under Bernhard Abramowitsch at the University of California/Berkeley.

Mr. Speaker, Marie Gallo exemplifies the finest spirit of voluntarism and selfless dedication. I am proud to represent her in the Congress and ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring her.

TRIBUTE TO JACOB H. "BUD"
BLITZER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Jacob H. "Bud" Blitzer. Bud was a man of integrity and tremendous resilience, who used his creativity, intelligence, humor, and a sense of fairness to navigate through a life of great challenges.

A victim of polio at age 27, Bud—never one for self-pity—became a successful businessman, consultant, educator, mentor, and all around mensch. Most important to him were the relationships he cultivated with family, friends, the I Have a Dream Foundation, and the many people fortunate enough to know him.

But, with his brother-in-law Len Milner, founded Integrated Ceilings, Inc., specializing in innovative architectural custom ceiling designs. He held many patents for designs which have enhanced numerous office buildings, retail stores, and homes. These innovations inspired an entire industry of ceiling design. He ran his company with the highest standards of honesty, quality, and excellence. This commitment was reflected by the employees of the company who were loyal and proud of their product and most of whom remained with the company throughout the entire time that Bud was its president and CEO.

But did not limit himself to his company. He also served as a mentor for many young entrepreneurs as they began their businesses as well as many people who were struggling with the challenges of life. One notable example was Tom Greene of the T.A. Greene Co., of whom Bud was known to have said, "I started out helping Tom, but in the end, it was he who helped me."

Bud was a jazz drummer in his youth, served as an officer in the Army Air Corps, and was founder and president of the Lightrend Co., prior to founding Integrated Ceilings, Inc. An avid sailor and a jazz enthusiast, a conversationalist par excellence, Bud's

greatest gift was to make each person he spoke with feel special.

Our thoughts are with Bud's family: his wife Dalia; children Jamie and Rob, along with his wife Donna; sisters Barbara and Susan and their husbands George and Len; grandchildren Rebecca and Erica; two great grandchildren; nieces and nephews and many friends who were part of the extended family.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in remembering a great friend and outstanding individual, Jacob "Bud" Blitzer.

TRIBUTE TO THE LADY BULLDOGS

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Women's Basketball Team from New Albany High School. The Lady Bulldogs won the Indiana High School Athletic Association class 4A basketball championship last Saturday, completing a perfect season.

Congratulations go out to the entire team: Catrina Wilson, Jessica Dablow, Maria Rickards, Abigail Scharlow, Jessica Huggins, Kennitra Johnson, Erin Wall, Amanda Sizemore, Lacy Farris, Noreen Cousins, Andrea Holbrook, Regina Marshall, Brittany Williams, and Jihan Huggins.

I also wish to congratulate: the team's coach Angie Hinton, her assistant coaches Denise Parrish, Paul Hamilton, Joe Hinton and Katie Myers, team trainer Russ Cook, student manager Melissa Fisher, the athletic director at New Albany Don Unruh, and school principal Steve Sipes.

The Lady Bulldogs are the pride of southern Indiana. I join their families, friends, classmates and community in celebrating their great accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW RESEARCH SUPPORTING THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of new research supporting the benefits of music education.

The arts as an academic discipline have long been seen as an essential component of education. Recent scientific studies confirm what teachers of old have always known—music and the other arts stimulate higher brain function. Music education has been shown to elevate test scores in other subjects, particularly math. The Statement of Principles is an important document; it outlines seven basic concepts that, if followed, will maximize the benefits of arts education for all children. I entered these same Statements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 10 so my colleagues might have a chance to review them.

Mr. Speaker, there is a growing body of research demonstrating a causal link between

the formal study of music and the development of spatial reasoning skills in young children. This past week new research from the University of California at Irvine has underscored this link by showing children who take piano lessons and play with newly designed computer software perform better on tests with fractions and proportional math than students not exposed to the piano lessons.

These findings are especially important when one considers that a grasp of fractions and proportional math is a prerequisite to math at higher levels, and children who do not master these areas of math cannot understand more advanced math critical to high-tech fields.

Music lovers like myself have long promoted music education as a way to inspire creativity, develop discipline, and cultivate an appreciation for the arts. Although we suspected gains in cognitive development, today we have the research to confirm it. I urge my colleagues to review the research and encourage families and educators in their Congressional districts to make music education a priority.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO DECLARATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. (BUCK) McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 24, which opposes the unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood.

While the goal of achieving peace in the Middle East has long been elusive, we have in recent years seen progress where Israelis and Palestinians have come to the negotiating table to discuss their differences. This negotiating process should continue to be respected as the best means for Israelis and Palestinians to maintain a constructive dialogue on fundamental issues of concern. Unilateral actions that circumvent this process will only prolong potential solutions to the conflicts which have caused great harm to Arabs and Jews in Israel.

Approving the resolution before use today will convey an important message that the United States support continued negotiations as the best means to create lasting peace in a region where so much blood has been shed.

THE PENSION RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, do we not have a responsibility to help our constituents understand their benefits? As a large portion of today's population is nearing retirement, employer-sponsored retirement plans have increased in importance. And many people do not understand their benefits. It is an even greater problem when an employer unilaterally changes that plan, and minimal explanation is given.

I have some real concerns in these situations, and I believe we need to help our constituents understand their benefits when they are changed. The Wall Street Journal recently highlighted some of the information disclosure problems when companies change from a traditional pension plan to a cash-balance plan.

One particular situation involved a company who changed their plan and merely informed the employees that a change had occurred. One 49-year-old employee decided to look into this further, because he was thinking about his retirement. He discovered that while he was not going to lose any benefits, he was also not going to accrue any benefits for several years under this new plan. It was only through his efforts to learn more about it that he discovered this.

Now, let me point out that it is not the employer's fault, but the law's. That is why I have joined with Senator MOYNIHAN in introducing companion legislation to correct this problem.

The Pension Right to Know Act, H.R. 1176, will require increased disclosure of information to employees about their pension plan. It would require an explanation to the employee as to how their pension plan will be affected by any plan change. It will require an individual benefit statement for each employee showing how they, in particular, will be affected by this change. For some the change will be beneficial, but for others the change could affect how they plan for the future.

My colleagues, I believe we need to protect our constituents who may be expecting one thing, and then receive something very different. As employers make changes from various retirement plans to cash-balance plans, employees are left not understanding what changes have been made to their retirement plan.

We can help our citizens who are nearing retirement and thinking about their retirement savings program—and we can help them to understand.

Mr. Speaker, let us do what we can to help employees understand their options.

Let us work together. Let us solve this problem, and let us solve it together.

APPRECIATION OF THE HONORABLE IMATA KABUA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, last month I was privileged to travel with the House Resources Congressional Delegation to the Pacific Insular areas. Chairman DON YOUNG should be commended for providing this opportunity to Resource Committee members to educate themselves on the issues that confront the people of Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In this regard our trip was a success and I hope that my colleagues who were fortunate to join the Young CODEL—Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER, Rep. JOHN DOOLITTLE, Rep. COLLIN PETERSON, Rep. KEN CALVERT, Rep. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA and Rep. DONNA CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN—have gained a better understanding of Pacific Insular issues.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the people and leaders of each destination that the Young CODEL visited for their warm welcome and island hospitality. In my remarks today I would like to submit, for the record, the statement of the President Imata Kabua of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. I want to express my gratitude for his collaborative efforts on behalf of his country to advance the economic, educational, social and political needs of his people.

I also want to take this opportunity to state that I share President Kabua's desire for the House Resources Committee and the Congress to work closely in the renegotiations of the Compacts of Free Association with the United States which will commence later this year. I am hopeful that all issues can be addressed in the renegotiations and that concerns of all affected parties will be taken into consideration.

STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT IMATA KABUA
U.S. CODEL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KABUA
AND HIS CABINET, FEBRUARY 20, 1999

Chairman Young, Members of the CODEL, staff, friends: It is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to welcome you to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. After your long flight, I trust that you now have a better understanding of the vast distance of ocean and land that we cover every time we visit you in Washington, DC.

The people and government of the Marshall Islands have long considered the United States our close friend and ally. Our nations share commitments to freedom, democracy, world peace and well-being for all peoples. These shared commitments are enshrined in the Compact of Free Association, the U.S. Public Law that joined our nations in the strategic alliance.

As the President of the Marshall Islands, I can assure you that our nation is seriously committed to strengthening our mutually beneficial partnership.

Critical to our strategic partnership is our continued hosting of the already expanded military testing facilities on Kwajalein Atoll. I would be remiss if I failed to communicate to you that our relationship with the U.S. military is the strongest it has ever been. We continue to work closely with the Department of Defense to enhance the military's important efforts on the atoll and in the region.

Chairman Young, I want to personally thank you and the members of your Committee for your efforts at extending to the Marshall Islands the assistance that honors the objectives of the Compact.

Specifically, I want to thank you for extending the Pell Grant to our students, providing FEMA support to help us cope with natural disasters and for continuing to recognize the agricultural and resettlement needs of the communities harmed the most by the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Program. These actions signal to the Marshall Islands that the United States values our bilateral relationship.

Education remains our top priority along with health services for our people. We value the Federal programs and assistance in these areas and assure you that accountability and proper administration will always be our main focus.

I also want to thank you for the resolution that Chairman Ben Gilman, Delegate Eni Faleomavaega and you introduced last Congress. House Concurrent Resolution 92 stands as a testimony to the success of the bilateral relationship.

In a few moments, you will be hearing more about the Nitijela's corresponding reso-

lutions, and this parliamentary body's shared appreciation of the points so eloquently stated in H. Con. Res. 92.

The RMI Government looks forward to engaging the U.S. Government in productive discussions to address certain provisions of the Compact of Free Association. Our designated negotiator is ready to meet with your designee to begin our discussions as soon as possible. It is our hope that you can encourage the Administration to expedite the appointment of the U.S. chief negotiator so we can begin this dialogue.

In advance of the upcoming Compact negotiations, our government would like to work closely with your Committee, the Members of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. government to address some outstanding issues that need to be resolved, specifically the "changed circumstances" issue provided for in Section 177, Article IX of the Compact and concerns we have surrounding Section 111(d).

The first Compact has taught us that the relationship works and that its continuation is important to both nations. The second Compact challenges us to think about the most appropriate and effective means to build on our mutual security and economic and social needs.

I would also like to make the CODEL aware of some of the positive actions the RMI government has undertaken. We have initiated major reforms and taken concrete steps to ensure progress in our nation-building efforts.

Over the past five years, we have successfully streamlined government, created an environment conducive for private sector and foreign investment and have taken important steps in building our nation's infrastructure to sustain economic growth and prosperity.

These efforts are empowering our people to participate in the world economy. We strongly believe that our continued partnership will assist us in meeting the challenges of the next century.

The RMI has also been aggressively working with other mutual allies in the Pacific region. We have established strong diplomatic ties with many of our neighbors and mutual friends. These efforts are beginning to pay tremendous benefits in the form of economic assistance and private sector investment.

At this time, I want to welcome you and to extend my deep appreciation for this visit. I hope you return to Washington knowing that the Marshallese people are your friends and allies. We want you to enjoy yourselves while you are here and to take in our island hospitality and beauty.

THE ROAD TO DOW 10,000

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring a Wall Street Journal column by Lawrence Kudlow to the attention of my colleagues. The subject is the strength of the stock market and the ongoing economic expansion.

The point of the piece is that sound economic policy making begets solid economic growth. Put more precisely, the absence of anti-growth policies allows free markets to flourish. Economic freedom in the form of low tax rates, deregulation, free trade, and restrained government spending leads to increased private investment, low inflation and a booming national economy.

Again Mr. Speaker, I commend the following column to the attention of all interested parties.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 16, 1999]
THE ROAD TO DOW 10,000
(By Lawrence Kudlow)

The Dow Jones Industrial Average stands at the threshold of yet another milestone, this time 10,000. Meanwhile the longest continuous prosperity in the 20th century, begun in late 1982 and, interrupted only by a short and shallow recession in 1990-91, continues apace. These facts are worth pondering, for a proper understanding of them can instruct us toward the best future economic policy.

The current stock market boom began in mid-1982 and is now the second longest in the century, exceeded only by the post-war 1949-68 cycle. Since August 1982 the Dow Jones average has appreciated 1,095%, or 615% in inflation-adjusted terms. The economy has posted a 3.2% yearly real rate of increase, while real corporate profits have expanded by 6% annually. Thirty-nine million net new jobs have been created, largely from nearly 11 million new business start-ups.

Roughly \$25.7 trillion of new household wealth has been created, according to the Federal Reserve. Long-term Treasury bond yields, they key discount rate used to calculate the net present value of future corporate earnings, have dropped to 5.5% from roughly 15%. Inflation has fallen to almost zero from nearly 11%, even while the unemployment rate has dropped to 4.4% from 11%.

PESSIMISTIC GURUS

Yet since 1982 most economic and investment gurus have preached pessimism. For 17 years they have told the public that neither the bull market nor the prosperity can last, because of budget deficits, trade deficits, savings shortfalls, high real interest rate, capacity constraints, inadequate productivity, subpart real wages, inflation threats, Philips curves, market bubbles, income inequity, Asia, Russia and a variety of other reasons.

Yet the experts have been proved wrong; optimism has prevailed. Actually, the stock market itself is a much better measure of economic progress than a barrelful of government statistics. Market prices reflect the collective judgment of millions of profit-seeking individuals who buy and sell each day based on their expectations of future wealth creation.

Why has the outlook for wealth improved so dramatically? In a word, freedom. Freedom creates wealth, and wealth boosts stock prices. Economic freedom was decisively restored by policies launched during the 1980s. This led to a revival of the risk-taking and entrepreneurship that is so vital to a dynamic economy.

President Reagan's policies, which are mostly still in place today, removed the barriers to growth that made in the 1970s the worst stock-market economy since the '30s. Strong disinflation restored purchasing power and reduced interest rates. In other words, the "inflation tax" on money was repealed. Personal and corporate tax rates were slashed, providing new incentives for work and entrepreneurship. All vestiges of wage, price and energy controls were eliminated, freeing up markets to allocate resources efficiently.

Industry deregulation begun by President Carter was services, airlines and later telecommunications. Organized labor excesses were curbed. Antitrust activism was shelved. Free trade was expanded between the U.S. and Canada.

The two biggest periods of the stock market's current prosperity have been 1982-87, when the industrial average moved up by roughly 219%, or 26.1% per year, and 1994 to the present, as the average has gained another 172%, or 22.5% a year. In between the

market meandered, as Presidents Bush and Clinton raised taxes and imposed regulations.

But a steadfast Alan Greenspan brought the inflation rate down to virtually zero today from roughly 5% at the beginning of the 1990s. Along with bringing down interest rates, this has sharply lowered the effective tax rate on capital gains (which reflect inflation as well as real growth in the value of assets) to about 30% from 80%, providing a tremendous boost for the high-risk technology investment that has become the engine of our new information economy. In effect, Mr. Greenspan's disinflationary tax cut neutralized the Bush-Clinton tax hikes.

The Republican Congress elected in 1994 put an end to the high-tax and reregulatory policies of Mr. Clinton's first two years. Mr. Clinton himself morphed into a middle-of-the-road president who signed a capital gains tax-rate cut, welfare reform, a balanced budget plan, the Mexican free-trade agreement and other trade-expanding measures. All these actions helped the stock market to soar

Meanwhile, information technology took off. The capital gains tax cut and low interest rates intensified Schumpeterian gales of creative destruction. Low interest rates create much more patient investment money. Low discount rates also lead to high price-earnings multiples, something the stock market understands even if its critics do not.

The 1980s witnessed a technology surge, based mainly on advanced computer chips, cellular telephones and personal computers. In the 1990s all this was improved, but the big push has come from innovative and user friendly software and Internet commerce. Though the government's reports of gross domestic product take little account of these developments, the stock market knows full well how important these technologies will be to future earnings, productivity, real wages, growth and wealth creation.

In fact, a significant gap has opened between the performance of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, comprised mainly of old-economy companies, and the new-economy Nasdaq. Since 1990 the Nasdaq has outperformed the Dow by 271 percentage points. Over the past year, the Nasdaq has increased 36%, while the Dow has gained only 16%.

Amidst all the bull-market prosperity, another starting development has occurred: the emergence of a new investor class. Numerous surveys report that roughly half of all Americans own at least \$5,000 worth of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The investor class surely wishes to keep more of what it earns in order to bolster savings that can be invested in high-return stocks. This is why unlimited universal individual retirement accounts may be the sleeper tax issue of the next few years.

Roth IRAs—which currently invest after-tax deposits that will never be taxed again so long as the money is withdrawn at retirement—could be expanded to include redirected Social Security contributions and penalty-free withdrawals for health care insurance, education, home buying and employment emergencies.

This might be the single most popular tax reform among the shareholder class. By eliminating the double and triple taxation of saving and investment, this approach opens a back door to the flat tax, setting the stage for future tax cuts, individual ownership of Social Security contributions and other free-market policies.

OVERSIZED POWERS

What a difference a century makes. The 1890s saw a painful and costly depression that was principally caused by government policies such as high tariffs and an inelastic

currency. Politicians reacted by discrediting free-market economics; in its place, they moved toward a regime of oversized government powers and diminished personal liberty—a movement that was interrupted only briefly in the 1920s.

From Theodore Roosevelt's trustbusting to Wilson's tax hikes, Hoover's tariffs, FDR's early entitlement programs, all the way to LBJ's Great Society and Nixon's funding of it, economic freedom suffered and prosperity was sporadic. The century was filled with Keynesian nostrums that seldom delivered the goods.

The dominant event of the late 20th century is the bull-market prosperity of the 1980s and 1990s. This was caused largely by a shift back to free-market economics, a reduction in the role of the state and an expansion of personal liberty. At the turn of a new century, taking the right road will extend the long cycle of wealth creation and technological advance for decades to come. By 2020 the Dow index will reach 50000, and the 10000 benchmark will be reduced to a small blip on a large screen.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE CALLS FOR FOUR-YEAR HOUSE TERMS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 1999, the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature passed Legislative Resolution No. 10. The resolution petitions Congress to amend the Constitution to increase the terms of members of the House of Representatives to four years.

This is a matter that merits serious debate and consideration. I call the text of the Resolution to the attention of my colleagues, as follows:

NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE, NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, Lincoln, NE, March 4, 1999.

Hon. LEE TERRY, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TERRY: I have enclosed a copy of engrossed Legislative Resolution No. 10 adopted by the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature on the third day of March 1999. The members of the Legislature have directed me to request that the petition be entered into the Congressional Record.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding Legislative Resolution No. 10.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. O'DONNELL, Clerk of the Legislature.

Enclosure.

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION, LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 10

Whereas, members of and candidates for the United States House of Representatives are elected every two years virtually requiring continual campaigning and fundraising; and

Whereas, the delegates to the 1788 Constitutional Convention discussed whether the term of office for a representative should be one year or three years and compromised on a two-year term; and

Whereas, communications systems and travel accommodations have improved over the last two hundred years which allows quicker and easier communication with constituents and more direct contact;

Whereas, the American people would be better served by having the members of the House of Representatives focus on issues and matters before the Congress rather than constantly running a campaign; and

Whereas, a biennial election of one-half of the members of the House of Representatives would still allow the American people to express their will every two years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of Nebraska, First Session:

1. That the Legislature hereby petitions the Congress of the United States to propose to the states an amendment to Article I, section 2, of the United States Constitution that would increase the length of the terms of office for members of the House of Representatives from two years to four years with one-half of the members' terms expiring every two years.

2. That official copies of this resolution be prepared and forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate of the Congress of the United States and to all members of the Nebraska delegation to the Congress of the United States, with the request that it be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

3. That a copy of the resolution be prepared and forwarded to President William J. Clinton.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FUTURE LEADERS OF COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants of my first annual Young Adults Leadership Conference held in Weld County, Colorado. On February 27, 1999, 18 teenage students spent the afternoon participating in a political and networking seminar. Later that evening the students utilized what they had learned at the Weld County Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner.

I am honored to have met the following participants: Jeff Armour, Sara Asmus, Darren Call, Deanna Call, Donnell Call, Brady Duggan, Kevin P. Duggan, Casey Johnson, Darrick Johnson, Trent Leisy, Tia McDonald, Jenny Moore, Christopher S. Ong, Mary Beth Ong, Helena Pagano, Elizabeth Peetz, Timothy Romig, and Jeff Runyan.

I established the Leadership Conference to encourage political participation by the younger generation. At the conference, elected officials and community leaders led the students in discussing several different aspects of politics. Greeley Councilman Avery Amaya began the seminar with a discussion of local politics. Avery was followed by Bill Garcia, a political consultant, who spoke about political polls.

Lea Faulkner, a local media personality and former Greeley City Council member, conducted a hands-on learning experience about networking skills. The participants also had the opportunity to discuss issues with Colorado State Senator Dave Owen. Additionally, Anne Miller, Chairperson of the Colorado College Republicans invited the students to attend in the College Republican's next meeting.

I, too, had the honor of visiting with the students. We discussed the importance of good communication and how all effective organizations must communicate well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have met these young adults and am confident of their abilities to lead America in the future. This select group of young leaders has the integrity and values needed to ensure a virtuous Colorado and United States in the next century.

A VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—
RAYMOND R. "ANDY" GUEST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a recent editorial from The Winchester Star which so eloquently speaks about a true "citizen-legislator," Raymond R. "Andy" Guest of Front Royal, who has announced his retirement as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, where he served for nearly three decades.

I am proud to call Andy Guest my constituent and friend, and am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him in public service to so many of the constituents we share from the Shenandoah Valley. On behalf of those people of the Valley, I wish Andy and His wife, Mary Scott, all the best wherever his path now as "citizen" leads.

[From The Winchester Star, March 2, 1999]
VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN—GUEST PERSONIFIED
LEGISLATIVE TRADITION

It comes as no small surprise that when the time came for Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. to announce his retirement from the General Assembly he was "overwhelmed" by "the history, the tradition" that surrounds anyone in Virginia's State Capitol. But then, Andy Guest is not "anyone"; 28 years a man of the House, he was emblematic of that tradition the Old Dominion so admires in her lawmakers, that of "citizen-legislator."

"To continue that tradition was a great honor." Mr. Guest said Sunday, roughly 24 hours after announcing his intention to leave the House, and the people, he served for nearly three decades.

However, the tradition to which he stood heir goes deeper than ties to Virginia. In a real sense, he was to the manner born; his father, Raymond Sr., also served in the General Assembly and was U.S. ambassador to Ireland. Thus, as his wife, Mary Scott, succinctly said. "He was born to be a public servant."

And, as a public servant, he will be dearly missed, by his peers no less than his constituents. Among the men and women with whom he engaged in the legislative hurly-burly he will be remembered as the gentleman he is.

"Sometimes we use the word . . . a little too freely," said House Speaker Thomas W. Moss, D-Norfolk, with whom Guest often tangled, "but I've never known him to be anything but a gentleman."

Likewise, said state Sen. H. Russell Potts Jr., R-Winchester: "We have lost a good man. His integrity and character exude the class that typifies a Virginia gentleman. He leaves a void that will never be replaced."

That "void" is considerable, in that Mr. Guest's voice was one of clear common sense and consistent conservatism, particularly of the fiscal variety. In his last session, he raised words of concern about the manner in which the state treats its surplus revenue (see editorial above). He is worried, as are we, that these dollars will be used to "grow

the government," rather than as a tool to fund needed capital expenditures.

Such a concern was true to form. As a minority member of the legislature for most all his 28 years in the House—he was minority leader for six of them—Mr. Guest often found himself "chipping away" at the system in hopes that it would run better. Frequently, this took the form of legislation that bore witness to the needs of his constituents in the northern Valley. He relished in his efforts to make the bureaucracy respond to these needs and to "see things get done."

To be sure, Mr. Guest also will be remembered for his courage in combating lymphatic cancer while maintaining a watchful eye on the General Assembly's proceedings from his Richmond hospital bed. Thankfully, he says his decision to leave the House is not health-related, but simply predicated by a desire to attend to family and business interests and to, as they say, "smell the roses" a bit, perhaps while dove hunting and fly fishing, two particular loves.

His wife, Mary Scott, says that having Andy at home on more or less a regular basis will translate into more opportunities to enjoy the company of friends, sans the demands that politics brings.

"I'll be able to say . . . 'Let's have dinner on Friday or Saturday night and we won't have to talk politics,'" Mrs. Guest said.

Without a doubt, she knows her man far better than we, but we suspect that politics will never stray too far from the mind of Andy Guest. Citizen-legislators may retire, but when "tradition" is born in the blood, the passion seldom expires. Nor does the legacy, which, in this case, is considerable.

THE D.C. EQUALITY BEGINS AT
HOME EFFORTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the local Equality Begins at Home events here in the District of Columbia that will take place during the week of March 21–27, 1999. I will be at the Bipartisan Congressional Retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania on Sunday, March 21, when the District of Columbia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) residents kick off a week of lobbying and conscience raising at Freedom Plaza.

These events, with an emphasis on local needs, are taking place throughout the United States, but no jurisdiction has experienced more bigotry associated with sexual orientation than the nation's capital. This prejudice, I am happy to say, does not come from the people of the District of Columbia, or their locally elected representatives, who have enacted the most progressive and far-reaching protections in the country. Residents of every background in the District feel particular anger when, in violation of all of the principles of self-government, Congress injects itself to enact measures at odds with principles of equality and anti-discrimination that the residents of this city hold especially dear.

Each year, under congressional attack, I am forced to defend the District's domestic partnership law, a very modest provision designed to afford relatives or partners who live in the same household the opportunity to qualify for health benefits at no additional expense to the

District government. Last year, I spent ten hours on the House floor defending the District's appropriation from anti-democratic attachments, more of them seeking to impose sexual orientation discrimination than any other type of attachment that was proposed and passed. We must keep these and other anti-gay provisions off this year's appropriation. The right to adopt children or to qualify for health insurance has everything to do with kids in need of homes or residents in need of health care, and nothing to do with the sexual orientation of our residents. The bigoted mischief done by Congress to the District in the name of homophobia has known no bounds. The city is now in court seeking to overturn the congressional attachment that prevents the release of the November ballot results determining whether District residents who are ill can use medically prescribed marijuana for medicinal purposes. Another amendment brimming with discrimination last year all but destroyed the District's successful needle exchange program, leaving this vital, life-saving program to a totally private group with little funding.

I very much appreciate the efforts of our dedicated and energetic LGBT community to educate Members concerning the injury done to individuals and the insult to self-government rendered by congressional anti-gay attachments. With Equality Begins at Home rallied to fight back, we will yet make the Congress understand that it must back off—back off bigotry against District residents whose sexual orientation differs from the majority, and back off the annual assault on the legislative prerogatives of the City Council.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this bigotry is not limited to anti-democratic legislation aimed at the LGBT community of the District. In the past year, this nation has been outraged at the inexplicable cruelty of the murders of two gay men in Alabama and Wyoming. These hate-inspired murders underscore the need to pass the Hate-Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) immediately. Another session of Congress must not go by without addressing both the crimes and the employment discrimination that emanate from sexual orientation. No other response is acceptable.

COMMEMORATING TEJANO MUSIC:
19TH ANNUAL TEJANO MUSIC
AWARDS CELEBRATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will recognize one of the unique sounds sweeping across the Nation today—Tejano music. All across America the sounds of tejano have become the music of choice. From deep in the heart of south Texas to the Great Plains, from the east coast to the west coast, the pulsating rhythms of a loud drumbeat, a bajo-sexto guitar and an ubiquitous accordion are taking over the Nation to the beat of Tejano.

During the last several years Tejano artists have captured a large percentage of the Latin music market and continue to rise in popularity. From the legendary Selena to the incomparable Little Joe the sweet sounds of

Tejano continue to climb the American music charts with one hit after another. The sound of Tejano is the sound of a people. For those of us in south Texas, Tejano is the tradition and history of the people's thoughts, feelings and aspirations. Tejano is more than just the high energy mix of Rock 'n Roll, Country, Jazz and Rhythm & Blues, it is the music of our people that helps move us and express our emotions.

This week, the city of San Antonio—known as the Tejano capitol of the world—will be host to the 19th Annual Tejano Music Awards. The awards presentation will take place on Saturday, March 20, 1999, at the Alamodome in San Antonio and pay tribute to the best and brightest in the Tejano music industry.

A testament to the success of Tejano music and this annual awards show is the more than 40,000 people expected to attend the event this year. The Annual Tejano Music Awards, which began in 1980 with an enthusiastic 1,300 in attendance, is now one of our Nation's premier and fastest growing musical celebration.

Today, I offer up this resolution to commemorate the 19th Annual Tejano Music Awards and the spirit and history behind the music that will be celebrated and honored this week in San Antonio.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARTHUR
BOWERS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Arthur Bowers, Jr. In his hometown of Florence, SC, he is very active in community affairs and has made many kind and generous contributions to the local community. He continually offers support to his neighbors, friends, and family.

Mr. Bowers was born on December 2, 1918, in Ellenton, SC. He is the son of the late Arthur Bowers, Sr., and Mrs. Eldora Bowers Phinizy. He has two siblings: the late Estella Gantt and Isaiah Phinizy. On February 4, 1939, Mr. Bowers married the late Mary Cross Bowers. They had six children: Gladys, Dillie, Arthur, Jr., Loretta, Gloria, and Michael. In addition, Mr. Bowers has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In 1979, Mr. Bowers retired after working for the railroad for over 37 years. He has been a member of the New Ebenezer Baptist Church for over 50 years where he still serves as chairman of the Deacon Board. Mr. Bowers is a member of various community organizations. In particular, he is associated with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the United Transportation Union, Hiram Masonic Lodge #13, and the Seaboard Fellowship Club. He also serves as organizer and chairman of the Carver and Cannon Streets Crime Watch, and chairman of the Scouting Committee at New Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Mr. Bowers is a remarkable citizen and a wonderful asset to the State of South Carolina. He follows a motto that provides insight into his good character, "If I can help somebody as I travel along life's highway, then my living shall not be in vain."

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. JOSEPH W.
WARFIELD AND THE TEXAS
STATE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Capt. Joe Warfield on his retirement as president of the Texas State Pilots' Association. The Texas State Pilots' Association is the professional organization that represents our State-licensed maritime pilots. These professional mariners navigate ocean-going ships safely to and from the many important commercial ports in Texas.

I am proud that our State's largest port, the Port of Houston, is in my district. The Port of Houston is connected to the Gulf of Mexico by the 53-mile Houston Ship Channel. The Port of Houston is the busiest U.S. port in foreign tonnage, second in domestic tonnage and the world's eighth busiest U.S. port overall. More than 6,435 vessels navigate the Houston Ship Channel annually. It is largely because of the skill and vigilance of professional state pilots such as Captain Warfield, that our vital waterborne commerce moves safely and efficiently through our state waterways.

Captain Warfield, an active Houston Pilot, served as president of the Texas State Pilots' Association from 1994 to 1998. He had been vice president of the association the previous 4 years. Captain Warfield is a graduate of Texas A&M University and has over 20 years of experience with the Houston Pilots. He has held numerous leadership positions within his pilotage association, including three years as Presiding Officer. On the national level, Captain Warfield is active in the American Pilots' Association. He was an APA Trustee for the State of Texas from 1994 to 1998 and served as a member of the APA's Navigation and Technology Committee for several years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the distinguished service to the Port of Houston and the State of Texas of Captain Joseph Warfield for his leadership and professional commitment to the safe dispatch of commerce on our waterways. We will miss his leadership, but we wish him well in his retirement.

INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO
RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of news stories recently about attacks on Christians in India. These attacks are deplorable and should be condemned. But even as we condemn them, we ought not to lose sight of the fact that the government of India has acted swiftly—in word and in deed—to also condemn the attacks and to take strong action against those who appear to be the perpetrators.

To date, there have been more than 200 people arrested in the two states, Gujarat and Orissa, where the violence has occurred. Both the two state governments and the central government have deployed extra manpower,

particularly police and investigation support teams, into the regions. In Gujarat, where the attacks have ruined property, the state government has already authorized relief and compensation payments for damaged property.

Not only has the government of India acted against the alleged perpetrators, it has condemned them, publicly and repeatedly, in no uncertain terms. Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Narayanan, India's head of government and head of state respectively, have spoken out against these crimes and those who would commit them. The Prime Minister even embarked on a one-day fast seeking a renewal of communal harmony, and did so on the January 30 anniversary date of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, India's revered leader, thereby trying his government's policies to Gandhi's ideals of non-violence and cultural diversity.

It is right for the Prime Minister to link his fast and the ideals of Gandhi. India is a diverse nation. Although it is predominantly a Hindu nation, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains freely practice their religions and have for centuries. It is important to note that these attacks, as heinous as they are, have only occurred in two states, which is home to only a small portion of India's Christian community. The vast majority of Christians live in parts of India that have not seen any signs of violence.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by noting that these attacks, terrible as they are, remind us that India itself remains a secular democracy, committed to the principles of individual tolerance and religious diversity. Its government has publicly demonstrated that commitment in recent weeks. It is to be commended for it.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT H. HODGSON, JR.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a friend, Robert H. Hodgson, Jr., whose mortal remains will be laid to rest in the columbarium of his home parish, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, on K Street in the District of Columbia, this Saturday.

Rob was a native Washingtonian who was educated at the Campus School of Catholic University and Gonzaga College High School. Rob also earned a BA at Rice University. He died in his sleep on February 18.

Rob was passionately political and politically compassionate. He thrived in the turbulent seas of D.C., Anglican, and Gay and Lesbian politics. He worked with numerous District officials, including Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp, Councilman Harold Brazil, and Councilman James Graham; he served as treasurer of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, was a vocal board member of Episcopal Caring Response to AIDS, and an active volunteer in his parish's AIDS and homeless ministries.

Those who knew Rob will remember his fondness for gossip. Rob always had the "inside scoop," not only on the D.C. Council and the D.C. Democratic State Committee, but on numerous vestries within the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Rob often used his skills as a raconteur to enliven a dull reception with the latest "dish."

Rob was not survived by his immediate family, but he had many friends, in particular, his life-long friend Mary Eva Candon and his confidant Parker Hallberg.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House extend its sympathy and condolences to the many friends of Rob Hodgson.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER ACT BY MARY ANN WAYGAN

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, standing in front of our nation's Capitol today was Mary Ann Waygan, a woman from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, who joined with Senators CHAFEE, MIKULSKI, and SMITH in introducing the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. As an original cosponsor of the House version of this legislation, I would like to share with you her eloquent testimony of those affected by this tragic disease.

STATEMENT OF MARY ANN WAYGAN

Hello, my name is Mary Ann Waygan and I am the coordinator for the CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative for Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Before I begin, I would like to thank Senators Chafee, Mikulski, Snowe and Moynihan for sponsoring this legislation. I would also like to thank Senator Smith for his support of this bill.

Clearly, the single largest problem facing the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program today is finding resources and caregivers to provide treatment to the women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer. The lack of treatment dollars is one of the biggest policy gaps in the program—and the problem is only getting worse.

The barriers to recruiting providers for charity care are growing, and funding for the treatment is an ad-hoc system that relies on volunteers, state workers and others to find treatment services. In the community, we go to tremendous ends to find treatment—and raise money to help pay for it. I've organized luncheons, bake sales, raffles—you name it. Anything to raise money for women who could not afford to pay out of pocket for treatment. Despite these efforts, all too often, we come up short.

Funding for treatment through the CDC program is the biggest problem I face as a coordinator and frankly a barrier to screening and detection. Funding for treatment is tenuous at best. Without passage of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, future funding for treatment for these women will remain uncertain.

I want to tell you one story in particular that clearly illustrates the problem some of these women face. A woman who lives in Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts who was diagnosed with breast cancer through the CDC program.

Arlene McMann is a married woman in her early forties with two teenage sons and no health insurance.

When Arlene was diagnosed with breast cancer through the CDC screening program, she was devastated—not just with the diagnosis, but with the fact that she had no way to pay for the treatment she needed.

Faced with that situation, she and her husband were forced to use the \$20,000 they had been saving for years to pay for their chil-

dren's college tuition. In less than a year, that money was gone. After that, she and her husband were forced to go into debt to pay for her ongoing chemotherapy/radiation treatment and other procedures including a craniotomy and gall bladder surgery. They are now more than \$40,000 in debt, were forced to move into a much smaller house and lost their dream of sending their sons to college without going into further debt.

The additional stress and pressure placed on Arlene and her husband by this situation has turned a difficult situation into an almost unbearable one. To make it even worse, Arlene recently found out that the cancer has spread to her hip, pelvis, lungs and liver.

Through all of this, Arlene has showed tremendous resolve. Despite being in pain and discomfort and forced to use a wheelchair, Arlene desperately wanted to be here today to share her story with you directly. She thought it was important for everyone to understand not just what the cancer had done to her, but what the effect of having to take on this incredible financial burden had done to her physical health, mental strength and family resources.

Due to her condition, Arlene's treatment finally is being paid because she qualified for disability. But to this day, Arlene is convinced that her cancer would not have spread had she been able to afford regular visits to an oncologist.

Arlene's energy and determination to fight this disease and remain positive are amazing. I feel lucky to know her and to have worked with her. I only wish that as the program coordinator, I could have done more—that I could have assured her that any treatment she needed would be paid for and that she wouldn't have to spend time dealing with bank statements, mortgages or packing boxes on top of everything else.

In summary, we hear over and over again that early detection saves lives. In actuality, early detection alone does nothing but find the disease; detection must be coupled with guaranteed, quality treatment to actually save lives.

We must pass the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act to make sure that screening and treatment always go together.

I would like to thank the National Breast Cancer Coalition for its leadership role in working to get this legislation passed and thank the members of Congress here today for sponsoring and supporting this legislation.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CONGRATULATES BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct the attention of my colleagues to the induction of central New Jersey's Bruce Springsteen into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last Monday.

From central New Jersey to central Europe, you need only mention the name "Bruce," to gain immediate recognition of this man's work. From classics like "Promised Land," "Backstreets," "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out," and "Thunder Road," Bruce Springsteen's songs hold special memories for all of us. He is a storyteller whose songs are about loyalty,

friendship, and remembering the past. Most of all, his songs are about—and are part of—the real lives of Americans.

In 1973, Bruce released his famous "Greetings From Asbury Park, N.J." album. It was followed by "The Wild, the Innocent and the E Street Shuffle." In 1975 Bruce followed up with "Born to Run" which is widely acclaimed as one of the finest rock and roll albums ever made.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's Bruce and his band continued with a string of modern rock classics—"Darkness on the Edge of Town," "The River," and the multi-platinum album "Born in the USA." In the past few years, Springsteen recorded his most successful solo song ever, "Streets of Philadelphia," earning himself more Grammy Awards and an Academy Award.

Springsteen's most recent record, "The Ghost of Tom Joad" won a Grammy Award for best contemporary folk album, and builds on the work that Bruce began in the 1980's with his critically-acclaimed album "Nebraska," in calling attention to, and building on, America's rich folk music heritage.

Despite his incredible success and worldwide fame, Bruce Springsteen has always stayed true to his central New Jersey roots and to the interest of music fans everywhere. Indeed, in an era of high ticket prices and prima donna stars, Bruce Springsteen has always dedicated himself to providing his fans with affordable, consistent entertainment. He has been dedicated to seeing that his music makes its way into the lives of people. That dedication has rightfully earned him the nickname, "The Boss."

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Springsteen has given a lot to New Jersey, to the lives of music lovers everywhere and to our nation's rich popular culture. We in central New Jersey are rightfully proud to call him a native son and take tremendous pride in his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I am proud to say that Bruce Springsteen is a constituent of mine.

I hope that my colleagues in the House will join me and other central New Jerseyans in extending our congratulations to Bruce Springsteen for this well-deserved honor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to co-sponsor the Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. This bill would remove the barriers to health insurance and employment inherent in the current disability insurance (DI) system, and enable many Americans to return to work. Disabled people have much to offer. It is time that we recognize and encourage them to participate as contributing members of society.

I am especially pleased to support the Medicare and Medicaid provisions of this bill. Without these programs, many people living with disabilities would not have access to the care that is so vital to their health and well-being. Because private health insurance is not affordable or available to them, even after returning

to work, we must keep Medicare and Medicaid available to the working disabled.

There is one segment to the disabled population that I urge my colleagues to give special consideration: End Stage Renal Disease patients.

As you know, there are about 260,000 Americans on dialysis and another 80,000 who are dependent on a kidney transplant (with about 11,500 kidney transplants performed annually). About 120,000 dialysis patients are of working age (between 20 and 64), yet fewer than 28,000 are working.

The "USRDS Abstract of Medical Evidence Reports, June 1, 1996 to June 1, 1997," reveals that 38.1% of all dialysis patients 18–60 years of age were employed full time, part time, or were students before onset of ESRD.

But only 22.9% of ESRD patients in the same age group were employed full time, part time, or were students after the start of dialysis. This 15% (38.1% minus 22.9%) differential is the prime hope for return to work efforts.

Of the transplant patients, most (88%) are of working age, but only about half of them are working.

Section 102 of your bill provides Medicare coverage for working individuals with disabilities—but ESRD dialysis patients already have this protection. For transplant patients, Medicare does not cover their major health need—coverage of \$8,000–\$10,000 per year for immunosuppressive drugs—after 36 months.

Clearly, we should tailor some special provisions to this population.

I would like to suggest a series of ESRD return-to-work amendments that would save total government revenues in the long run. While these proposals may increase Medicare spending, they would reduce Social Security disability and Medicaid spending.

There are just preliminary ideas, and I hope that you and the renal community could refine these ideas prior to mark-up.

(1) A huge percentage of ESRD patients qualify for Medicaid. The disease is so expensive (\$40,000–\$60,000 per patient per year) and the out-of-pocket costs so high that it impoverishes many. For transplant patients, the cost of life-saving immuno-suppressive drugs alone can be \$8,000, \$10,000 or more per year. No wonder many are tempted to avoid actions which would disqualify them for help.

As part of general Medicare policy, I have always through that we should cover pharmaceuticals and, in particular, indefinitely cover immuno-suppressive. It is maddening to hear the stories of \$80,000–\$100,000 kidney transplants lost, because a patient couldn't afford the \$10,000 per year of medicine.

I think a good case can be made to add to this bill coverage of immuno-suppressives indefinitely, to encourage people to leave Medicaid/Disability and return to work.

(2) Some ESRD facilities do a good social work job helping patients return to work. Others don't seem to even try. We should honor and reward those centers which, on a risk adjusted basis, are doing the best job of rehab in their renal network area.

The honor could be as simple as a Secretarial award of excellence and public recognition.

The reward could be something more tangible—a cash payment to the facility to each

patients of working age who does not have severe co-morbidities which the center is able to help return to work (above a baseline—perhaps 5% of eligible patients). For example, if a center had 100 working age patients, it could receive a \$1000 payment for each patient above 5 who had lost employment and is helped to return to work. This would be a phenomenally successful investment and would particularly compensate the dialysis center for the cost of vocational rehab and social work.

(3) Renal dialysis networks, which are designed to help ensure ESRD center quality, should be able to apply for designation as rehab agencies and for demonstration grants under this legislation.

The law spelling out the duties of Networks has a heavy emphasis on rehabilitation. Indeed, it is the first duty listed:

"... encouraging, consistent with sound medical practice, the use of those treatment settings most compatible with the successful rehabilitation of the patient and the participation of patients, providers of services, and renal disease facilities in vocational rehabilitation programs;"¹

I suspect that the 17 Networks vary widely in their emphasis on rehabilitation. Again, the Network(s) that do the best should receive recognition and share their success with the others.

(4) Kidney failure remains a medical mystery. It often happens very quickly, with no warning. But for thousands of others, there is a gradual decline of kidney function. I am told by medical experts that in many cases the descent to terminal or end-stage renal disease can be slowed by (1) nutrition counseling, or (2) medical treatment by nephrology specialists.

I hope that you will make it clear that the Medicaid (or Medicare) funds provided in this program to prevent disability could be used to delay the on-set of the devastatingly disruptive and expensive ESRD. Monies spent in this area would return savings many times over.

Also in the "preventive area," some of the leaders in the renal community are reporting exciting results from more frequent, almost nightly dialysis. Like frequent testing by diabetics for blood sugar levels, it may be that more frequent dialysis can result in a less disrupted life and better chance to contribute to the workforce. We should watch these medical developments and if there is a chance that some additional spending on more frequent, but less disruptive dialysis would encourage return to work, we should be supportive.

(5) Finally, I urge you to coordinate this bill with another proposal of the Administrative—skilled nursing facility employment of aides to help with feeding. As you know, last summer we received a GAO report on the horror of malnutrition and death by starvation in some nursing homes, due to a lack of staffing to take the time to help patients who have trouble eating and swallowing and who take a long, long time to eat (e.g., many stroke patients). A coordinated effort by the nursing home industry and ESRD centers to fill this minimum wage type position would help nursing home patients while starting many long-out-of-work ESRD patients back on the road to work.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few, quick ideas. I am sure that experts in this field could suggest other steps to ensure that the ESRD program not only saves lives, but helps people have a good and productive life.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY MAHONEY'S OLD FRENCH HOUSE RESTAURANT

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues news of two rather unique accolades for the celebrated Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Since opening its doors on May 7, 1964 in the refurbished Louis Frasier house that dates from 1737, this venerable establishment has been a Gulf Coast culinary landmark serving friends and travelers from near and far. The late Mary Mahoney and her dedicated family built their business on the tenets of excellent cuisine and service as well as an historically authentic Old South atmosphere, which over time has earned them international acclaim.

Among the numerous celebrities whose names grace their guest book are Sam Donaldson, Alexander Haig, Robert Redford, Denzel Washington, Randy Travis, and Dick Clark. During the Reagan Administration, Mary Mahoney catered a ceremony on the White House lawn for President and Mrs. Reagan and their guests.

All were impressed, but none left a more impressive gratuity than author John Grisham. In his recent bestseller, *The Runaway Jury*, Mr. Grisham compliments the restaurant by name and offers the reader a glimpse inside by having the judge in his novel host a fictional lunch for the jurors and court officers at "Mary Mahoney's". Through Mr. Grisham's narrative the reader gets to share in the "crab cakes and grilled snapper, fresh oysters and Mahoney's famous gumbo. * * *" He goes on to write, "By the time the jury was seated for the afternoon session, everyone present had heard the story of their splended lunch."

Now a newly released book celebrates the restaurant's vivacious founder and guiding spirit. It is entitled, *A Passion for People: The Story of Mary Mahoney and Her Old French House Restaurant*. Written by Mississippi journalist and family friend Edward J. Lepoma, himself a regular in Mary's inner circle of guests, this photo-filled, loving memoir tells of the trials and ultimate triumph of a second generation American with a dream. The dream was that of creating a world class restaurant in Biloxi, Mississippi, where the dining experience would be matched by the warm ambience that told all who visited, "Tonight, you are among friends."

With its quaint art-filled dining rooms, superior wine list, and captivating Southern charm and hospitality, Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant provides a memorable evening for first-time and long-time guests, an excellent backdrop for the novelist, and is a source of civic pride for the citizens of Biloxi and the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

¹Sec. 1881(c)(2)(A); see also (B) and (H).

HONORING LAUREN DEBOWES FOR
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN
DANCE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Lauren DeBowes for her outstanding achievements as an Irish dancer. A resident of New Haven, she will be representing Connecticut and the United States at the All World Irish Dance Championship in Ennis County Clare, Ireland.

Lauren is one of five young women in her age group from the New England area who will be making the trip to compete at the World Championship. With only 8 years of competitive dance experience under her belt, this is a truly impressive accomplishment. Teamed with her coach, John O'Keefe, Lauren performs both the soft dance and hard shoe dance, both of which have led her to success in several local competitions.

I was a tap dancer when I was young and can recall the thrill of recitals and concerts. I can only imagine the excitement that Lauren is feeling as she prepares for her trip to Ireland. Her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm has put her at a level to compete with the best in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Lauren as she celebrates her 16th birthday. This is certainly a special year. It is a pleasure for me to rise today and join with her family, friends, and the New Haven community to honor Lauren DeBowes for her tremendous accomplishments as an Irish dancer. Connecticut and the nation are indeed fortunate to be represented by such a talented young woman.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO DEC-
LARATION OF PALESTINIAN
STATE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to offer my remarks on both the substance of H. Con. Res. 24 and the context in which it is being considered. The Middle East peace process is at a critical stage, the Oslo Agreement will expire on May 4, 1999 and the legal framework for the peace process will come to an end. Despite the recent breakdown in negotiations, I applaud President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright for their tireless efforts towards achieving a lasting and just peace.

I agree with the majority of the text of H. Con. Res. 24 and therefore I supported it. The final status of the lands controlled by the Palestinian Authority should be determined under the auspices of Oslo or another framework. While Yasser Arafat may have the right to make unilateral declarations after Oslo, it will not be helpful to reaching peace and could inflame the violence that looms over the region every day.

However, I am disturbed by what H. Con. Res. 24 does not say. It does not condemn

the "unilateral actions" taken by Israel in direct violation of Oslo and the Wye River agreements. It ignores the responsibilities and commitments made by the Netanyahu Administration. In short, it is not a balanced resolution.

In the coming months I will continue to support the Administration's efforts in the Middle East and offer my support for all those who truly seek peace in the region. I will also work with my colleagues in the House to craft more balanced resolutions that call on both sides to adhere to the letter and spirit of their commitments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO EXPAND THE TAX DEDUC-
TION FOR STUDENT LOAN INTER-
EST PAYMENTS: ELIMI-
NATING THE 60-PAYMENT RE-
STRICTION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation on behalf of myself, and Representatives JOHNSON (of Connecticut), MATSUI, and ENGLISH, to expand the student loan interest payment tax deduction.

As a college education becomes both increasingly expensive and increasingly important in getting a job and being a productive and active participant in our democratic society, we must continue to look for ways to help students pay for tuition and related educational expenses.

As a part of the Tax Payer Relief Act of 1997, the interest paid on student loans became eligible for an "above-the-line" deduction on Federal income taxes. This tax provision is just beginning to provide needed relief to many student borrowers.

However, under current law, only the first 60 loan payments are eligible for the deduction. Because student loan payments are typically made monthly, this means that students can deduct interest payments on their taxes for only 5 years of repayment, not including time periods spent in either forbearance or deferment.

Our legislation would simply lift the 60-payment restriction and allow borrowers to deduct interest payments for the entire period of repayment.

Extending the time limit on the tax deduction is one of the most direct and straightforward changes we can make in current law to relieve the increasing burden of student loan debt. Loans now comprise 60 percent of all postsecondary student aid, compared to just 45 percent 10 years ago.

Our legislation will be particularly helpful to students with high loan debt and those who choose to pay over longer periods. The latter group includes those who choose "income contingent repayment," that is those who make smaller payments over a longer period of time, especially those who maintain a commitment to lower-paying public service occupations.

Eliminating the 60 payment period also will ease difficult, confusing, and costly reporting requirements currently required for both borrowers and lenders. Thus far, these reporting

requirements have proved so difficult that the IRS has already relaxed the rules for reporting during the 1998 tax year.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

EXCELLENCE REWARDED AT
BURBANK HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the academic decathlon team members, coaches, and parents at Burbank High School in my hometown, San Antonio, Texas. At the state Academic Decathlon competition for medium-size schools, Burbank placed third among 225 Texas high schools. This great accomplishment reflects the hard work and countless hours of preparation by students and school officials alike.

These students have demonstrated exceptional time management skills, self-discipline, and determination. They stayed focused on their priorities and set high standards for themselves. The City of San Antonio is proud of all nine members who received 14 individual medals in addition to the third-place team medal. Included in the team award was a gold medallion and a \$250 scholarship for each team member.

I would like to thank the coaches and parents of these diligent students for all their efforts in making this accomplishment possible. These students have been successful because of their hard work and support from family and teachers. They are paving the way to a bright and exciting future.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. JOSEPH'S VIL-
LAGE IN SELDEN, LONG ISLAND,
NEW YORK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this historic chamber to share with my colleagues the story of St. Joseph's Village in Selden, Long Island, New York. On Saturday, March 20, 1999, this special community, built by the Diocese of Rockville Center, will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its ground breaking. I stand here today in the People's House to talk about St. Joseph's Village because it embodies a unique spirit of community and cooperation; where its residents help each other and work to improve the lives of those in the surrounding community—even the world.

This Saturday evening, I have the privilege of helping the community pay tribute to a community within a community; St. Joseph's Village. Since its inception, 20 years ago, its 200 residents have made noteworthy contributions to an array of causes, from national charities to local food and clothing drives, and have improved the lives of individuals from around the world and at home on Long Island.

St. Joseph's Village began as an experiment. It was the first subsidized senior and

disabled housing development built by the Diocese of Rockville Center on Long Island and, initially at least, a controversial plan. Many residents in this middle class area resisted the notion of a subsidized apartment complex in their community. But St. Joseph's Village proved to be an outstanding neighbor and a model for the developments that followed it. Villagers often visit the nearby Hawkins Elementary School and read to students. This unique program, called "Reading Buddies," pairs up seniors with young children for mutual literary enjoyment. Other seniors devote their time preparing and serving to their fellow senior citizens at the local Senior Nutrition Center. Sixty other residents organized a project to donate money each month to improve the lives of three underprivileged children living abroad in Third World nations.

Mr. Speaker, words can hardly express the deep debt of gratitude we on Long Island owe to the residents of St. Joseph's Village for all they have done to serve our community and improve the lives of our neighbors. I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me, the community and all who have benefited from their generosity in thanking the residents for all their good work. And on this day of their 20th anniversary, we wish them many more years of success and good fortune.

FAIRNESS FOR FOSTER CARE
FAMILIES ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that ensures that all foster care families are treated fairly under the Tax Code.

The Fairness for Foster Care Families Act simplifies the current rules for foster care payments and recognizes the increasing role that charitable tax exempt agencies and private for-profit agencies play in the placement of foster care children and adults.

In 1983, Congress amended the Internal Revenue Code to permit certain foster care families to exclude from taxable income payments they receive to cover the additional expenses incurred for caring for the individual. Unfortunately, the exclusion depended on a complicated analysis of three factors: the age of the foster care individual, the type of foster care placement agency and the source of the foster care payment.

Congress revisited the tax treatment of foster care payments in 1986. Although the process was simplified to an extent, some families were still left out. Those families could only receive a tax deduction if they maintained detailed expense records to support such deductions.

Under the Fairness for Foster Care Families Act, foster care providers would avoid this burdensome record keeping process. This bill guarantees that the payment is tax-free regardless of the age of the foster care individual or the type of agency that places the individual provided that the agency is licensed and certified by the State.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

HAPPY 300TH ANNIVERSARY TO
THE SIKH NATION

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has brought it to my attention that on April 13, the Sikhs will be celebrating their 300th anniversary. Sikhs have been significant contributors to America in several sectors of life, but their anniversary is significant for another reason. The Sikh Nation is currently one of several nations struggling to reclaim its freedom from Hindu India.

It is an interesting coincidence that April 13, the Sikhs' anniversary, is also the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, the author of our Declaration of Independence. This symmetry of events highlights the Sikh Nation's desire to be free. It is time that the Sikhs enjoy the freedom that we enjoy here in America.

In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson wrote that all people "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it." In India, the government allows 70,000 Sikh political prisoners to rot in jail without charge or trial, some since 1984. They should be released on or before April 13 as a goodwill gesture. Instead, I fear that even more Sikhs will be endangered as "democratic, secular" India tries to maintain what it calls its "territorial integrity."

In the spirit of Jefferson, let the 300th anniversary of the Sikh Nation be an occasion to do whatever we can to support the Sikhs and the other nations of South Asia in their struggle to live in the glow of freedom. By stopping U.S. aid to India (which is one of the top five recipient countries) until human rights are universally respected, by declaring our support for self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite, and by imposing the same sanctions on India that we would impose on any other religious oppressor, we can share the blessings of liberty with the people of South Asia. This is the best thing that we can do to celebrate this important occasion with the Sikh Nation.

THE AMERICAN HEALTH SECURITY
ACT OF 1999

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again introduce the American Health Security Act. The single payer plan I propose is the only plan before Congress that will guarantee health care universality, affordability, security and choice.

While this Congress lacks the political will to enact comprehensive health reform, the underlying needs for reform remain prevalent: health care costs are more unaffordable to more people and the number of people without health insurance continues to rise. These

problems are compounded by increasing loss of health care choice and autonomy for those people who have insurance leading to disruptions in care and in relationships with providers.

The American Health Security Act I am introducing today embodies the characteristics of a truly American bill. It will give to all Americans the peace of mind—the security—to which all citizens should be entitled. It creates a system of health care delivered by physicians chosen by the patient. No one will have to leave their existing relationships with their doctors or hospitals or other providers. It is federally financed but administered at the state level, so the system is highly decentralized. And it provides new mechanisms to improve the quality of care every American receives.

The American Health Security Act (the Bill) provides universal health insurance coverage for all Americans as of January 1, 2000. It severs the link between employment and insurance. The federal government defines the standard benefit package, collects the premium, and distributes the premium funds to the states. The states, through negotiating panels comprised of representatives from business, labor, consumers and the state government, negotiate fees with the providers and the government controls the rate of price increases. The result is health care coverage that never changes when your personal situation does, never requires you to change the way you seek health care, and never causes disruption in your relationships with your providers.

The bill provides the coverage under a mechanism of global budgets to achieve controllable and measurable cost containment that will yield scorable savings over the next five years. Unlike other single-payer proposals of the past, it provides for almost exclusive state administration provided the states meet federal budget, benefit package, guarantee of free choice of provider, and quality assurance standards. This bill explicitly preserves free choice of provider by providing a mechanism for fee-for-service delivery to compete effectively with HMOs. It will not force Americans into HMO models.

The insurance mechanism of the American Health security Act is easy to use and understand. Quite simply, a patient visits the doctor or other provider. The provider then bills the state for the services provided under the standard benefit package and the state pays the bill on the patient's behalf, just as insurance companies pay medical bills on the patient's behalf now. The difference is that complicated and expensive formulas for patient copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles in addition to premium costs are eliminated.

The standard benefit package is in fact extremely generous. It covers all inpatient and outpatient medical services without limits on duration or intensity except as delineated by outcomes research and practice guidelines based on quality standards. It provides for coverage of comprehensive long-term care, dental services, mental health services and prescription drugs. Cosmetic procedures and other "frill" benefits such as private rooms and comfort items are not covered.

The extent of state discretion is substantial. The federal budget is divided into quality assurance, administrative, operating, and medical education components. The system is financed 86% by the federal government and

14% by the states. That federal pie is then apportioned among the states. For example, states with large elderly populations can be expected to require a larger volume of higher intensity services and will receive a larger federal contribution. However, the states are free to determine how that money is allocated among types of providers and to negotiate those allocations according to the state's individual needs, provided federal standards are met. The ability of HMOs to operate and compete on a capitated basis is preserved.

The states must demonstrate the efficacy of their methodologies or federal models will be imposed. However, states are not required to seek waivers in advance. While the federal government will not make separate allocations to states for capital and operating budgets, the states are free to allocate capital separately to assure adequate distribution of resources throughout the state and to develop their own mechanisms for doing so.

The financing package reflects the CBO scoring of this bill's predecessor, H.R. 1200, in the 103d Congress. The numbers were provided by the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) on the basis of the CBO scoring. Accordingly, the bill is fully financed. In fact, JCT estimates that the American Health Security Act will lead to deficit reduction approximating \$100 billion per year by the year 2004.

Everyone will contribute to the health insurance system, except the very poor. Employers will pay 8.7% of payroll and individuals will pay 2.2% of their taxable income. A tobacco tax equal to \$0.45 per cigarette pack is also imposed. These payroll deductions are lower than current insurance costs for most businesses and individuals, even while providing universal coverage and a more generous benefit package than exists in the private market today. The key is that the money necessary to provide coverage to people who cannot afford it comes from the administrative savings achieved through the elimination of the insurance company middle man. Americans are freed from the hassle of obtaining and keeping their insurance and have a federal guarantee that their health care costs will be paid for, regardless of who their employer is, where they move, or how their personal or family situation changes.

In addition to providing realistic and affordable financing, the bill provides quality assurance mechanisms that enhance system-wide quality and truly protect the consumer. It attempts to end the interference between doctor and patient. It establishes a system of profiling practice patterns to identify outliers on a systematic basis. Pre-certification of procedures and hospitalization (getting permission from insurers before your doctor can treat you) is prohibited except for case management of catastrophic cases.

Practice guidelines and outcomes research are emphasized as the main quality and utilization control mechanisms which gives physicians latitude to deviate from cookbook medicine where required for individual cases without going through intermediaries. Only if practitioners consistently deviate are they subject to review to ascertain the basis for the pattern of practice. This system includes mechanisms for education and sanctions including case-by-case monitoring when the review indicates serious quality problems with a specific provider.

The need for a 1:1 ratio of primary care physicians to specialists is explicitly set forth.

Federal funding to graduate medical education is tied to achieving this ratio. Funding to the National Health Service is also provided to achieve this goal.

Special grants are provided to meet the needs of underserved areas through enhanced funding to the community health centers, both rural and urban, to enable outreach and other social support mechanisms. In addition, states have discretion to make special payment arrangements to such facilities to improve local access to care. It is anticipated that the revenue streams established for the public health service, community health centers, and education of primary care providers will double the primary care capacity of rural and other underserved areas in this country.

In summary, the American Health Security Act will provide all the citizens with the health care they need at a price both they and their country can afford. It is clear that we cannot afford the price of doing nothing.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

OFFICERS ACCUSED OF USING RACIAL SLURS, BREAKING BOY'S ARM

LAS VEGAS (AP).—Two Las Vegas off-duty police officers are accused of taunting schoolchildren with racial slurs and breaking the arm of a 12-year-old boy while arresting him.

The Metropolitan Police Department is investigating, and the mother of Parrish "Pookie" Young Jr., whose arm was broken, has contacted an attorney.

Police Department spokesman Lt. Rick Alba said Thursday the department began an internal investigation after the Wednesday morning incident through Tammy Lyons, Pookie's mother, has yet to file a complaint with the department's Internal Affairs Bureau.

Lyons' aunt, Caroline Lyons, said Pookie was cited for resisting arrest and impeding traffic, both misdemeanors. She said her great-nephew's arm was broken between the elbow and the shoulder.

Twelve-year-old Alex Solomon said the incident began when he, Dwayne Childs, 13, and Pookie met to go to school about 7 a.m. Wednesday. After making their morning trek to a doughnut shop, they walked to their school bus stop at Mojave Road and Charleston Boulevard.

Alex said their friend, Zaya Thompson, 12, had a can of potato chips, which she tossed to them. The can went into the street, Alex said, and he and Pookie chased after it. Then, he said, they started "play fighting" over it.

An unidentified woman stopped her car at that time and told them to stay out of the road because they could get hurt.

Just behind her was a Las Vegas police squad car and a white vehicle. An officer in uniform got out of the squad car, and another man, who identified himself as an officer, got out of the white vehicle.

The officers scolded the children for running into the street at the school bus stop, but Alex and another student, Candance

Reynard, 11, said the officers then started using racial slurs. All the children involved in the incident are black.

One of the girls at the bus stop yelled an expletive to the officers. Another girl repeated the derogatory rebuff, and Pookie started laughing.

"I said, 'A-hahaha,'" the 12-year-old said. "One of the men said, 'This ain't no joke. Bring your little ass over her.'"

Pookie said he dropped his school books and walked toward the two. When he was within arm's reach, they grabbed him and slammed him against the police car, he said.

"Pookie walked over to the cop, to the car, and as he was walking over, as soon as he got near them, they took him," said Gary Hamilton, 26, who was driving the school bus the children were waiting to board.

"And one cop has his head down, and the other tried to get, I guess, what looked like an arm bar," he said, referring to a method of immobilizing someone's arms.

Pookie's left arm then "just gave away," Hamilton said. The officers then took Pookie to University Medical Center.

FREE SPEECH AT HEART OF CASE INVOLVING STUDENT DENIED LAW LICENSE

(By Tara Burghart)

EAST PEORIA, IL. (AP).—In three years of law school Matt Hale made decent grades, participated in student groups, played violin in two orchestras—and worked to revive a white supremacist group that advocates "racial holy war."

A state panel that reviews the "character and fitness" of prospective lawyers says that's reason enough to refuse Hale a law license. That ruling in turn has prompted debate about the balance between free speech and an attorney's obligation to uphold the nation's bedrock belief of equal justice under the law.

"The idea that I can't be lawyer because of my views is ludicrous. Plain and simple," Hale says, sitting in a home office where an Israeli flag serves as a doormat, swastika stickers decorate the walls and the flag of Hale's group, the World Church of the Creator, hangs from a window.

Hale's effort to gain a law license has attracted some unlikely supporters, including the Anti-Defamation League and renowned attorney Alan Dershowitz, who says he may help Hale appeal the inquiry panel's ruling.

"Character committees should not become thought police," Dershowitz said. "It's not the content of the thoughts I'm defending, it's the freedom of everybody to express their views and to become lawyers."

Hale, 27, grew up in East Peoria, a blue-collar town on the Illinois River. By his own account he was immersing himself by age 12 in books about Nazis and formed a "Little Reich" group at school. In high school and at Bradley University he attended "white power" rallies and sent letters filled with racial slurs to newspapers.

He also had a few brushes with the law, including a citation for littering after trying to distribute racist newspapers to homes in Pekin.

While attending Southern Illinois University law school Hale was elected head of the World Church of the Creator. The Anti-Defamation League says the group was one of the most violent of its kind in the early 1990s; one member was convicted of killing a black Gulf War veteran in 1991 in a Florida parking lot.

After the veteran's family won \$1 million from the church in a lawsuit and its founder died, the church flourished, only to experience a resurgence under Hale, according to the league. Hale's claim of up to 30,000 supporters cannot be verified.

Hale graduated from SIU in May 1998, passed the bar exam and was hired by a

Champaign law firm that now says it knew nothing about his views.

To receive a law license, Hale and other prospective lawyers are required to appeal before a judge or attorney working on behalf of the Illinois Supreme Court's committee on character and fitness who look for problems including dishonesty, criminal activity, academic misconduct or financial irresponsibility.

All but 25 of more than 3,000 applicants last year were approved at that initial stage.

Hale was not, and then a three-member inquiry panel voted 2-1 in December not to give him a license.

"The balance of values that we strike leaves Matthew Hale free, as the First Amendment allows, to incite as much racial hatred as he desires and to attempt to carry out his life's mission of depriving those he dislikes of their legal rights," panel members wrote.

"But in our view he cannot do this as an officer of the court."

Illinois officials say the last case similar to Hale's was in the early 1950s, when a law student refused to take an anti-Communist loyalty oath. The U.S. Supreme Court last considered a similar case in 1971, when two applicants for law licenses in other states would not reveal their political beliefs. The court ruled in their favor.

The Anti-Defamation League believes Hale shouldn't be denied a law license because of the "slippery slope" it creates, said Andrew Shoenthal, assistant director in the group's Chicago office.

For instance, Shoenthal asked, could a prospective lawyer who opposes abortion or supports school prayer be denied a license if a majority in his community held an opposite view?

The Illinois State Bar Association has yet to take a position on Hale's case, but spokesman Dave Anderson said the case "is a hot topic (among lawyers) right now, with spirited debate on both sides."

Hale, meanwhile, was fired in November by the law firm because he couldn't obtain a license. He lives with his parents in East Peoria, operating out of an office in their home.

When he's not talking about his white supremacist beliefs, Hale seems intelligent, polite, and articulate.

"I can't name a Hollywood movie that made white supremacists look good," he said. "We're always portrayed as hate mongers, villains, uneducated, missing all our teeth, having a shotgun in the backseat and chewing tobacco."

Hale is optimistic he'll get his license and plans to open a solo practice because no law firm is likely to hire him. His plans include challenging affirmative action laws and the littering law for which he was cited.

"For me, the true test of character is whether a person says what they think, which is what I have always done," Hale said. "I believe I show more character than most attorneys in that I actually practice what I preach."

STUDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO SENDING THREATENING E-MAILS

LOS ANGELES (AP).—A college student has pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges that he e-mailed hate messages to dozens of Hispanics around the country.

Kingman Quon, 22, of Corona pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to seven misdemeanor counts of interfering with federally protected activities.

Specifically, he was accused of threatening to use force against his victims with the intent to intimidate or interfere with them because of their national origin or ethnic background.

It was only the second federal civil rights prosecution involving e-mail threats.

Quon could face up to seven years in prison and nearly \$700,000 in fines when he is sentenced on April 26, although he is expected to receive a 2-year sentence under a plea bargain.

Quon, who was charged in January, remains free on bail pending sentencing.

Quon, a Chinese-American, said outside court that he "snapped" and sent the messages in March because he couldn't stand the pressures of being "a high-achieving college student."

He is a marketing major at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Quon sent the same racially derogatory e-mail to 42 professors at California State University, Los Angeles and 25 students at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"The only reason you people are in state colleges is because of affirmative action," the message read.

One copy went to Assemblywoman Gloria Romero, D-Alhambra, a former Cal State psychology professor.

Quon also sent the message to employees of Indiana University, Xerox Corp., the Texas Hispanic Journal, the Internal Revenue Service and NASA's Ames Research Center.

Outside of court Monday, Quon apologized for the messages and asked the victims to forgive him.

The only other federal hate e-mail prosecution involved Richard Machado, 21, a naturalized citizen from El Salvador who flunked out of the University of California, Irvine. He was convicted last year of sending messages to 59 Asian students on campus, allegedly out of anger because he felt their good grades were raising the standard for others.

He was sentenced to a year in jail and was ordered to undergo racial tolerance counseling.

SPEEDY RULING SOUGHT FOR AYERS ISSUE AFFECTING USM-GULF COAST

JACKSON, MISS. (AP).—The State College Board will meet Thursday with its lawyers to discuss questions raised in a complaint over whether university expansion on the Gulf Coast will impact the historically black colleges.

Last week, plaintiffs in a long-running college desegregation lawsuit filed papers asking U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. of Oxford to hold up the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast expansion.

Alvin Chambliss Jr., a law professor at Texas Southern University and lead attorney for plaintiffs in the lawsuit, questioned the admissions policies at USM/Gulf Coast operations.

Chambliss also said he feared the USM upgrades could interfere with state funding needed for court-approved remedies.

The desegregation case began in January 1975 when the late Jake Ayers Sr. of Glen Allan sued, accusing Mississippi of neglecting the state's three historically black universities—Jackson State, Alcorn and Mississippi Valley State. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that Mississippi operated a segregated college system.

USM wants \$2 million for Gulf Coast expansions. That includes funds for USM-Long Beach and creation of a multi-university higher education center. The Legislature has not yet acted on the money.

"We all hope it doesn't hold up things," said College Board member Nan Baker of Winona. "A speedy ruling (from the judge) would be best for everybody concerned."

The College Board endorsed the USM/Gulf Coast expansion by a 7-5 vote last month. Critics say Mississippi can't afford what may become a ninth university.

Reports from the College Board did not spell out the racial makeup of USM/Gulf Coast programs, Chambliss said.

The USM plan would add 150 freshmen next fall to the Gulf Park campus at Long Beach and 750 freshmen and sophomores over a five-year period. The board plan also proposes a USM-led higher education center on the Gulf Coast. It would allow five universities including Jackson State and Alcorn State, and a community college, to teach classes.

"Persons from every sector of the Gulf Coast support what we are doing," said USM President Horace Fleming Jr. "We have support from leaders in the black community. We think it would help everybody."

Sen. David Jordan, D-Greenwood, is urging the Legislature to more than triple the \$4.7 million the College Board is seeking for Ayers funding for the three historically black universities.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION ON MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIERS—H.R. 1175 DIRECTS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PRESS THIS MATTER WITH MID-EAST GOVERNMENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, almost 17 years ago, three Israeli soldiers were captured in northeastern Lebanon following a tank battle with Syrian and Palestinian forces near the town of Sultan Yaqub. One of the men was Sgt. Zachary Baumel, an American citizen living in Israel. His parents also live in Israel and also are American citizens. The other two Israeli soldiers captured at Sultan Yaqub are Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

According to press and intelligence reports, a pro-Syrian faction of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) had custody of these three men initially, but the faction later split from the PLO and took the three prisoners with them. Just hours after the soldiers were captured, western journalists in Damascus and Syrian radio reported that three Israeli soldiers were paraded through the streets of Damascus in a victory parade.

Over 10 years later, in 1993, the families of the MIAs hoped their ordeal might be over when Palestinian Authority Chairman, Yasser Arafat, returned half of Baumel's army dogtag to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and promised to provide additional information regarding the MIAs of Sultan Yaqub. Over 5 years have passed since that time, and no additional information has been forthcoming from Chairman Arafat.

According to the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv (April 24, 1994), French President Jacques Chirac raised the issue of the three prisoners during a visit to Lebanon. He reported on his conversations in Beirut: "I spoke to my friend, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, and he told me in no uncertain terms that only [Syrian President Hafez al] Assad knows what happened to the [Israeli] POWs." Syrian officials, however, have repeatedly denied knowledge of the missing men.

Syrian practice in the past has been to deny publicly holding such individuals. For example, the Syrians repeatedly denied knowledge of a group of Palestinians whom they held for over

a decade; the Palestinian prisoners only became known when the Syrian government released them in 1995. On the basis of this experience with Syria, it is quite possible that these Israeli MIAs are still alive and under Syrian control.

Mr. Speaker, I have chosen to introduce this legislation today because this day holds great significance for the Jewish people. Today is the first day of the month of Nissan on the Jewish calendar. Nissan is a very important month because Jews from around the world celebrate Passover and join with their families in the observance of the holiday of freedom in this month.

It is in the spirit of this month that I ask my colleagues in the Congress to join me in helping Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz return to their homes. Sitting in the gallery today is Mrs. Miriam Baumel, Zachary Baumel's mother, whose tireless efforts on behalf of H.R. 1175 are a testament of her deep love for her son and her strong support for this legislation. Miriam and husband, Yona, have visited communities across the country and have met with numerous Members of Congress and congressional staff in their tireless effort to rally support for their son and to end this family tragedy.

I have confidence in this house's ability to do what is right. Mr. Speaker. The Baumel, Feldman, and Katz families should not have to spend one more night worrying about the fate of Zachary, Tzvi, and Yehuda.

H.R. 1175 directs the Department of State to raise the fate of these Israeli soldiers with the Palestinian Authority and leaders of the governments of Syria, Lebanon, and other countries in the Middle East in an effort to locate and secure the return of these soldiers. This legislation also specifies that U.S. aid to these governments "should take into consideration the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the return of these soldiers." The State Department is directed to report to the Congress concerning these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation is introduced in the hope that we can find answers to the questions that have haunted the Baumel, Katz, and Feldman families for almost 17 years. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help to put an end to this tragedy.

H.R. 1175

To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American Citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that

A. Zachary Baumel, an American citizen serving in the Israeli military forces, has been missing in action since June 1982 when he was captured by forces affiliated with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) following a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

B. Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman, Israeli citizens serving in the Israeli military forces, have been missing in action since June 1982 when they were also captured by these same forces in a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

C. These three soldiers were last known to be in the hands of a Palestinian faction splintered from the PLO and operating in Syrian-controlled territory, thus making

this a matter within the responsibility of the government of Syria;

D. Diplomatic efforts to secure their release have been unsuccessful, although PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat delivered one half of Zachary Baumel's dog tag to Israeli government authorities; and

E. In the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the government of Israel of May 4, 1994, Palestinian officials agreed to cooperate with Israel in locating and working for the return of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

SEC. 2. ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

A. The Department of State shall raise the matter of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman on an urgent basis with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and with other governments in the region and other governments elsewhere which in the Department's view may be helpful in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

B. Decisions with regard to United States economic and other forms of assistance to Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region and United States policy towards these governments and authorities should take into consideration the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

SEC. 3. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

A. Ninety days after the enactment of this legislation, the Department of State shall deliver a report in writing to the Congress detailing its consultations with governments pursuant to section 2(A) of this act and United States policies affected pursuant to section 2(B) of this act. This report shall be a public document. The report may include a classified annex.

B. After the initial report to the Congress, the Department of State shall report in writing within 15 days whenever any additional information from any source relating to these individuals arises. Such report shall be a public document. The report may include a classified annex.

C. The reports to the Congress identified in paragraph (A) and (B) above shall be made to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

A SALUTE TO WILLIAM JOHNSON

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues my esteem and regard for William Johnson, Business Manager of Laborers Union Local 113 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On March 20, his family, friends, union brothers and sisters, and admirers will gather to celebrate Bill Johnson's over 40 years of service to Milwaukee workers and to wish him well as his life begins a new chapter.

Bill returned to his native Alabama in 1955, an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army. He stayed only a couple of weeks before he agreed to join his brother in Milwaukee.

When he arrived in Milwaukee, Bill Johnson found work, but he did not immediately find union representation. During the early days of America's struggle for civil rights, many of the

union locals in town were not admitting African Americans. When he joined the Laborers' paving local that would eventually become Local 113, he had found a home.

Bill Johnson rose through the ranks to the position of Business Manager, ultimately responsible for contract negotiation and administration, personnel, and all of the union's other business. He has also served as Union Trustee for 30 years and is a trustee of the Laborers' Employers Cooperation Education Trust.

As a leader, Bill Johnson earned the respect of Local membership. He led by example, with dedication to the welfare and professional advancement of the membership. He always remembered that a successful union draws strength from its members just as they draw strength from the union.

After over 40 years, Bill Johnson is retiring as Business Manager of Laborers Local 113. His retirement from organized labor does not mean an end to his public service. Bill has been a longtime leader at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and he presides over the church's economic and community development corporations. Under his direction, I know that these organizations will continue to work vigorously to bring housing and economic opportunity to Milwaukee's central city. Bill has also been active in leadership positions in the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and Campaign for a Sustainable Milwaukee.

I am proud to join his colleagues, his friends, and his many admirers in expressing my gratitude to Bill Johnson for a lifetime of devoted service to Milwaukee's working families. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Bill and wishing him well as he embarks on a new course.

TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN IRISH-AMERICAN PARADE COMMITTEE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on the occasion of its 24th Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

The Brooklyn Irish-American Parade highlights the cultural, education and historical accomplishments and contributions of Brooklyn's Irish-American community. The Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade serves as a celebration of Brooklyn's cultural diversity and richness and takes place in historic Park Slope on the hallowed ground of the Battle of Brooklyn and commemorates the Marylanders, Irish Freedom Fighters and Americans of other ethnic backgrounds who gave their lives to secure independence for all Americans. The Spirit of '76 was, and still is, the ideal of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

The Parade Committee, its officers and members, continue the memorialization of "The Great Famine" (An Gorta Mor) which caused the deaths of over 1,500,000 people in Ireland and tens of thousands as they traveled to America. During "The Great Famine", over 1,000,000 of Erin's sons and daughters emigrated to the United States through the port of New York.

The theme of this year's Parade is Wolfe Tone and The Good Friday Peace Accords. Wolfe Tone was an Irish Patriot and founder of the Society of the United Irishman, whose vision of Ireland was neither North nor South, neither Protestant nor Catholic, but one Ireland United and Free. The Good Friday Peace Accords, which were overwhelmingly supported by the people of the North and South, gave new hope for an end to sectarian violence and a peaceful resolution of political and social differences. The members of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee salutes with gratitude all the peacemakers who secured these accords for the people of Ireland, especially the untiring negotiations of former United States Senator George Mitchell.

This year's parade is dedicated to the memories of Johanna Cronin McAvey of County Cork, a founder of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee; Past Grand Marshals Paul O'Dwyer and Patrick McGowan, Past Aides to Grand Marshals Maureen Glynn Connolly, Tom Doherty, Eugene Reilly and Irene Stevens.

The Grand Marshal for the 24th Annual Parade is Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C., President and Chief Executive Officer of Covenant House who has dedicated her life to homeless children and their families. Sister McGeady has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those whose lives she has touched.

The Grand Marshall, her Aides Robert Hanley (Irish Culture) Pipe Major NYC Correction Department Pipe Band; Jane Murphy Parchinsky, Ladies AOH Kings County Board and Division 17; James Boyle (Irish Business) Snook Inn & Green Isle Inn; Bettyanne McDonough (Education) Emerald Society Board of Education; Patrick W. Johnson (Kings County AOH & Division 22); Geraldine McCluskey Lavery (Gaelic Sports/Young Irelands Camogie Team); Thomas Daniel Duffy (Grand Council, United Emerald Societies/Housing Authority); Parade Chairperson Kathleen McDonagh; Dance Chairperson Charlie O'Donnell; Journal Chairperson James McDonagh; Raffle Chairperson Eileen Fallon; Parade Officers, Members and all the citizens of Brooklyn, have joined together to participate in this important and memorable event.

In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations and thanks to the Grand Marshall, her Aides, the Parade Officers and members of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on the occasion of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee's 24th Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

Helena, I am extremely proud of my friend's outstanding accomplishments.

Born in West Virginia in 1926, Justus Cunningham (J.C.) Pickett received his B.A. degree from West Virginia University in 1956 and his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia in 1958. He served as a surgical intern from 1958 to 1959, a surgical resident from 1959 and 1960, and an orthopaedic resident from 1960 to 1963, all at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals.

Dr. Pickett was certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1955 and became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1967 and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 1968. A retired colonel of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, he served in a number of important positions: as a clinical instructor at Ohio State University, as Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, as a board member of the Napa County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, as orthopaedic consultant to Napa Valley College, and as team physician for Napa High School and Vintage High School. Dr. Pickett is also a member of the California Orthopaedic Association and the Western Orthopaedic Association.

Dr. Pickett served as President of the Napa County Medical Society from 1980 to 1981, as a member of the CMA House of Delegates from 1977 to 1990, and has been a member of CMA's Board of Trustees since 1990. In that capacity, he was Vice-Chair from 1994 to 1995, Chair from 1996 to 1997, and President-Elect from 1998 to 1999.

Despite his busy medical practice and dedication to his profession and patients, Dr. Pickett always finds time to spend with his wife Sandra, his three children, Justus Cunningham Pickett II, Carrie Laing Pickett, and John Eastman Brown Pickett, his two grandchildren Samantha and Joycelyn, and his beloved dog Murphy. Dr. Pickett is also well known to his friends, family, colleagues and patients as a highly skilled physician, gentleman farmer, infrequent golfer, and world class over lover of crossword puzzles.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the lifetime of service Dr. Pickett has given to his community, his state and his nation. Undoubtedly, there are many families in Napa County who are thankful each day for Dr. Pickett's service. Napa County is a health community and its resident can point to Dr. Pickett's service as one reason for this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally commend Dr. Pickett on his dedication and meritorious service, and I wish him well this coming year as the new president of the CMA.

care provide better care and extend life expectancy, we must also be cognizant of the care we provide in the last stages of an individual's life.

It is my hope that by addressing the needs of patients and families dealing with pain and medical difficulties at the end of life, we can focus attention on the constructive steps that can be taken to provide help and assistance to seniors and other Americans during this critical period. We should not allow end of life care to be eclipsed by the debate over physician assisted suicide. In my discussions with families and physicians, people are concerned with the quality of care and the type of information available during this difficult period of one's life.

The Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act builds on the Patient Self-Determination Act enacted in 1990, which I sponsored, by strengthening many of its provisions. The Patient Self-Determination Act requires health care facilities to distribute information to patients regarding existing State laws on living wills, medical powers-of-attorney, and other advance directives so that individuals can document the type of care they would like to receive at the end of their lives. Since passage of that legislation, there has been an increase in the number of individuals who have advance directives. However, a Robert Wood Johnson study found that less than half of hospitalized patients who had advanced directives had even talked with any of their doctors about having a directive and only about one-third of the patients with advanced directives had their wishes documented in their medical records.

This legislation seeks to address these problems and improve the quality of information provided to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. It will encourage seniors and families to have more open and informed communication with health care providers concerning their preferences for end-of-life care.

Specifically, the bill requires that a trained professional be available, when requested, to discuss end-of-life care. It also requires that if a patient has an advance directive, it must be placed in a prominent part of the medical record where all doctors and nurses can clearly see it. In addition, the bill establishes a 24-hour hotline and information clearinghouse to provide consumers, patients and their families with information about advance directives and end-of-life decision making.

Included in this legislation is a provision designed to ensure that an advance directive which is valid in one State will be honored in another State, as long as the contents of the advance directive do not conflict with the laws of the other State. In addition, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to gather information and consult with experts on the possibility of a uniform advance directive for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, regardless of where they live. A uniform advance directive would enable people to document the kind of care they wish to get at the end of their lives in a way that is easily recognizable and understood by everyone.

The Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act also addresses quality end-of-life care by responding to the national need for end-of-life standards. It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Health Care Financing Administration,

IN HONOR OF J.C. PICKETT, M.D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the new California Medical Association (CMA) President, Dr. J.C. Pickett, of St. Helena, California.

Dr. Pickett has been a longtime leader in the Napa community, as well as throughout the State of California, and as native St.

ADVANCE PLANNING AND COM-
PASSIONATE CARE ACT OF 1999

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1999 I reintroduced the Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act of 1999, along with my colleagues Representatives JAMES GREENWOOD and DARLENE HOOLEY. This legislation intends to respond to the critical needs of the elderly and their families during often difficult times in their lives. As advancements in health

National Institutes of Health, and the Agency for Care Policy and Research, to develop outcome standards and other measures to evaluate the quality of care provided to patients at the end of their lives.

This legislation also responds to the serious crisis in pain care. As documented by the Institute of Medicine, studies have shown that a significant proportion of dying patients experience serious pain despite the availability of effective pain treatment. In addition, the aggressive use of ineffectual and intrusive interventions at the end of life may actually increase pain and eliminate the possibility for a peaceful and meaningful end-of-life experience with family and friends. This bill will improve the treatment of pain for Medicare patients with life threatening diseases.

Currently, Medicare does not generally pay the cost of self-administered drugs prescribed for outpatient use. The only outpatient pain medications currently covered by Medicare are those that are administered by a portable pump. It is widely recognized among physicians treating patients with cancer and other life-threatening diseases that self-administered pain medications, including oral drugs and transdermal patches, are alternatives that are equally effective at controlling pain, less costly and more comfortable for the patient. To address this inadequacy in coverage, the bill requires Medicare coverage for self-administered pain medications prescribed for outpatient use for patients with life-threatening disease and chronic pain.

The bill also focuses on the need to develop models to improve end-of-life care. The bill provides funding for demonstration projects to develop new and innovative approaches to improving end-of-life care provided to Medicare beneficiaries. It also includes funding to evaluate existing pilot programs that are providing innovative approaches to end-of-life care.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation we are proposing seeks to improve the quality of care for individuals and their families experiencing the last stages of life so they may do so together with dignity, independence and compassion.

SUMMARY: ADVANCE PLANNING AND COMPASSIONATE CARE ACT

SECTION 1. TITLE

Sec. 2. Development of Standards to Assess End-of-Life Care

The HHS Secretary, through HCFA, NIH, and AHP, shall develop outcome standards and measures to evaluate the performance and quality of health care programs and projects that provide end-of-life care to individuals.

Sec. 3. Study and Recommendation to Congress on Issues Relating to Advance Directive Expansion

HHS will study and report to Congress on ways to improve the uniformity of advance directives.

Sec. 4. Study and Legislative Proposal to Congress

HHS shall study and report to Congress on all matters relating to the creation of a national, uniform policy on advance directives.

Sec. 5. Expansion of Advance Directives

Individuals in hospitals, nursing homes and health care facilities will have an opportunity to discuss issues relating to advance directives with an appropriately trained individual. Advance directives must be placed prominently in a patient's medical record.

This section also ensures portability of advance directives, so that an advance directive valid in one state will be honored in another state, as long as the contents of the ad-

vance directive do not conflict with the laws of the other state.

Sec. 6. National Information Hotline for End-of-Life Decision-making

HHS, through HCFA, shall establish and operate directly, or by grant, contract, or interagency agreement, a clearinghouse and 24-hour hot-line to provide consumer information about advance directives and end-of-life decision-making.

Sec. 7. Evaluation of and Demonstration Projects for Medicare Beneficiaries

HHS, through HCFA, will evaluate existing innovative programs and also administer demonstration projects to develop new and innovative approaches to providing end-of-life care to Medicare beneficiaries. Also, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the quality of end-of-life care under the Medicare program, together with any suggestions for legislation to improve the quality of such care under that program.

Sec. 8. Medicare Coverage of Self-Administered Medication for Certain Patients with Chronic Pain

Medicare will provide coverage for self-administered pain medications prescribed for outpatients with life-threatening disease and chronic pain. (These medications are currently covered by Medicare only when administered by portable pump).

RED BANK MEN'S CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY: "UNITY—PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE"

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 17, 1999, the members of the Red Bank, NJ, Men's Club will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversary with a formal dinner ball to be held at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ. The theme for the evening, which will be chaired by Mr. Gary Watson, is "Unity—Past, Present and Future." Two of the Red Bank area's leading citizens, James W. Parker, Jr., M.D., and Donald D. Warner, Ed.D., will be honored at the ball.

Dr. James W. Parker, Jr., was born in Red Bank, where he attended the public schools and began his lifelong membership in the Shrewsbury Avenue AME Zion Church. He attended Howard University, graduating in 1940 with a B.S. degree, and earning his M.D. degree in 1944. He also attained the rank of First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After serving his residency in Norfolk, Va., he came back home to Red Bank and opened a private practice. The Korean War interrupted his career on the home front, as Dr. Parker went to serve his country as a Captain in Korea with a Battalion Air Station on the front line, and later in Japan. After the war, he returned to private family practice, as well as serving on the medical staff at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, NJ, and Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank.

Dr. Parker was married to Alice Williams Parker in 1944. They have two children and four grandchildren. His community involvement has been and continues to be extensive, including service to the YMCA, the Red Bank Board of Health, the American Red Cross, the Red Bank Board of Education, where he served as vice President, the Monmouth County Welfare Board, which he chaired, the

Monmouth College Trustees Board, the Monmouth County Office of Social Services Board and the Red Bank Community Service Board.

Last year, Dr. Donald D. Warner retired after 23 years of service as Superintendent of the Red Bank Regional High School District. Dr. Warner began his long and distinguished career in education 40 years ago, starting out as a classroom teacher. He earned his Bachelor's Degree at Temple University and his Doctor of Education Degree at the Pennsylvania State University. Over the years, he has received school and community awards too numerous to mention. In his nearly a quarter-century in the Red Bank area, he has taken on significant community and professional responsibilities, serving on various boards of trustees, foundations and task forces in Monmouth County and throughout the State of New Jersey.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Warner now lives in Tinton Falls, NJ, with his wife Mercedes, a teacher in the Tinton Falls District. The Warners' three children have all achieved impressive success—not surprising, given the commitment to hard work and excellence instilled in them by both of their parents. Despite his retirement, Dr. Warner has remained active in community affairs, while a scholarship being established in his honor will further his legacy as an educator by providing opportunities for students to expand their educational opportunities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the Red Bank Men's Club has been instrumental over the years in supporting youth through scholarships for higher education. Many members of the Club serve as mentors and tutors for youth in the community. I congratulate the leaders and members of the Red Bank Men's Club, and wish them many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1150, THE JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. GREENWOOD, to introduce H.R. 1150, the Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act. It is essential that Congress join together to fight and reduce the rising rates of crime, particularly violent crime among children.

Our children are our most important resource. They are our future teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and parents. We need to make sure that we do everything in our power to keep them safe from harm and prevent them from becoming involved in at-risk activities, such as drugs, alcohol abuse, and crime. In 1996 alone, there were over 100,000 arrests of children and youth under the age of 18 for violent crimes. Over 1,000 of those crimes were committed by those under the age of 10 and 6,500 were committed by youths between the ages of 10 and 12. In my home state of Delaware, one out of every five persons arrested in 1996 was a juvenile.

The key to lowering these statistics and stopping juvenile crime in its tracks is prevention and that is what we do in the Juvenile

Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act. This bill acknowledges that most successful solutions to juvenile crime are developed at the state and local levels by people who understand the unique characteristics of youth in their particular area. H.R. 1150 goes a long way toward providing states and local providers with more flexibility in addressing juvenile crime by reducing burdensome state requirements and streamlining current law. Funds in H.R. 1150 can be used for prevention activities, including for hiring probation officers to monitor youth to ensure they abide by the terms of their probation. The bill also acknowledges that interventions and prevention activities such as educational assistance, job training employment services are effective tools in reducing and preventing juvenile crime. Also included in this bill is the Runaway Homeless Youth Act, which targets prevention as the best means to combat juvenile violent crime. H.R. 1150 authorizes programs to keep youth off the streets and away from criminal activity, so they will never even have the opportunity to become involved in violent crime. The Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act provides the missing link in our efforts to combat juvenile crime.

Identical legislation to H.R. 1150 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 413 to 14 last year. This widely supported legislation can go a long way in providing kids support when they are most in need.

REGARDING H. CON. RES. 60

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased to introduce H. Con. Res. 60 telling the United States Postal Service that the Congress believes it should issue a series of commemorative postage stamps honoring veterans service organizations across the Nation.

As we are aware, this year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will observe the 100th Anniversary of its founding. This important occasion represents the perfect opportunity to recognize the service of America's veterans, but the Postal Service has turned a deaf ear to numerous requests from veterans organizations, Members of Congress, and the American public to issue even a single stamp this year for this noble purpose.

There are numerous organizations that deserve commendation, including the American Legion, AMVETS, Blinded Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Polish League of American Veterans of which I am proud to be one. And, these organizations would be specifically honored with the V.F.W. The Postal Service should be doing all it can to make this happen. Veterans have fought for our liberties, they should not have to fight for appropriate recognition.

From the time of the Founding Fathers, American service personnel have sacrificed dearly to defend our country and its ideals. But their service is not confined to the battleground. Over time, veterans organizations have ably represented the interests of veterans in the Congress and State Legislatures

across the Nation. They have established networks of trained volunteer service officers who have helped millions of veterans and their families secure the education, disability compensation, pension, and health care benefits they are entitled to receive as a result of their military service. Moreover, veterans service organizations have been deeply involved in countless local community service projects and have been constant reminders of the American values of duty, honor, and national service.

With more than 25 million veterans serving as living reminders of the greatness of our Nation, it is only fitting and proper that their dedicated and professional service in times of war and peace be celebrated in the unique and lasting manner by which the Postal Service has honored past heroes. The Postal Service has seen fit in recent years to memorialize flowers, dinosaurs, dolls, movie monsters, household pets, and even cartoons, but it has been intransigent regarding our veterans. This ought not be so.

I look forward to working with my colleagues—and the list of cosponsors indicates this is a serious matter on both sides of the aisle—to establish this momentous issuance.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF LEONARD AND GRACE PAULSON

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Paulson of Clark, South Dakota, on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. The Paulsons were married on March 19, 1949 at Garden City, South Dakota. There they lived, worked and raised six children, James, Sandra, David, Chantel, Bruce, and Lori. Leonard and Grace were exceptional role models for their family and strived to give their children a solid Christian home. And today, all six of their children reside in South Dakota with their families.

Throughout the past 50 years, Mr. and Mrs. Paulson have been active members of our community. As members of the St. Paul Lutheran Church, both Leonard and Grace served their fellow members through various church activities and organizations. Leonard also served on several agricultural and educational boards in the Clark County area, and continues to be a member of the Clark Lions Club. Grace continues to serve in the church, and is also active in the Clark Lady Lions Club.

Today, Mr. and Mrs. Paulson reside in the same farm house since the day of their marriage in 1949. They enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren, both at their farm and at their cabin on Lake Kampeska.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize this outstanding American couple. It is obvious to me that Leonard and Grace worked as a team to raise their family and give back to their community through service. The dedication they demonstrate to the institution of marriage and our community provides many Americans with an example to follow. I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations on this milestone occasion to

Leonard and Grace Paulson and with best wishes for health and happiness in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THE MEDICARE+CHOICE PROGRAM

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a Concurrent Resolution to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries will continue to have access to the types of medical care they need. Regrettably, the Medicare+Choice regulations do not ensure that Medicare beneficiaries participating in the Medicare+Choice Program receive coverage for chiropractic services like they do under traditional Medicare.

Medicare beneficiaries have access to chiropractic services through Medicare Part B. When the Medicare+Choice Program was created, Congress stated its intention that all services covered under Medicare Parts A and B would be included in the program. It is unfortunate that the such services might not be available under the new program.

The Medicare+Choice program allows Medicare beneficiaries to participate in a managed care system. For many people, such a system will better meet their needs. It was also the intention of Congress, while expanding health care choices, to find cost-effective means of providing care.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in rectifying this problem by supporting this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling on official business with President Clinton on his trip to Central America last week and therefore was unable to cast votes on March 10 and 11, 1999. The votes I missed on those days include rollcall vote 34 on Approving the Journal; rollcall vote 35 on passage of H.R. 540, the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments; rollcall vote 36 on Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall vote 37 on the Holt Amendment to H.R. 800, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act; rollcall vote 38 on the Ehlers Amendment to H.R. 800; rollcall vote 39 on the George Miller amendment to H.R. 800; rollcall vote 40 on the Scott amendment to H.R. 800; rollcall vote 41 on passage of H.R. 800; rollcall vote 42 on passage of H.R. 808, the Short Term-Extension of Farm Bankruptcy Law; rollcall vote 43 on passage of H. Res. 32, a resolution Expressing Support for Open Elections in Indonesia; rollcall vote 44 on H. Con. Res. 28, a resolution Criticizing China for its Human Rights Abuses; rollcall vote 45 on Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall vote 46 on Agreeing to the Resolution; rollcall vote 47 to Sustain the Rule of the Chair; rollcall vote 48 on the Fowler Amendment to H. Con. Res. 42, a resolution on

Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo; and rollcall vote 49 on passage of H. Con. Res. 42.

Had I been present for the preceding votes, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, and 49. I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 36, 41, 45, 46, 47, and 48.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 1999, due to a prior personal commitment, I was unable to cast my vote on H. Con. Res.

42. Had this scheduling conflict not prevented me from being in the House on the evening of March 11, I would have voted the following: "Yea"—H. Con. Res. 42 [Roll No. 49]—on agreeing to the resolution—peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. "Nay"—H. Con. Res. 42 [Roll No. 48]—on agreeing to the amendment—Fowler of Florida to Gejdenson of Connecticut