

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to protect one of the crown jewels of our national wildlife refuge system, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. On Wednesday, February 3, 1999 I chaired a hearing of the Committee on Resources on the impacts of the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota airport expansion on this premier national wildlife refuge.

This refuge is home to a broad range of wildlife species which deserve every bit as much protection as do the species that live in other national refuges. Species living in this refuge include threatened bald eagles, 35 mammal species, 23 reptile and amphibian species, and 97 species of birds including Tundra Swans migrating all the way from Alaska. The displacement of these species could throw nature's delicate balance into a tail spin. If we allow the destruction of this refuge and these species, it could send a shockwave through the entire ecosystem and impact every species in its footprint—a devastating biological echo.

The new runway expansion will cause so much noise and disturbance to visitors that most of the facilities under the path of the runway will have to be relocated. In fact, the refuge will be so impacted by the noise, that the FAA has agreed to pay the Fish and Wildlife Service over \$26 million to compensate them for the "taking" of their property by virtue of the noise and the impact on visitors to the refuge. This payment, however, will not mitigate or reduce the harm to endangered species, migratory birds, or fish living in the refuge. This payment is intended to allow the refuge to build additional buildings, relocate visitors facilities, build a new parking lot, and additional roads.

Yet, even with this level of disturbance, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the FAA found that the wildlife would not be disturbed so much that the airport expansion should be stopped. They also found no impact on the threatened bald eagle and no need for the protections of the Endangered Species Act in this case. They found that the wildlife in the refuge would adjust to the noise. They found that there is a little scientific evidence that wildlife will be seriously harmed by over 5,000 takeoffs and landings per month at less than 2,000 feet above these important migratory bird breeding, feeding and resting areas. In fact, over 2,000 flights will be at less than 500 feet above ground level. Yet the Fish and Wildlife Service has not required one dollar to be spent to protect the wildlife living in this refuge.

An environmental impact statement was prepared by the Federal Aviation Administra-

tion, in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. However, this environmental impact statement makes little effort to address the impacts on endangered and threatened species in the refuge. Therefore, my view is that the EIS should be redone before this project is allowed to proceed.

I know that wildlife and humans can coexist. In the coastal plain of Alaska, oil production and caribou have coexisted and the caribou population has increased. I have a picture in my office that illustrates that point beautifully. It shows a large herd of caribou peacefully resting and grazing in the shadow of a large oil drilling rig right on Alaska's north slope.

Yet some Members of Congress, including some who have agreed to allow this airport expansion in Minnesota, have introduced legislation that would preclude most human activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by designating that area as a permanent wilderness. I guess they believe that wildlife in Alaska can't adjust to human activities . . . but wildlife in Minnesota can.

I want to make it clear that I support our refuges. I sponsored the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act in 1997, which is now the law of the land. I want refuges to be places where wildlife can thrive and I want them accessible to the public. I support adequate funding so that our refuges can be open to the public. I agree that refuges and wildlife should not be used to stop needed projects and development in nearby communities.

Let's protect the very little habitat for wildlife in these highly developed areas of the east. This is truly a last refuge for many of these species. Unlike Alaska, which has preserved over 130 million acres for protecting the environment, the highly congested and developed areas around Minneapolis-St. Paul simply cannot afford to lose the little amount of wild spaces left. The United States, as a world leader in preserving lands of significant and symbolic value, cannot let this sort of degradation occur to its land or wildlife. We have only one chance to save the beauty of this natural landscape, the crown jewel of America's wildlife refuges, for generations of younger Americans. Once it is gone, it is gone forever, nature can never truly recover from such adverse actions visited upon its fabric, an attack upon the scope and breadth of life that, for now, call this place—home.

For this reason, I am introducing this legislation to protect the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

TRIBUTE TO ADRIENNE GIORDANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Ms. Adrienne Giordano of Belleville, New Jersey.

Adrienne Giordano wrote this letter for a school project reflecting the impact that Can-

cer has had on the families of its victims, and how it has had an impact on virtually every family in America. Adrienne's expressions are viewed through the eyes of a young girl as she watched the devastation of Cancer on her family members. This essay was written out of pure emotion and it is her insights that have made an impression on me.

Her essay reads as follows:

When I was young I had two sets of healthy and out-going grandparents, or so I thought. I grew up thinking that way until I was about six years old. At that time, my dad told me that my grandma, his mom, had cancer since he was a young boy. However, she was now in remission and was supposedly doing quite well. By the time I was nine, I found out that my grandma's cancer had returned, but she hadn't told anyone for five years or so.

From that point on, my family and I saw her go in and out of hospitals for a few years. Each time she was out, she would make the best of it even though she was suffering inside. She became very ill at one point and the doctors said that she would die within a couple of months. To make matters worse, my other grandfather went into the hospital for cancer too.

He became very sick, in fact to the point that he could hardly speak, or even breathe. The thought of living without my grandpa as a part of my life was very difficult for me. In words I cannot express the pain inside of me, although it couldn't possibly amount to the pain that he was going through. He was suffering but showed it rarely, but then again how could he not, he was in a hospital, on a floor with dying cancer patients who were waiting to die. He had to deal with what he had and how it was going to be. There was no say in what was happening to him, as a healthy man for all of his previous life nobody though that he would ever be this sickly, and either did he. About four months after he went in, he passed away. Although I knew it was coming, it hit me hard and it hit my heart. I thought that I would go through some sort of emotional grieving stage, but I didn't, my feelings stayed bundled up inside until the days of the wake and funeral. On those days I cried more that I ever had in my whole lifetime. But I had to move on and keep the joyful memories in the back of my mind. Every time I feel upset or wondered, "Why them, why such wonderful people, what have they done to deserve this?", I looked back to all of the good times they had, and what wonderful lives they had to remember. Sometimes thinking about how they loved life and cherished each moment of the day made me realize that their lives weren't only misery and fighting this deadly disease, but enjoying the good times, and making the best of the bad.

Weeks passed after the death of my grandfather and by then my grandma had gathered enough strength to pull through. Once again, she was released from the hospital, but inside I knew that the fight wasn't over yet and she would soon return to the halls of the sickly dying cancer patients. I had seen her fight for so many years, and the story repeated itself, in the hospital and out, and back in again. What could make me think that this time would be different? It was the same and always the same, I knew that one day she would take the final punch and the fight would finally end.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

As I predicted, she went back five months later. Although I've seen her go in and out of hospitals for as long as I could remember, when I saw her that time I noticed something different. She seemed as though she was sick of cancer and tired of fighting it. A couple more months passed and it looked worse and worse. The most upsetting thing for me to deal with was that I was losing two grandparents, who are two of the most important people in the world to me, to a deadly disease that killed millions each year, CANCER! By that time I didn't want to hear another word about cancer, and I wished and prayed that it could be cured, and quick. But it did exist and there wasn't a cure. It felt like an evil monster that had corrupted my grandparents bodies. In May of 1998, my beloved grandmother died. I will never forget that day, it was one of the worst days of my life. Inside I was torn up and my heart was shredded to pieces, then I realized that my grandparents wouldn't be able to take part in my life ever again. I remember thinking to myself how I wished they could be alive again just the way it was.

However, as I look back at those thoughts, it was selfish of me to want them to be back in the hospital, dying and suffering from cancer, because that was the way it was, and now I take back those wishes. Also I realized that the memories I had with them in the past have become priceless and those are the memories that I will remember them in the future. I can finally say that I am relieved that my grandparents aren't suffering anymore and they are in a peaceful place. It is now very important for me to think about all people, not just myself, I have to understand that some people aren't as lucky as I am, I am healthy and out-going and I should cherish every moment of life. Things come and go, including health, but you should never lose your happiness and the love for the people who love you.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, our colleagues, Adrienne's family and friends in wishing her continued success in all of her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MONTE AHUJA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Monte Ahuja, a Cleveland entrepreneur and Cleveland State graduate, for his achievements and generous contributions to Cleveland State University. Mr. Ahuja has donated \$1 million and has pledged an additional \$1 million to Cleveland State University, primarily in support of the James J. Nance College of Business Administration.

Born in India, Mr. Ahuja received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Punjab Engineering College in 1967. He arrived in the U.S. in 1969 and earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Ohio State University in 1970. After moving to Cleveland in 1971, and while working full time with a Maple Heights automotive firm, he earned his MBA from Cleveland State's College of Business Administration in 1975. As an assignment for a marketing class, he developed a business plan for an auto transmission supply business. After graduation, Mr. Ahuja turned this plan into his own company—Transtar Industries, Inc. Although the firm began with only two employees and virtually

no capital, today Transtar has nearly 700 employees and is the leader in the transmission products industry with 21 operations in the U.S. and worldwide distribution.

In addition to his generous monetary donations to Cleveland State University, Mr. Ahuja has dedicated his time by serving as a director of the Cleveland State University Foundation, and establishing the Ahuja Endowed Scholarship Fund in Business Administration and Engineering and the Distinguished Scholar in Comparative Indian and Western Philosophy, a cultural endowment initiated by a close friend, Dr. D.C. Bhajji. As chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ahuja oversaw one of the largest physical expansions in Cleveland State's history. In 1990, he was named one of Cleveland State's top 25 distinguished alumni.

Let us join Cleveland State University as they honor Mr. Ahuja on March 26, 1999, for his contributions to the university.

CLOSER TO EMPIRE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to consider the effect of our current actions in Kosovo, but this time I do not wish to address the folly of war, for attempts to prevent war measures against that nation are now futile. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address a long term concern, a problem larger even than war. I am referring to the folly of empire.

Our involvement in Kosovo and in Iraq, and in Bosnia—when combined with America's role in Korea, and in the Middle East and other places around the world, is now lurching our republic ever closer to empire. Empire is something that all Americans ought to oppose.

I remind those who believe in the Judeo-Christian tradition that opposition to empire is to be found in the warnings found in the book of Ezekiel, warnings against the empowerment of a king. And it is this same principle which is evident in the story of the Tower of Babel, and in that admonition of Christ, which reminds that those things which are of Caesar are not of God.

To pragmatists, agnostics and such, I point to the decline and fall which has historically attended every other empire. The Ottomans and Romans, the Spanish and the British, all who have tried empire have faltered, and at great costs to their own nations.

Mr. Speaker, to liberals I would remind that these interventions, however well-intended they may be, all require the use of forces of occupation, and this is the key step toward colonialism, itself always leading to subjugation and to oppression.

To conservatives, I want to recall the founding of our Republic, our nation's breaking from the yoke of empire in order that we might realize the benefits of liberty and self-determination, and that we might obtain the blessings that flow naturally from limitations on centralized power. Empire reflecting the most perfect means yet devised to concentrate power in the fewest hands.

Now, Mr. Speaker, our own nation faces a choice and we may well be at the very precipice. Indeed, to move even one step further down the road to empire may mean that there

will be no turning back short of the eventual decline and fall. Will we act now to restore our Republic?

It is oft repeated that we do not realize the import of our most critical actions at the time that we begin to undertake them. How true, Mr. Speaker, this statement is. Were Mr. Townshend, or the King in England the least contemplative of the true cost which would eventuate as a result of the tea tax or the stamp act?

Now we must ask, is our nation on the verge of empire? Some will say no, because, they say, we do not seek to have direct control over the governments of foreign lands, but how close are we to doing just that? And is it so important whether the dictates of empire come from the head of our government or from the Secretary General of some multilateral entity which we direct?

Today we attempt, directly or indirectly, to dictate to other sovereign nations who they ought and ought not have as leader, which peace accords they should sign, and what form of governments they must enact. How limited is the distinction between our actions today and those of the emperors of history? How limited indeed. In fact, one might suggest that this is a distinction without a substantive difference.

And where now are we willing to commit troops and under what conditions? If we are to stop all violations of human rights, what will we do of Cuba, which recently announced new crackdowns?

And what of communist China? Not only do they steal our secrets, but they violate their own citizens. Who should be more upset, for example, about forced abortion? Is it those who proclaim the inviolable right to life or those who argue for so-called reproductive rights? Even these polar opposites recognize the crimes of the Chinese government in forced abortion. Should we then stop this oppression of millions? Are we committed to lob missiles at this massive nation until it ceases this program?

Will the principle upon which we are now claiming to act lead us to impose our political solutions upon the nations that now contain Tibet, and Kurdistan, and should the sentiment rear, even Quebec and Chechnya?

The most dangerous thing about where we are headed is our lack of historical memory and our disastrous inattention to the effect of the principles upon which we act, for ideas do indeed have consequences, Mr. Speaker, and they pick up a momentum that becomes all their own.

I do believe that we are on the brink, Mr. Speaker, but it is not yet too late. Soon I fear the train, as it is said, will have left the station. We stand on the verge of crossing that line that so firmly distinguishes empire from republic. This occurs not so much by an action or series of actions but by the acceptance of an idea, the idea that we have a right, a duty, an obligation, or a national interest to perfect foreign nations even while we remain less than principled ourselves.

When will we, as a people and as an institution, say "we choose to keep our republic, your designs for empire interest us not in the least." I can only hope it will be soon, for it is my sincerest fear that failing to do so much longer will put us beyond this great divide.

THE SILICONE BREAST IMPLANT
RESEARCH AND INFORMATION
ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health, I am committed to ensuring patients have complete and comprehensive access to information before they make a decision about a medical procedure.

To this end, I am proud to re-introduce the Silicone Breast Implant Research and Information Act because I believe it is critical to the advancement of women's health and is the first step towards answering the many questions about the safety and efficacy of silicone breast implants.

By re-introducing this bill today, I along with the 41 original cosponsors, hope to draw attention to an issue that has been either neglected or out right ignored for too long.

It is estimated that as many as 2 million women have received silicone breast implants over the last 30 years. Unfortunately, the information provided to these women before they elected to have silicone breast implants has been both incomplete and even inaccurate.

Moreover, results from past studies have only raised more questions about possible negative effects that ruptured or leaking silicone breast implants may have on breast milk, connective tissue, autoimmune diseases and the accuracy of breast cancer screening tests.

Our legislation ultimately seeks to change this by focusing on three critical points—information, research, and communication.

First, and in my opinion most importantly, this bill will ensure that information sent to women about silicone breast implants contains the most up to date and accurate information available.

Current information packets sent to women do not accurately describe some of the potential risks of silicone breast implants. While recent studies by the Institute of Medicine indicate the rupture rate may be as high as 70 percent, information sent to women suggests the rupture rate is only 1 percent.

Second, this bill encourages the director of the National Institutes of Health to expand existing research projects and clinical trials. Doing so will compliment past and existing studies and will hopefully clear up much of the confusion surrounding the safety and efficacy of silicone breast implants.

Finally, this bill establishes an open line of communication between federal agencies, researchers, the public health community and patient and breast cancer advocates.

Women, especially breast cancer patients, want and deserve full and open access to silicone breast implants. Therefore, it is critical that these products are safe and effective, and that women are provided complete and frequently updated information about the health risks and benefits of silicone breast implants.

While I unequivocally support a women's right to choose to use silicone breast implants, I believe we have a responsibility to support research efforts that will provide the maximum amount of information and understanding about these products.

Recently, I met with a group of women who had silicone breast implants. One of them

shared with me her story about trying to get health insurance after she received her implants. To my dismay, it is standard operating procedures for several health plans to deny health insurance for women with breast implants. And this was a healthy woman! This story only reinforced my belief that silicone breast implants may cause very serious health problems.

The day has come to answer the questions and find out what is causing so many women who have implants to get sick. I hope each of you join me in support of this important legislation.

THE REFORESTATION TAX ACT OF
1999

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on March 11 when I introduced the Reforestation Tax Act of 1999, my statement focused on the benefits of this legislation to the forest products sector of our economy. Today, as I add eight more cosponsors to this increasingly popular effort, I would like to focus my remarks on the benefits for non-industrial forest land owners.

America's privately-owned forests make up almost 58% of our nation's total forest lands and are one of our most valuable resources. They provide wildlife habitat, maintain watershed health, and are used for a wide array of recreational activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting. In addition, they provide the foundation for a multi-billion dollar forest products industry.

To ensure that our wildlife habitat and watershed needs as well as a reliable supply of timber is available for the future, we need to encourage industrial and nonindustrial landowners to invest in enhancing their forest ownership. Investing in forest land is risky. Trees can take anywhere from 25 to 75 years to grow to maturity, depending on the type of tree, regional weather, and soil conditions. The key to success is good management, which is costly. Furthermore, fire, disease, floods, and ice storms—events that are uninsurable—can wipe out acres of trees at any time during the long, risky growing period.

The Reforestation Tax Act of 1999 will remove disincentives for private investment in our forests and help with the cost of maintaining them. By reducing the capital gains paid on timber for individuals and corporations by 3 percent each year the timber is held—up to a maximum reduction of 50 percent—forest landowners will be partially protected from being taxed on inflationary gains. While this provision would not fully compensate for the negative tax impact of inflation, it would provide a significant incentive for those forest land owners who must nurture their investment for a long period of time.

Today, many landowners cease reforestation efforts when they reach the current \$10,000 ceiling on expenses that are eligible for the credit. Removing the cap on expenses eligible for the credit would eliminate a disincentive for private forest land owners to plant more trees. Current law allows this \$10,000 in reforestation expenses to be amortized over a seven year period. My legislation

not only eliminates the monetary cap but also reduces the amortization period to five years. With these changes, the reforestation tax credit and amortization will encourage forest landowners to operate in an ecologically-sound manner that leads to the expansion of investment in this vital natural resource.

By removing these current law disincentives to sustainable forestry for both our industrial and non-industrial forest land owners, we will increase reforestation and enhance sound environmental management on private land. We believe this will benefit Americans across the country, not just forest land owners.

I am grateful for the broad support the Reforestation Tax Act of 1999 has gained since its introduction, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to make this bill a reality.

JUSTICE FOR ATOMIC VETERANS
ACT—H.R. 1286

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congresswoman BERKLEY, I am today introducing H.R. 1286 the Justice for Atomic Veterans Act. This important legislation provides a presumption of service-connection for certain radiation-related illnesses suffered by veterans who were exposed during military service to ionizing radiation. These veterans include those who participated in atmospheric testing of a nuclear device, who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki between August 6, 1945 and July 1, 1946 and who were interned as prisoners of war in Japan during World War II and were therefore exposed to ionizing radiation.

During their military service, these veterans put their lives and health at risk. They were, in most cases, sworn to secrecy concerning the nature of their work. They were not provided with adequate protection from radiation. The amount of radiation to which they were exposed was not measured. Albert "Smokey" Parrish, a veteran who served at the Nevada test site wrote "We, the Atomic veterans feel like an innocent man in prison for life, and no one will listen to the facts of the case."

Under present law, veterans who engaged in radiation risk activities during military service are entitled to a presumption of service-connection for some illnesses, but for other illnesses veterans must prove causation by "dose reconstruction estimates" which many reputable scientists have found fatally flawed. Because of the recognized problems inherent in dose reconstruction, last year, the Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Kenneth Kizer, wrote that he personally recommended strong support as a "matter of equity and fairness" for legislation similar to the Justice for Atomic Veterans Act which was then proposed by Senator WELLSTONE.

It is not the fault of veterans that accurate records of their exposure to ionizing radiation were not kept and maintained. In fact, many veterans have been not been able to obtain their medical records relating to their exposure during military service despite their best efforts. Records have been lost and records of

radiation-related activities were classified and not made available to the veterans seeking compensation.

According to Dr. Kizer, "the scientific methodology that is the basis for adjudicating radiation exposure cases may be sound, the problem is that the exposure cannot be reliably determined for many individuals, and it never will be able to be determined in my judgment. Thus, no matter how good the method is, if the input is not valid then the determination will be suspect."

Our atomic veterans were put in harm's way in the service of our government. However, our government failed to collect the data and provide the follow-up that would enable our atomic veterans to effectively pursue claims for the harm which resulted.

Further, Congresswoman BERKLEY and I agree with the statement in the 1995 final report of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments: "When the nation exposes servicemen and women to hazardous substances, there is an obligation to keep appropriate records of both the exposures and the long-term medical outcomes."

Our Nation failed to keep records on the exposures experienced by our atomic veterans. Veterans should not suffer for that neglect. Let us right the injustices visited on our atomic veterans since the days of World War II. Congress should enact a presumption of service-connection for illnesses which are likely to be due to radiation risk activity. Our veterans deserve this simple act of justice.

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS FROM MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recommend that OSHA be enabled to continue its work on protecting American workers and employees by preventing Musculoskeletal injuries and other injuries at the workplace of America. An update of OSHA guidelines (which have been extensively and voluntarily used by employers for the last 10 years) is timely.

American employers currently spend \$15–20 billion/year on disability and absenteeism due to work-related musculoskeletal disorders, not considering the legal costs of law suits filed by employees. The total cost to the American society is about \$60 billion/year due to medical costs and lost productivity of injured employees.

The ergonomics of work is a well-studied field by scientists in academia and NIOSH and the conclusions from that research point that most musculoskeletal disorders caused by the unsound ergonomic practices could be avoided if guidelines by OSHA were implemented at the workplace, thus protecting workers from un-necessary suffering and saving money for employers. While the regulations by OSHA may be improved and made more efficient, flexible and responsive to the needs of a particular employer, OSHA's capability to protect American workers and employers should be maintained.

I believe that the costs of efficient OSHA regulations for protecting workers from musculoskeletal injuries are minuscule in comparison with the cost of maintaining the status quo and continuity of costly musculoskeletal injuries in the workplace.

HONORING JACK STARK UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, Jack Stark, the President of Claremont McKenna College, after nearly three decades of outstanding leadership, is retiring in July of this year. He will be succeeded by Pamela Brooks Gann, currently Dean of Duke University School of Law.

For thirty years, the world of higher education has been roiled by change. The free speech movement of the 1960's, the first challenge to campus authority, was succeeded by demands for black and other ethnic studies, by the anti-war movement, by sit-ins and violent demonstrations against ROTC. Then came contests over affirmative action in admission and faculty hiring, the challenge to courses in Western Civilization, "Gay Rights," and the passions aroused by "political correctness." Throughout this turmoil, Claremont McKenna College, unlike so many other academic institutions, has held firmly to its founding mission—and it has prospered mightily.

Jack Stark kept CMC on course through these stressful years, built its endowment, raised admission standards, and recruited distinguished faculty. If this were the sum of Jack Stark's achievement, we would honor him as one of the nation's great academic leaders. It is not only as a conservator, however, but also as an educational innovator that he deserves our attention.

Jack Stark built on the campus of CMC—a small, private, undergraduate liberal arts college—nine research institutes, each different in its scholarly focus, but each contributing to the education of CMC's one thousand students.

The first to be founded was The Henry Salvatori Center for the Study of Individual Freedom in the Modern World. The Salvatori Center supports the study of the conditions essential to the preservation of liberty, and under its directors, Ward Elliott, Ralph Rossum and Charles Kesler, has contributed vigorously to intellectual debate.

The Rose Institute of State and Local Government, which was founded 25 years ago this April, specializes in survey research, fiscal analysis, and database development. The Institute authors studies of political and demographic trends, and its student team is trained in many aspects of computer-aided research. Its Board Chairman, Al Lunsford, refers to it as an "unmatched resource of data and analysis in its geographical area of focus," and under its long-time director, Dr. Alan Heslop, the Institute has built a formidable reputation.

The third to be founded was The Institute of Decision Science, which provides practical experience in economic and mathematical mod-

eling, decision-making, and risk analysis for industry, government and the professions. It sponsors research and presents conferences on topics in decision science. IDS and its director, Janet Myhre, are frequently consulted by government agencies and major industrial corporations.

Next to be founded was The Lowe Institute of Political Economy. Initially under the direction of Dr. Craig Stubblebine, now headed by Dr. Sven Arndt, the Lowe Institute supports the study of major issues in economic policy. Recent work has focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement, APEC and on trade and regulatory policies.

The Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies was founded to support the study of critical issues in world affairs by sponsoring lectures, fellowships, visiting scholars, conferences, publications, and student internships. Its director, Dr. C. J. Lee, is an expert on Asia and has led the center in studies on Korean affairs.

The Family of Benjamin Z. Gould Center of Humanistic Studies, originally headed by Dr. Ricardo Quinones, now by Dr. Jay Martin, is dedicated to understanding vital issues of the modern world in light of the perennial values provided by literature, philosophy, and religion. Towards this end, it sponsors publications, visiting speakers, student and faculty research, and organized lecture series.

The Roberts Environmental Center uses an interdisciplinary approach encompassing biology, chemistry, economics, and political science to analyze environmental problems and to evaluate policy alternatives. Under its founding director, the late Robert Felmeth, and now under Dr. Emil Morhardt, it conducts field research, trains students in the use of analytical software and sponsors the Environment, Economics, and Politics major.

The Kravis Leadership Institute provides for the academic study of leadership and sponsors speakers, mentoring, internships, and the Leadership Studies Sequence. Its director, Dr. Ronald Riggio, has been one of the pioneers of leadership studies in psychology.

Most recent is the newly formed Berger Institute on Work, Family, and Children—the ninth of the institutes to be fathered by Jack Stark.

At their best, these nine CMC research institutes provide students and faculty with opportunities to engage together in the investigation of key public policy issues. Students get close, hands-on experience of the challenges—the chores as well as the joys—of scholarship. Typically, their work is not for academic credit: the students are paid, and as their responsibilities increase so does their remuneration.

Research on important subjects, produced by small faculty-student teams, funded by outside grants and contracts, is achieving a solid reputation for CMC's institutes. CMC students are making important extra-curricular gains by working with faculty specialists in methodologies they are sure to encounter in their later careers and on the important subjects that face our society. Every one of those CMC students owes Jack Stark a debt of gratitude. The world of higher education, too, would be wise to note this pioneering achievement at Claremont McKenna College.

HONORING WAYNE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate a medical society which has provided quality service to Detroit, Wayne County, and the State of Michigan for the last 150 years.

On April 14, 1849 with just 50 physicians, the Wayne County Medical Society was founded. Today, with more than 4,200 physicians in their membership, they continue to provide Metropolitan Detroit with the highest caliber of service and outstanding commitment to those in need.

As they celebrate their sesquicentennial anniversary, the Wayne County Medical Society has labored to promote and encourage the unity and loyalty of the physicians of the community into a strong and cohesive medical society. They have brought into one organization the physicians of this county and with other county societies to form the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

This beloved medical society provides continuing medical education for physicians, and maintains a program of educational service to the public on health and scientific matters. But, most of all they insure that a patient's freedom to choose a physician be maintained, and that patients receive the highest quality of medical care.

Over the years the Wayne County Medical Society has had a positive impact on the public health of both Detroit and Wayne County. One of its most memorable accomplishments came under the direction of its former president, Dr. Francis P. Rhoades, who led a polio immunization drive which immunized thousands of Detroiters and virtually eliminated the threat of this crippling disease.

Today, the Wayne County Medical Society runs a free medical and dental clinic at the Webber School in Detroit. Every child is afforded free services including physical examinations, health education, dental fluoride, sealants and prophylaxis. In addition they organized an annual Christmas Party for children in foster care. Last year, they sponsored a teen pregnancy conference with more than 500 Detroit Public School children in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I pay tribute to this exceptional medical society whose tradition of assisting those most in need is truly a part of Michigan's great history. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in recognizing the Wayne County Medical Society of Michigan on their 150th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I missed 19 recorded votes while I was out due to illness. If I had been present, my vote would have been cast as follows.

MARCH 17, 1999

Rollcall vote 53, on agreeing to Mr. Upton's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 54, on agreeing to Mr. LoBiondo's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 55, on passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1999, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 56, on passage of the bill to provide for a Reduction in the Volume of Steel Imports, I would have voted "yes."

MARCH 18, 1999

Rollcall vote 57, on agreeing to the Rule regarding the National Missile Defense System, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 58, on the motion to recommit with instructions, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 59, on passage of the National Missile Defense System, I would have voted "yes."

MARCH 23, 1999

Rollcall vote 66, on agreeing to the Committee Funding Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 65, on the motion to recommit the Committee Funding Resolution with instructions, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 64, on the motion to instruct Conferees for the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 63, to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 37 Concerning Anti-Semitic Statements Made by Members of the Duma of the Russian Federation, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 62, to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 56 Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 61, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 70 the Arlington National Cemetery Burial Eligibility Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 60, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res 121 Affirming the Congress' Opposition to All Forms of Racism and Bigotry, I would have voted "yes."

MARCH 24, 1999

Rollcall vote 67, on agreeing to Mr. Stenholm's amendment, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 68, on agreeing to Mr. Obey's amendment, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 69, on agreeing to Mr. Tiahrt's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 70, on passing of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations of FY 1999, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 71, on agreeing to the Resolution Expressing support of the U.S. House of Representatives for the members of the U.S. Armed Forces engaged in military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I would have voted "yes."

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 800, EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Clay motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, the Ed-Flex bill in its current form lacks the efficiency and accountability needed to protect what took two decades to correct. Mr. Speaker, America understands that all students benefit where there is an appropriate ratio of students to teachers. Therefore, I echo America's call and ask that this Congress support initiatives to reduce class size by providing 100,000 new, qualified teachers.

I believe we can do both, support class size reduction, IDEA, and support local control of education. Some of my colleagues suggest we should just vote for the Ed-Flex bill and decide on the other matters during other discussions. But as I listen to the debate here we are not talking about one bill or one instance, we are deciding the direction this nation will follow for the next millennia. I am aware of the attempt to cut funding from K-12 programs to pay for the recommended increase in IDEA. Let's not disguise these attempts by suggesting we should only deal with what is in front of us.

Mr. Speaker we must debate these issues now because we may never have another chance. I submit that this bill will affect all programs that I support. Programs like IDEA, Title I, help for disadvantaged students, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities, Technology for Education programs, Innovative Education Strategies (Title VI), Emergency Immigrant Education, and the Perkins Vocational Education Act.

Let's not play politics. Let's get together and include a real bill for our children. I urge all members not to support this bill and support the Clay motion to instruct.

TRUTH IN LENDING
MODERNIZATION ACTION OF 1999**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to update key provisions of the Truth in Lending Act, some of which have not been revised by Congress since the Act's passage in 1968. The "Truth in Lending Modernization Act of 1999" will restore important consumer protections that have been weakened by inflation and assure that outdated, anti-consumer accounting practices are eliminated. This legislation is strongly supported by the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, the National Consumer Law Center and by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Congress has given considerable time and attention in recent sessions to modernizing our nation's banking laws to free financial institutions of outdated restrictions that date back to the 1930s. I believe it is time for Congress to give equal attention to modernizing the cornerstone of consumer credit protection—the Truth in Lending Act (TILA).

Congress enacted TILA in 1968 to assure that consumers receive accurate and meaningful disclosure of the costs of consumer credit to enable them to compare credit terms and make informed credit choices. Prior to that time, consumers had no easy way to determine how much credit actually cost nor any basis for comparing various creditors. What little useful information consumers did receive

was typically buried in fine print or couched in legalese. TILA addressed these problems by providing a standardized finance cost calculation—a simple, or actuarial annual percentage rate (APR)—to provide a comparable calculation of total financing costs for all credit transactions. It also required creditors to provide clear and accurate disclosure of all credit terms and costs.

Over the past thirty years, TILA has played a dual role in the financial marketplace. It has been the primary source of financial consumer protection, recognizing the rights of consumers to be informed and to be protected against fraudulent, deceitful, or grossly misleading information and advertising. It has also stimulated market competition by forcing creditors to openly compete for borrowers and by protecting ethical and efficient lenders from deceitful competitors. Congress believed in 1968 that an informed consumer credit market would help stabilize the economy by encouraging consumer restraint when credit costs increase. The need for an informed consumer market is as important today as it was thirty years ago.

Unfortunately, key consumer protections and remedies that Congress stated in dollar amounts in 1968 have not been updated to provide comparable protections today. The effects of thirty years of inflation have permitted increasing numbers of credit and lease transactions to fall outside the scope of TILA protections and have weakened the deterrent value of the penalties available to injured consumers. The Truth in Lending Modernization Act that I am introducing today would remedy these problems in several important areas.

TILA disclosure requirements and protections currently apply to all credit transactions secured by home equity and to other non-business consumer loans under \$25,000. In 1968 this \$25,000 limit on unsecured credit transactions was considered more than adequate to ensure that most automobile, credit card and personal loan transactions would be covered. This is clearly not the case today, particularly in the area of automobile loans. A January Washington Post article estimated that the average price of new automobiles sold today is \$22,000. This means that increasing numbers of automobile transactions are falling outside the scope of TILA, with no requirements to provide consumers with full and accurate credit disclosure. Many consumers also routinely receive offers of unsecured credit and debt consolidation loans that can easily approach or exceed \$25,000. These transactions also will increasingly fall outside the scope of TILA.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the value of the dollar has declined by 75 percent since 1968, which means that it would require an exception over four times larger than the \$25,000 in the 1968 Act (or over \$108,000) to provide a comparable level of exempted transactions today. However, this fully adjusted amount is clearly excessive for today's marketplace. My bill would double the amount of this statutory exception, from \$25,000 to \$50,000, to assure that all typical credit transactions will continue to be accorded TILA protections.

A similar problem exists with the transaction exemption in the Consumer Leasing Act sections of TILA that restricts application of con-

sumer disclosure and advertising requirements only to leases with total contractual obligation below \$25,000. Again, this was considered more than adequate when Congress enacted the Consumer Leasing Act in 1976, but it is clearly inadequate today, particularly for automobile leases. Congress could not have anticipated the enormous role of leasing in our current auto markets. Leases now account for over 40 percent of all new automobile transactions, and an even more substantial percentage of transactions involving high-end luxury automobiles. My bill would assure that increasing numbers of automobile leases do not fall outside the scope of TILA by increasing the level of exempted leases from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

As a primary enforcement mechanism, TILA provides individual consumers with a right of action against creditors that engage in misleading or deceitful practices. Creditors that violate any TILA requirement are liable for actual damages, additional statutory damages and court costs. TILA permits statutory damages, in credit transactions of twice the amount of any finance charge and, in lease transactions, of 25 percent of the total amount of monthly payments under the lease. In both instances, however, these damages are limited by the requirement that damages "not be less than \$100 nor greater than \$1,000.

These statutory liability provisions were included in the statute in 1968 to provide ample economic incentive to deter violations. This is clearly not the case today. From my own analysis of abusive automobile leases, for example, I find that a clever and unethical dealer can easily exact thousands of dollars just in the initial stages of an auto lease, simply by not crediting trade-ins, adding undisclosed fees and including higher finance charges than disclosed to the consumer. A \$1,000 maximum statutory damage clearly would not deter these and other actions that can cheat consumers out of thousands of dollars over the term of a loan or lease. My bill would increase the statutory damage limit to \$5,000 for both credit and lease transactions.

It would also raise the statutory damages available to consumers in class action litigation. Currently, TILA limits statutory damages in class actions that arise out of the same violation to the lesser of \$500,000 or 1 percent of the creditor's net worth. For most of today's financial corporations this \$500,000 limit represents a fraction of 1 percent of their net worth. The bill would raise this statutory damage limit to \$1 million for all credit and lease transactions.

Finally, my bill seeks to prohibit in credit transactions a little known accounting procedure, known as the Rule of 78, that is used whenever possible by creditors because it maximizes interest income to the creditor at the expense of consumers. TILA requires that consumers receive a refund of any unearned interest on precomputed installment loans when they prepay or refinance their loan. Until recently, most creditors used Rule of 78 accounting for calculating these refunds, a method that heavily favors creditors by counting interest paid in the early phases of the loan more heavily than actuarial accounting methods. While justified in the 1930s as helping to reduce costs of computing interest, modern calculators and computers have rendered the

Rule of 78 obsolete and unjustifiable. It serves no other purpose today than to maximize interest income to creditors.

Bank regulators and the IRS have banned banks from using the Rule of 78 in reporting interest income. In 1992 Congress prohibited its use in calculating interest refunds on mortgages and other installment loans with terms over 61 months. In 1994, the Home Owners and Equity Protection Act ended the use of Rule of 78 accounting in all high costs home equity loans. My bill would complete the task of eliminating Rule of 78 accounting in all remaining consumer credit transactions by prohibiting its use for calculating consumer interest refunds for precomputed installment loans with terms of less than 61 months, and also be requiring that creditors compute interest refunds using methods that are as favorable to the consumer as widely used actuarial methods.

Mr. Speaker, in enacting TILA Congress recognized the consumer's right to be informed and to be protected from deceitful and misleading credit practices. The "Truth In Lending Modernization Act" will assure that these basic consumer protections remain effective in the future. I urge my colleagues to join me as co-sponsors of this legislation and work with me toward its adoption.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY K. SMALL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy and sad heart I take this moment to recognize the life and contributions of Shirley K. Small, one of five daughters of Paul and Lucille Krier.

Shirley was a strong and patriotic American. She took immense pride in being a home maker and mother to her children Robbie, Darcy and Amy. She brought her children up with strong reverence for our great country. Often she would discuss with me her concerns for the direction of our country, its needs and its accomplishments over time. Shirley was a graduate of the University of Colorado and was preceded in death by her husband John.

Shirley's children have moved on to their own success in western Colorado and they too share their parents' love of and dedication to our country. Shirley's children's success is not only realized with accomplished careers, but above all with wonderful spouses and children of their own.

Even in the twilight of her life, Shirley took on her terrible disease with vigor and determination. In her last months, she attended numerous medical clinics, not for her own sake, but in the hopes she could help provide information that would lead to the cure of the disease that promised to take her life. Shirley willed her body to science so that doctors could continue to seek out a remedy for the infirmity that ailed her once she passed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been Shirley's Congressman and nephew. Her unconditional love for family and country will be greatly missed.

HONORING BOB CURRAN UPON HIS
RETIREMENT**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bob Curran, Columnist for the Buffalo News on the occasion of his retirement.

Bob Curran was born in Boston to Irish immigrants. World War II interrupted his football career at Cornell University. Bob was a Sergeant with the 95th Infantry Division and fought in France, Belgium and into Germany. Gen. George Patton personally gave him the Silver Star. Bob also received 2 Purple Hearts, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge. His wounds kept him from playing football when he returned to Cornell.

Bob worked for Fawcett Publications in New York, becoming editor of Cavalier before resigning in 1961. He was director of college football's Gotham Bowl, head of sports publicity for NBC and syndicated columnist before moving to Buffalo in 1967.

Bob has been a columnist for the Buffalo News for 32 years. His columns are famous for telling readers how to "win friends and influence him," asking trivia questions and telling backward jokes.

What has set Bob apart from other columnists has been his strong advocacy on behalf of veterans. He wrote about real heroes, the veterans in Western New York. As Chairman of the House Veterans' Benefits Subcommittee, I have greatly benefited from his insight and advice on veterans' issues.

As everyone in Western New York is aware, Bob has been a vocal advocate of the designation of December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, as a national holiday. It was through Bob's passion, encouragement and support that he generated in the veteran's community, that persuaded me to submit legislation in the House of Representatives, H.R. 965, to designate Pearl Harbor Day as a federal holiday in the same manner as November 11, Veterans Day.

I and the many members of the Western New York veteran's community look forward to Bob's continued support for veteran issues.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the Curran family, the Buffalo News, our veterans and their families as well as the entire Western New York community in tribute to Mr. Bob Curran.

With retirement comes many new opportunities. May Bob meet each new opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor in which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career, and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Thank you, Bob, for your advocacy, tireless effort and personal commitment to our community, and for your friendship.

IN HONOR OF SHANNON MELENDI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my colleagues the tragic cir-

cumstances of a constituent, Shannon Melendi, a 19 year-old sophomore at Emory University in Atlanta.

Almost 5 years ago to the day, on March 26, 1994, Shannon disappeared on a Saturday afternoon from the Softball Country Club where she worked as a scorekeeper, during games.

Shannon took a work break from which she never returned and no one has seen her since that day.

The prime suspect, a part-time umpire at the park, was previously convicted of kidnapping and taking indecent liberties with a child and served only 2 years of a 4-year prison sentence.

This was his third sexual offense.

Perhaps if this man had served his full prison sentence, Shannon would not have disappeared.

Or, perhaps if he had received a harsher sentence, due to the fact that it was his third sexual offense and committed against a child, Shannon would still be here today.

Mr. Speaker, when sexual crimes are committed, we need to ensure that these criminals spend many years incarcerated so that women and children are safe from sexual predators who prey upon them.

I urge my colleagues to work together to enact legislation that will keep people who have committed sexual crimes off our streets so that what happened to Shannon will never have to happen again.

Shannon's father, Luis, summed it up the best when he said, "What happened to us cannot be changed, but because of what happened to us, changes can be made."

TRIBUTE TO EAGLEVILLE, TN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Eagleville, TN. Historically, the first known settlers arrived in the Eagleville area in 1790. There are indications that Native Americans also camped near the local springs. The town derives its name from a legend about an unusually large eagle that was killed near the village. This name was officially adopted on August 16, 1836. Eagleville received its charter of incorporation on March 31, 1949.

Today, the tradition of this historic city continues to grow with a nationally recognized school, the community churches and its businesses. The city government consists of an elected mayor, Nolan S. Barham, Sr., and six elected council members. Eagleville's population has steadily grown through the years and today stands at 501 people.

On Saturday, March 27, the town of Eagleville will celebrate their 50th anniversary. They will be holding a community dinner from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Some members of the community, who were present for the original incorporation ceremony, will be recognized during this event. Please join me in congratulating Eagleville for reaching this milestone.

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA—1999
ARMY COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S
AWARD**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fort Benning, GA, the "Home of the Infantry" and the Army's premier installation, for being recognized with the 1999 Army Communities of Excellence Commander-in-Chief's Award.

This is the fourth Commander in Chief's Award Fort Benning has received in the last five years. The annual award recognizes the best Army installation in the world. Fort Benning has also been awarded, for the seventh consecutive year, the Chief of Staff, Army Award which recognizes the best Army installation in the continental United States.

The ability and professionalism of the tens of thousands of soldiers and nearly 7,000 civilians who pass through Fort Benning's gate each and every year are responsible for this recognition. The awards are also indicative of the successful partnership that has been developed over the years between Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama.

Major General Ernst, Commanding General, and his able staff continue to reinforce Fort Benning's longstanding commitment to military quality, focusing on the watchwords "first in training, first in readiness, and first in quality of life." As the home of the infantry, Fort Benning's mission is to produce the world's finest combat-ready infantry and to continue to be the Army's premier installation and home for soldiers, families, civilian employees, and military retirees. This mission is achieved with distinction on a daily basis by Fort Benning soldiers who constitute a cornerstone of our Nation's Armed Forces.

While the infantry remains the central focus of activity at Fort Benning, other specialized units have been added over the years, enhancing the ability of the installation to accomplish its mission. Fort Benning houses, among others, the 11th and 29th Infantry Regiments, the 36th Engineer Group, the Ranger Training Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, the Drill Sergeant School, the Henry Caro Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Each of these units work tirelessly to defend our national interests around the world and to serve our communities at home.

To the military and civilian personnel of Fort Benning, I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL
WORK MONTH**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind my colleagues as we adjourn for the district work period that March is "Social Work

Month". As a trained social worker, I know first-hand the significant contributions that have been made nationwide by this profession. Professional social workers, throughout this nation, can be found in the most amazing places including fortune 500 companies, departments of health, courts, mental health centers, managed care companies, schools, child welfare agencies, nursing homes, health care settings, employee assistance programs, and public and private agencies. Daily they are tasked with helping to alleviate society's most intractable problems, working one-on-one with troubled children and families, organizing communities for change and performing cutting-edge research and administering social programs.

The business of social work is helping people help themselves. One such entity that has made a point of emphasizing the importance of social workers in the health care delivery system is the Miami-Dade County health department. Social workers play an integral role in servicing Dade County residents in a variety of public health areas. The fact that the county administration has agreed to give special recognition to its social workers is a testament to their significant contributions to the health department. Let me congratulate all my fellow social workers and we honor them for their service during the month of March.

BEAN THERE, DONE THAT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the famous story of Speaker Joe Cannon yelling "Thunderation!" when he went to the Member's Dining Room wanting a bowl of Michigan Navy Bean Soup, and not finding it on the menu. Ever since that day, this soup with its main ingredient, the Navy Bean, coming from most likely my congressional district, has been on the menu. But how many of you have heard the story of John A. McGill, Jr., the now-retired Executive Vice-President and Treasurer of the Michigan Bean Shippers Association having lunch with our former colleague, Bob Traxler, in the same dining room, and having to once again yell "Thunderation" when someone substituted impostor Great Northern Beans for the historic and acclaimed Navy Bean?

From 1969 until August 28, 1998, John McGill actively worked to promote the interests of the Michigan dry bean industry. Both shippers and growers benefited from this gentleman's expertise, his savy business sense, and his well-known resolve to fight for what he believes to be right. And our Navy Bean Soup remains secure.

His work on behalf of research both at the Saginaw Valley Bean and Beet Farm and Michigan State University has resulted in the development of new varieties that will be planted for years to come. John was a major player in making sure the Michigan's beans continue to appear on plates throughout the United Kingdom. He participated in many trade missions to Africa and other potential

markets with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and was a vital player in increasing our sales in Mexico. His development and continued publication of the Michigan Dry Bean Digest provides one of the most comprehensive documents available to the industry. And he will never be forgotten for his devotion and competitiveness in the annual MBSA golf tournament at the Association's summer meeting.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, to John and his wife Donna, we offer our most sincere best wishes and friendship in return for years of their guidance, friendship, sense of humor, and support. John's leadership for Michigan dry beans and for all of agriculture in Michigan—spanning the decades—will not be forgotten soon. He has truly set an example for future leaders, and to colleagues and friends. Mr. Speaker, we urge you and all of our colleagues to join us in wishing this wonderful gentleman his happiest years ever. May his hunting sights be filled, his tee shots straight and long, and his duck carving tools sharp and true.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LUELLA
POWELL KOONCE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this weekend Mrs. Luella Powell Koonce will be joined by family and friends to celebrate her 90th birthday. Birthdays are perfect occasions for reflection. Mrs. Koonce's life has been fruitful and she has much of which to be proud. She has many names—Mother, Mom-in-Law, Granny, Aunt Tee, and Cousin Lou. She is the eldest living member of the Powell-Hutchins-Koonce families and has more than 100 living relatives.

As you can imagine, a woman with so many relations must have a busy life. She is known as a counselor, professional seamstress, good cook, baby sitter, family banker and hot line monitor for her church and neighborhood. Luella Koonce was born 90 years ago on a farm in Blakely, Georgia. She was one of the four children of James and Elizabeth Hutchins Powell. After the family moved to Dothan, Alabama, she met and married Early Koonce and they subsequently moved their family of three children to Newark, New Jersey and eventually to East Orange, New Jersey.

Family unity, independence and moral values have always been emphasized in her family and she has passed those and other cultural traditions down to her children and grandchildren. In the early 1940s, she joined St. Paul AME Church in East Orange. She has remained a faithful member since that time. During her membership, she has devoted her attention to the Pastor's Aide Club, Missionary Society, and Georgia Circle. A firm believer that "prayer changes things," she has made a believer out of many of her relatives.

While she is proud and boastful of the accomplishments of her children—Willie, my successful barber; Evelyn, a retired teacher/librarian; and Mary, a member of the East Orange City Council; she is always quick to remind them to remember where they came from and not get "too big for their britches."

Her nine grandchildren have profited from her inspired motivational talks using the Prodigal Son as her text to teach the value of love. As a teenager, I remember visiting the Koonce home. It was a place that always seemed to have young people around. I am sure that was because we all had a tremendous amount of respect for Mrs. Koonce. She instilled values in all of us, not just her children. She always seemed to extend herself.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in sending Mrs. Koonce our best wishes for a wonderful birthday.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD "HOWIE"
HERBERT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring your attention to the contributions and leadership of Howard (Howie) Herbert, a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Howard Herbert moved to Albuquerque at the age of 20, in 1950. After building a reputation in sales and management Howie began his career as an entrepreneur. He opened the first discount store in the southwest, calling it Albuquerque Discount Club. Gas was sold for seven cents a gallon to those who had the Albuquerque Discount Club deal. After two years he sold this successful business and moved on to land development and the appliance business—Herbert Distributing. Mr. Herbert was a founding member of Western Bank.

Howard Herbert experienced business success, but believes that it is all about giving back to the community. Over the years he has served on more than 30 committees and boards including the Governors Drug Council, Youth Incarceration Business Outreach Program, Board of Directors for Special Olympics, Goodwill Industries, Trustee of the 100 Club of New Mexico, state chairman of the Easter Seals program and New Mexico Mental Health, founder of the Christmas Basket Program in Albuquerque and co-founder of the Halfway House Rehab for Alcoholics, and the list continues.

Please join me in the recognition of economic and social contributions Howard Herbert has made to my home of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 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.

TROOPER FACES PROBE OVER OUTBURST

EUGENE, OR (AP)—A state police trooper accused of shouting racial slurs and obscenities during an incident in Eugene is facing a criminal charge.

Joseph Michael Jansen, 28, assigned to the Madras patrol office, was in town for a wedding when he allegedly caused the 2 a.m. ruckus Jan. 24.

Jansen, who is charged with disorderly conduct, is on "modified duty status" while police investigate, state police spokesman Lt. Gregg Hastings said.

"That type of behavior, whether on duty or off duty, is very serious and it's taken very seriously," Hastings said.

Jansen and another man were on the first floor of the Valley River Inn yelling racial slurs about blacks and Mexicans, according to a Eugene police report.

Jansen gave his badge and state police identification to the officers, who didn't immediately believe he was a trooper because of his behavior.

Officers said they tried to calm him down, noting that hotel guests were waking up to see what was happening.

They said Jansen appeared to be extremely intoxicated and continued to yell and swear, telling one officer to "shut up" when she asked him to quiet down.

As officers put him in a patrol car, they said, they warned him that the car had a recording device, but he continued to yell.

Jansen posted \$510 bail five hours later and was released. Hastings said Jansen is on paid leave, "duty-stationed at home," meaning he has to be available to perform paperwork-type duties during normal work hours.

Jansen, who was hired Jan. 1, 1997, could be fired, Hastings said. However, a decision isn't expected until the disorderly conduct charge is dealt with in court.

SCHOOL SAYS SYMBOL IN TILE IS NATIVE AMERICAN, NOT NAZI

WALLED LAKE, MI (AP)—A swastika-like symbol embedded in the mosaic floor of a Walled Lake public school for 77 years has brought the district under fire this week from the NAACP and an attorney.

The symbol, covered by a throw rug in the entryway of the district's Community Education Center, is a foot in diameter and was placed in the floor when the school was built in 1922.

District officials said the symbol is from American Indian culture. Unlike the Nazi swastika, the arms of the symbol on the school's floor point counterclockwise.

"It has nothing to do with the National Socialist Party of Germany," Robert Masson, director of the center, told the Detroit Free Press for a story Wednesday. "The building and the symbol precedes the Nazis by a considerable amount of time."

School officials put a rug over the symbol in recent years because of "possible interpretation of its meaning as a swastika," Masson said.

Arnold Reed, an attorney representing a Walled Lake student involved in a scuffle with an administrator, complained about the symbol.

"When I pulled back that rug, I could barely move because fear gripped me. I felt like I didn't belong here," Reed told The Oakland Press. "You'd be hard pressed to find another African American who didn't feel the same way."

Lawyer H. Wallace Parker, who represents the North Oakland County NAACP branch, said regardless of its origin, it is identified as a symbol of racial hatred and should have been removed long ago.

Reed said he wants a plaque mounted to explain the symbol.

CLINTON PROCLAIMS FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton has issued his annual Black History Month proclamation, urging the Nation to "not only remember the tragic errors of our past, but also celebrate the achievements" of the American descendants of African slaves.

Clinton said Monday that this year's events should focus on the proud legacy of leadership blacks have built over their 350-year history in the United States despite the trauma of slavery and government-sanctioned segregation. He urged public officials, educators, librarians and citizens in general to draw from the power of this collective achievement as they seek to resolve racial problems.

Specifically, Clinton listed notable blacks from NAACP co-founder W.E.B. DuBois to Martin Luther King Jr., and said all Americans could draw from the "skills, determination and indefatigable spirit" they displayed as they were "shaped but not defeated by their experience of racism."

In his proclamation, Clinton referred to February as "National African American History Month."

THE VACCINATE AMERICA'S CHILDREN NOW ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative PHILIP ENGLISH to introduce the Vaccinate America's Children Now Act.

This legislation seeks to lower the excise tax on vaccines from \$.75 per a dose to \$.25 per a dose.

Congress imposed the vaccine excise tax in 1986 after forming the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to provide compensation to children who develop complications due to vaccination.

In the beginning, various tax levels were set up for each vaccine and the amount of tax was based on best guess estimates.

Due to a building surplus in the fund, in 1993, the House Ways and Means Committee, directed the Administration to study the fund and report back to Congress with recommendations regarding the surplus.

The report, which included the approval from all areas of the public health community, called for a new flat tax of \$.51 per vaccine.

With the surplus now over \$1.25 billion (twice what it was in 1993) the time has come to lower the tax to \$.25 per dose.

As part of the 1997 Balance Budget Act, Congress created a flat tax of \$.75 per dose for each vaccine it covered thus ending the varying tax levels for different vaccines. We did not, however, deal with the larger problem of over funding the trust fund.

In 1997, the trust fund was estimated to receive \$180 million in tax revenue. The interest alone, was \$59 million and is more than enough to pay all claims that are filed.

At the \$.25 per dose rate, tax revenues would be over \$50 million a year with equally as much, if not more, coming from interest. This still brings in over \$100 million in revenue each year to the trust fund.

Since the states are a major purchaser of vaccines, they stand to save a substantial amount of money that can be used in other areas. In fact, the Commonwealth of Kentucky could have saved over \$830,000 in 1997 and Representative ENGLISH's state of Pennsylvania would have saved over \$1.16 million.

This legislation was unanimously endorsed by the guardian of the trust fund, the Advisory

Commission on Childhood Vaccines and was supported by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers when it was introduced in the 105th Congress.

I encourage my colleagues to join Representative ENGLISH and myself in cosponsoring this important legislation.

THE FRED F. HOLMES AWARD

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Fred F. Holmes award was established by the Veterans' Council of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to recognize individuals who have had a positive effect on the lives of local veterans. On December 6, 1998, it was my great pleasure to attend a testimonial dinner honoring this year's recipient of the Holmes award, Mr. Charles E. Langille.

Mr. Langille was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1922. His family moved to North Attleboro where Mr. Langille attended a regional agricultural school and began a long period of employment with the Sales Dairy Farm.

Mr. Langille interrupted his employment in 1943, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a member of the elite 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper-medic. In June 1944, Mr. Langille participated in the Normandy Invasion, carrying only a pistol and sometimes no weapon at all! Mr. Langille reports that he was one of the fortunate few to survive that war unscathed. After the war, Mr. Langille resumed his career in agriculture and later spent several years working in the lumber industry and as the Animal Control Officer in North Attleboro, retiring at the age of 70.

Those who know Charles Langille know he is a man of great compassion and loyalty, with an endless capacity for assisting those in need. As an example of his concern for others, over the past 20 years, Mr. Langille has regularly visited veterans at the VA hospital in Brockton, bringing them meals, providing recreation and helping them in countless other ways.

The citizens of North Attleboro, and especially its veterans, are fortunate to have a person like Charles Langille in their midst. I offer Mr. Langille my deep gratitude and heartfelt congratulations as this year's recipient of the Fred F. Holmes award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EDUCATION ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the After-School Children's Education Act (ACE Act). My proposal, which does not spend a lot of money, will lead Congress to better information on after-school programs and guide us through a vitally important decision-making process on how to meet the educational needs of students across the nation.

There has been a lot of discussion about out-of-school time in recent months, with scientific studies proving what we have always intuitively known about the importance of quality care for young children, and for children in out-of-school time. There is a real threat to many American kids across the nation. Roughly five million children are not supervised after-school. This leaves them at risk of accidents and ripe for undesirable behaviors ranging from smoking and drinking to sexual activity and violent crime. In fact, juvenile crime goes up 300% after 3 p.m. and over half of all juvenile crime occurs between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

This is particularly disturbing given the benefits that can be derived from productive and educationally rewarding activities in after-school hours. After-school programs can be exceptionally beneficial by giving children the chance to interact with their peers and adults in a positive way, to gain or improve new skills, to master educational material, to develop strong bodies, and to foster creativity. In addition, studies have shown that students who attend productive after-school programs make significant academic gains, enjoy school more, feel more safe, and are less likely to participate in delinquent behaviors year found.

I believe we need to focus on improving the quality of children's out-of-school time through after-school programs. Studies indicate that 90% of parents want their children in an after-school program, yet less than 30% of schools have one. Amazingly, schools are locked 50% of the time parents are working. Many policy makers are coming to this realization and some have proposed billions of dollars of new spending on after-school programs. I am not convinced that such a large infusion of money is necessary, but I am convinced that up-to-date information on after-school programs is essential. There really is not good information available. The last major study of after-school programs was completed in 1993 by the National Institute of Out-Of-School-Time.

The ACE Act will help meet this need with a three prong approach. First, it requires the General Accounting Office to conduct a state-by-state study on after-school programs that will help us understand what programs currently exist and where the gaps are in providing educationally enriching and personally rewarding programs for children. Second, the ACE Act establishes a national clearinghouse of model after-school programs available on the Internet. Finally, it provides \$10 million for states to use for activities that improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.

As I have witnessed in Delaware, some communities have collaborated to produce high quality after-school programs. For instance, the extended use of school facilities in Delaware has allowed several organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA to successfully integrate after-school programs into schools. The ACE Act encourages continued collaborations so that communities can play a more active role in providing assistance in after-school activities in a number of ways.

In all of my discussions with constituents and after-school program specialist, the most troubling issue I have run across is the fact that both after-school program providers and after-school program participants need better access to information. We do not fully under-

stand what programs are available and we should.

I hope you will join me and colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support and co-sponsor the After-School Children's Education Act.

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE MARSHALL FORCES TO ENHANCE HIGHWAY SAFETY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 21, 1999, under the leadership of the Superintendent of State Police, Colonel M. Wayne Huggins, a task force of 110 Virginia state troopers, supervisors and aviation units conducted an eight-hour enforcement initiative along the full 325-mile length of Interstate 81 in Virginia to control speeders and improve highway safety for all the people who use this heavily trafficked roadway.

The program was coordinated and implemented by Lt. Colonel W.G. Massengale and Major J.B. Scott with assistance of Captain J.R. Quinley (Culpeper), Captain H.G. Gregory (Appomattox), Captain C.R. Compton (Salem) and Captain W.K. Paul (Wytheville).

As a result of the dedicated performance of the Virginia State Police under their most able leadership, a huge stride toward traffic safety on Interstate 81 was made on February 21. This crackdown resulted in 1,730 tickets being issued to violators. Speed is a major cause of traffic accidents and the resultant deaths and injuries. These troopers and their commanders saved lives on the highway that Sunday and sent the message that Virginia is serious about protecting its people.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY BURIAL ELIGIBILITY ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I strongly support H.R. 70, a bill to codify burial eligibility requirements for Arlington National Cemetery. This bill would also put an end to the abuses my subcommittee found with politically connected burial waivers for individuals who have been getting into Arlington and taking the places earned by America's war heroes.

Full Committee Chairman BOB STUMP moved a similar bill last year and it was not acted upon by the Senate. I commend our Chairman for his persistence and for his devotion to our Nation's veterans in moving H.R. 70 as one of his top priorities for the 106th Congress.

Veterans' service organization and military associations have overwhelmingly supported this legislation and especially its prohibition against waivers. They better than anyone know that politics should play no part in who rests in the hallowed ground of Arlington.

Mr. Speaker, apparently I differ with one of my colleagues on whether abuses occurred

with Arlington burial waivers. At the January 28, 1999, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on Arlington burial waivers, which I chaired, I stated that, "in my opinion, in some cases there undoubtedly has been favoritism, overwhelming pressure, political influence, string pulling, and arm twisting, as well as public relations consideration, even if no one will openly admit it." My view has not changed, and I believe these things were abuses. Call them what you may, they occurred and they should be stopped.

And, let there be no mistake about the matter of Larry Lawrence: he bought his way into Arlington with campaign contributions. His campaign contributions bought him an ambassadorship. His bought ambassadorship and his proven, not alleged, lies got him into Arlington. Even on his record, he was so miserably unqualified to be an ambassador that the Foreign Service Association took the unusual step of opposing his nomination. Money got him in, not his service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to hold the line against waivers, just as our brave men and women in uniform have held the line in battle against the enemies of freedom.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS NEED TO BE AMONG OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of water quality, smart growth and protecting our environment—and, therefore, in support of the Democratic budget resolution.

Clean and safe drinking water must be among our highest national priorities. We need to ensure that we protect farmland, slow suburban sprawl and protect open spaces. Further, the Environmental Protection Agency must have the adequate tools and resources to do their job—protecting our environment.

That is why I support the Democratic budget resolution which would have provided \$1.6 billion more for natural resources and environmental programs than the Republican budget. Our bill allows for continued assistance to our communities to upgrade their sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities. It also provides resources for our communities to protect farmland and preserve or restore green spaces. Our budget also provides grants for "smart growth" planning and park restoration.

For those of us in St. Clair and Macomb Counties who treasure the special place in which we live, the Democratic budget blueprint would allow us to preserve and improve our quality of life. That is among the most important things we can do.

In the months ahead, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our water is safe to drink, our lakes are safe for swimming, and our continued growth is managed responsibly. I am also hopeful that our local and state officials will help us in our effort to help improve sewers and water treatment facilities, and to preserve farmland and open spaces.

Our environment is precious and valuable. We need to take steps today to ensure that it

is preserved for our grandchildren to inherit. We will continue our fight to ensure that environmental protections are among our highest priorities.

ON THE PASSING OF THREE
EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Ms. Speaker, it sometimes happens that the unexpected juxtaposition of disparate events imposes its own logic, and the emerging pattern rivets our attention and commands our respect. So it is with the recent passing of three extraordinary women: Frances Ross, who died December 9th at 84 years of age; Helen Feinberg, who followed on February 22nd, also 84; and Vivian Hallinan, who departed March 16th after 88 years of life. Of the same generation that was tempered in the Great Depression and triumphant in World War II, all three women shared many characteristics and values. All, of course, were native or adoptive Californians. And, in the trail-blazing spirit of the Golden State, all were true pioneers in their respective fields: Ross in the treatment of the mentally ill; Feinberg in nursing and human rights; and Hallinan in a wide range of progressive causes.

All three women exhibited, early in life, the qualities we associate with leadership. They were relentless champions of social justice, peace, equality, democracy, and freedom. And in the pursuit of those values, their perseverance was legendary. Finally, and perhaps most impressive, Frances, Helen, and Vivian also shared the exquisite ability to balance an active life in the public domain with an equally impressive dedication to family and friends in the private realm.

In conclusion, Frances Ross, Helen Feinberg, and Vivian Hallinan were courageous leaders of a generation that is rapidly passing from our scene. We are losing a national treasure, and we should all pause to register our common loss. Details about the wonderful lives of these three women are included in the following tributes.

[From the San Francisco Examiner, Dec. 11, 1998]

FRANCES LILLIAN ROSS—ADVOCATE FOR
MENTALLY ILL
(By Eric Brazil)

Frances Lillian Ross, who pioneered residential treatment for the mentally ill in San Francisco, died Wednesday in San Rafael at age 83.

She had been in failing health for two months, following a stroke at her Villa Marin home.

From 1965 through 1997, Mrs. Ross was executive director of Conard House, which developed the model for treating mentally ill patients in a non-institutional setting.

"She was instrumental in establishing what community mental health looks like in this town," said Steve Fields, executive director of the Progress Foundation.

Conrad House "was very, very much on the ground floor. It was one of the first models of a halfway house, if not the first," recalled psychiatrist Dr. Price Cobbs.

Born in San Diego, Mrs. Ross attended 13 grammar schools and three high schools—including Polytechnic in San Francisco—before graduating from San Francisco State.

Even before the '30s had ended Mrs. Ross had lived an eventual life—as a "girl cashier" at the World's Fair on Treasure Island, as Northern California campaign manager for winning Democratic gubernatorial candidate Culbert Olson and in organizing relief for Spanish civil war refugees.

During the early 1940s, she was a teacher and social worker in Central Valley migrant labor camps, including Marysville-Yuba City, where she met and married her late husband, Fred Ross, a community organizer, whose career—including the discovery of farm labor leader Cesar Chavez—became legendary.

Her youngest son, Fred, now chief of staff to Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, recalled that his mother taught birth control as well as drama and other subjects to wives of farm workers. He said, "Birth control was called 'baby spacing,' then, and one of the women asked her, 'Is that to teach us how to space them closer together or farther apart?'"

On the eve of World War II, Mrs. Ross worked to get refugee Jewish physicians out of Germany, and after the war began, she operated a drill press and worked for racial integration at a Cleveland airplane parts manufacturing plant, while her husband worked with Japanese Americans who had been relocated to the Midwest from the Pacific Coast.

At age 41, Mrs. Ross returned to San Francisco State and obtained a master's degree in clinical psychology.

Her professional career was interrupted by polio, and she was unable to work for nine years.

When Mrs. Ross was hired as executive director at Conard House—she had been a rehabilitation counselor at Lighthouse for the Blind—institutionalization was virtually the only recognized form of treatment for the mentally ill.

Mrs. Ross started Conard House's co-op apartment program, which provides an extended period of recovery for clients admitted to the program's halfway house.

Katherine Erickson, owner of two retail gift shops at Pier 39, who worked for Mrs. Ross for seven years at Conard House, recalled her as "the most powerful woman I've ever worked with . . . a most extraordinary woman. She had the ability to cut through the B.S. and see what was really going on."

Mrs. Ross is survived by daughter Julia, a director of recovery systems in Larkspur; sons Robert, a high school teacher in Davis, and Fred of San Francisco; and by three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be held Dec. 19—her 84th birthday—at 3 p.m. in the auditorium of Villa Marin in San Rafael, where she had resided for the past 13 years.

The family suggests that friends wishing to remember Mrs. Ross with charitable contributions direct them to the Post Polio Support Group of Sonoma County, 4672 Park Trail Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405; or to the Larkspur public library.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Feb. 24, 1999]

HELEN FEINBERG, 84; SOCIAL ACTIVIST,
SPANISH CIVIL WAR NURSE
(By Myrna Oliver)

Helen Freeman Feinberg, nurse and human rights advocate who aided victims of the Spanish Civil War and Ecuador border war as well as garment workers and Latino immigrants at home, has died. She was 84.

Feinberg died Monday of cancer in Newport Beach, said her daughter, Margo Feinberg.

A New Yorker trained in nursing at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, the 22-year-old Helen Freeman had barely begun her nursing career in 1937 when a meeting on Spain's strife

convinced her to sail abroad as a member of the Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy.

One of only 50 American women involved, she worked in makeshift front-line hospitals to aid soldiers of loyalist Spain and international volunteer fighters including Americans in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The young nurse was severely wounded during a bombing.

"We were so idealistic at the time. And we wanted everything for a better world," she recalled in 1990 after a speech to Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in New York. Feinberg served as commander of the brigade's Los Angeles post in the 1980s and 1990s.

Her injuries in Spain prevented her from serving as a military nurse in World War II. But she spent that time in Ecuador, following its border war with Peru, with the U.S. Government Emergency Rehabilitation Committee organizing clinics and hospitals and training nurses in mountain and jungle communities.

After the war, she returned to Europe with the American Joint Distribution Committee to develop clinics, organize health education programs and treat chronically ill victims of Hitler's concentration camps.

The dedicated nurse also went to Oregon with the Agricultural Workers Health Assn. as a circuit-riding public health nurse for migrant labor camps, and worked with the New York City Health Department setting up community health care clinics.

Working for the Union Health Care Center of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in 1952, she met and married Charles Feinberg, union organizer, professor and public health administrator. After her marriage, she went into school nursing in New York and, after the Feinbergs moved to Orange County in the 1970s, with the Newport Mesa Unified School District. In Orange County, Feinberg concentrated on working with children and families of migrant workers and other immigrants. She retired only last year, at 83.

In 1985, the school district named a new facility at Whittier Elementary School in Costa Mesa, Feinberg Hall in honor of both the nurse and her husband.

Feinberg is survived by a son and daughter, union labor lawyers Michael and Margo Feinberg, and two grandsons.

A memorial service is scheduled at 2 p.m. March 6 at Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona del Mar.

The family has suggested that memorial contributions be made either to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives, 799 Broadway, Suite 227, New York, NY 10003, or to Whittier Elementary School, 1800 N. Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627, for its library.

[From the San Francisco Examiner, Mar. 17, 1999]

PEACE ACTIVIST, MATRIARCH VIVIAN
HALLINAN

(By Seth Rosenfield)

SHE WAS ROLE MODEL FOR POLITICAL WOMEN

Vivian Hallinan, the preeminent peace activist, wife of the later legend Vincent Hallinan and matriarch of San Francisco, best known Irish political family, whose members include prominent criminal defense lawyer Patrick Hallinan and San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan, has died.

Mrs. Hallinan, who was 88, died Tuesday at the Berkeley home of her son Matthew. Family members said she has been in poor health

in recent weeks and attributed her death to old age.

Over a five-decade span, Mrs. Hallinan played a prominent part in San Francisco's progressive politics with grace, beauty and courage. In 1986, when she was 77, she was tear-gassed in Chile while protesting human rights abuses.

Although Vincent Hallinan, an atheist who once sued the Catholic Church to prove the existence of God, was publicly perceived as the more radical of the pair, Vivian Hallinan fueled the family's political fire, two of her sons said.

"She was really the heart and soul of our family's political philosophy," said Patrick Hallinan, her eldest son. "My father resented the abuse of political authority, but my mother had a focus. She was a very committed radical socialist."

Mrs. Hallinan combined a dedication to her family, prowess in real estate and political passion.

U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, said Tuesday that Vivian Hallinan showed women they could combine family and politics. "She was a role model for many of us," Pelosi said. "If Vincent was the lion, Vivian was the lioness."

Mrs. Hallinan was born Vivian Moore on Oct. 21, 1910, in San Francisco. Her father was Irish, her mother Italian, her family blue-collar.

Her father abandoned the family early, and she hardly knew him, said Patrick Hallinan. And though her mother was more present, Mrs. Hallinan was raised mostly by her mother's relatives.

Mrs. Hallinan attended Girls' High School, a now-defunct private Catholic school in San Francisco. She was admitted to UC-Berkeley but quit after two years to support herself by working in retail shops. Patrick Hallinan said. She never graduated.

She soon met Vincent Hallinan on a blind date. He was 13 years older and already a famous liberal lawyer.

"When I opened the door, I thought she was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen," he once said.

They were married in 1932, an occasion reported by the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover as "a case of one warped personality marrying another."

The excitement began promptly. As the couple left for their honeymoon, Vincent Hallinan was jailed for contempt of court for refusing to surrender a client in a murder case. One headline read: "Hallinan goes to jail, bride goes home."

Mrs. Hallinan's striking beauty, with Brunet hair and hazel eyes, was part of her persona, said Doris Brin Walker, a radical San Francisco lawyer and longtime friend of the Hallinans'.

"She always looked great," Walker said, "but it was not the most important part."

The Hallinans first lived in a Nob Hill apartment on Sacramento Street. About two years later, they had the first of six sons. (Their fourth son, Michael, later died.)

During the Depression, Mrs. Hallinan began investing some of her husband's legal earnings in real estate, refurbishing abandoned buildings and eventually building the family fortune, said Terence Hallinan, her second-born.

Although Mrs. Hallinan held "socialist" views—ideas that people should be guaranteed a decent living, that there should be racial equality and an end to war—she never joined any socialist or communist party and was a life-long Democrat, said Patrick Hallinan.

She was one of San Francisco's early civil rights activities, renting and selling homes to African Americans. Her efforts earned the enmity of other real estate agents and her own neighbors, her sons said.

In 1945, the Hallinans moved to political conservative Ross in Marin County, because it had the best public schools. They bought a 22-room house with its own gym and an Olympic-size pool.

But times got hard. In 1950, Mr. Hallinan was sentenced to six months in McNeil Island prison for a contempt citation he got while successfully defending union leader Harry Bridges against charges of being a communist.

In 1952, after Mrs. Hallinan persuaded her husband to campaign for president on Henry Wallace's Progressive Party ticket, the couple were indicted for tax evasion. She was acquitted, but he was sentenced to two years in jail.

The government seized some of the family's real estate holdings, said Terence Hallinan. And Doubleday refused to print more copies of a national best-seller she had written about her family, "My Wild Irish Rogues," Patrick Hanninan said.

Hoover had branded the book as "a flagrant employment of the Communist Party line, including references to racial discrimination and vicious attacks on the U.S. government."

But Mrs. Hallinan was unfazed: She sustained the family with her real estate business and continued her jailed husband's presidential campaign on his behalf.

Mr. Hallinan was disbarred and in jail during most of the '50s, and Mrs. Hallinan remained under Hoover's scrutiny.

In 1964, she and sons Patrick and Matthew were arrested while sitting-in at San Francisco's "auto row," the car dealers that then lined Van Ness Avenue, protesting their failure to hire African Americans. She served 30 days in county jail.

She helped organize anti-Vietnam war demonstrations, leading a march of 5,000 women in Washington, D.C.

She headed the San Francisco chapter of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. "Peace was always her biggest issue," said Terence Hallinan.

In the 1980s, she opposed U.S. policy in Central America and befriended Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's Sandinista leader. She also met with Fidel Castro.

In 1990, Mayor Art Agnos named her to The City's Human Rights Commission.

She is survived by five sons, Patrick, of Kentfield; Terrance, of San Francisco; and Matthew, an anthropologist, David, a travel consultant, and Conn, a journalism professor, all of Berkeley; 18 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service is to be announced.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVERS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague from Illinois, Representative PHIL CRANE, and I are introducing the IRA Charitable Rollover Incentive Act of 1999.

Our legislation would allow individuals who have reached age 59½ to donate the assets of their individual retirement account to charity without incurring income tax liability.

I am sure that over the past few years many of our colleagues have heard from charities in their district that the charity was approached by an individual who had accumulated a large IRA and wished to make a charitable donation. However, they are effectively precluded from doing so by the unique tax laws that apply to IRAs. We intend to change this.

Our legislation would allow an individual to donate his or her IRA to charity without incurring any income tax consequences. The IRA would be donated to the charity without ever taking it into income so there is no tax consequence. Similarly, because current law IRAs represent previously untaxed income, there would be no charitable deduction for the donation. IRA rollovers to qualifying charitable deferred gifts would receive similar treatment.

Mr. Speaker, this change in tax law could provide a valuable new source of philanthropy for our nation's charities. I would hope that my colleagues will join Mr. CRANE and myself in sponsoring this innovative new approach to charitable giving.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEQUOIA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today to pay tribute to the Sequoia Community Health Foundation, which is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year.

The Sequoia Community Health Foundation has made countless contributions to the residents of the Central Valley. Working as a primary health care provider for nearly twenty years, Sequoia Community Health Foundation has served tens of thousands of Valley families, ensuring access to basic health services including immunizations and prenatal care.

Despite a brief period of administrative difficulties, the Sequoia Community Health Foundation has emerged stronger than ever in recent years and has restored and expanded the level of services provided to Valley residents. By partnering with local schools, recreation centers and churches, Sequoia Community Health Foundation has greatly facilitated access to health services in the Valley.

Sequoia Community Health Foundation has provided more than 200,000 patient visits in the last four years, caring for 15,000 patients a year including many area farmworkers. Sequoia also serves as a vital resource for prenatal and pediatric care by performing between 60 and 90 deliveries each month and immunizing between 200 and 400 children on a monthly basis.

Clinic services have been expanded to increase hours of service, expand health education programs, and add cardiology and psychiatry specialists on site. And the clinic has been a leader in recruiting and training Hispanic residents through the Sequoia Hispanic Residency Pathway.

Through the leadership of their dedicated staff, Sante Health System and "Blue Ribbon" Board, Sequoia Community Health Foundation has maintained a high level of commitment to the Central Valley.

I commend Sequoia Community Health Foundation's dedicated employees—past and present—for their admirable service, and I hope that their fellow citizens will continue to support them with vigorous appreciation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX
CODE SECTION 415 RELIEF BILL**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, a great deal of attention is being focused on retirement security by this Congress and by the Administration. Most of us recognize the need to make saving for retirement, through private pension plans and personal savings, a priority for all Americans. And, many of us recognize that complex and irrational pension rules in the Internal Revenue Code actually discourage retirement savings. Among such rules are limits under Code section 415 they deny workers the full benefits they have earned.

I rise today to introduce legislation on behalf of workers who have responsibly saved for retirement through collectively bargained, multiemployer defined benefit pension plans. These workers are being unfairly penalized under limits imposed by Code section 415. They are being denied the full benefits that they earned through many years of labor and on which they and their spouses have counted in planning their retirement.

We can all appreciate their frustration and anger when they are told, upon applying for their pension, that the federal government won't let the pension plan pay them the full amount of the benefits that they earned under the rules of their plan.

For some workers, this benefit cutback means they will not be able to retire when they wanted or needed to. For other workers, it means retirement with less income to live on. And, for some, it means retirement without health care coverage and other necessities of life.

The bill that I am introducing today will give all of these workers relief from the most confiscatory provisions of Section 415 and enable them to receive the full measure of their retirement savings.

Congress has recognized and corrected the adverse effects of Section 415 on government employee pension plans. Most recently, as part of the Tax Relief Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-34) and the Small Business Jobs Protection Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-188), we exempted government employee pension plans from the compensation-based limit, from certain early retirement limits, and from other provisions of Section 415. Other relief for government employee plans was included in earlier legislation amending Section 415.

Section 415 was enacted more than two decades ago when the pension world was quite different than it is today. The Section 415 limits were designed to contain the tax-sheltered pensions that could be received by highly paid executives and professionals. The passage of time and Congressional action has stood this original design on its head. The limits are forcing cutbacks in the pensions of rank-and-file workers. Executives and professionals are now able to receive pensions far in excess of the Section 415 limits by establishing non-qualified supplemental retirement programs.

COMPENSATION-BASED LIMITS

Generally, Section 415 limits the benefits payable to a worker by defined benefit pension plans to the lesser of: (1) the worker's av-

erage annual compensation for the three consecutive years when his compensation was the highest, the so-called "compensation-based limit"; and (2) a dollar limit that is sharply reduced for retirement before the worker's Social Security normal retirement age.

The compensation-based limit assumes that the pension earned under a plan is linked to each worker's salary, as is typical in corporate pension plans (e.g., a percentage of the worker's final year's salary for each year of employment). That assumption is wrong as applied to multiemployer pension plans. Multiemployer plans, which cover more than ten million individuals, have long based their benefits on the collectively bargained contribution rates and years of covered employment with one or more of the multiple employers which contribute to the plan. In other words, benefits earned under a multiemployer plan have no relationship to the wages received by a worker from the contributing employers. The same benefit level is paid to all workers with the same contribution and covered employment records regardless of their individual wage histories.

A second assumption underlying the compensation-based limit is that workers' salaries increase steadily over the course of their careers so that the three highest salary years will be the last three consecutive years. While this salary history may be the norm in the corporate world, it is unusual in the multiemployer plan world. In multiemployer plan industries like building and construction, workers' wage earnings typically fluctuate from year-to-year according to several variables, including the availability of covered work and whether the worker is unable to work due to illness or disability. An individual worker's wage history may include many dramatic ups-and-downs. Because of these fluctuations, the three highest years of compensation for many multiemployer plan participants are not consecutive. Consequently, the Section 415 compensation-based limit for these workers is artificially low; lower than it would be if they were covered by corporate plans.

Thus, the premises on which the compensation-based limit is founded do not fit the reality of workers covered by multiemployer plans. And, the limit should not apply.

My bill would exempt workers covered by multiemployer plans from the compensation-based limit, just as government employees are now exempt.

EARLY RETIREMENT LIMIT

Section 415's dollar limit is forcing severe cutbacks in the earned pensions of workers who retire under multiemployer pension plans before they reach age 65.

Construction work is physically hard, and is often performed under harsh climatic conditions. Workers are worn down sooner than in most other industries. Often, early retirement is a must. Multiemployer pension plans accommodate these needs of their covered workers by providing for early retirement, disability, and service pensions that provide a subsidized, partial or full pension benefit.

Section 415 is forcing cutbacks in these pensions because the dollar limit is severely reduced for each year younger than the Social Security normal retirement age that a worker is when he retires. For a worker who retires at age 50, the reduced dollar limit is now about \$40,000 per year.

This reduced limit applies regardless of the circumstances under which the worker retires and regardless of his plan's rules regarding retirement age. A multiemployer plan participant worn out after years of physical challenge who is forced into early retirement is nonetheless subject to a reduced limit. A construction worker who, after 30 years of demanding labor, has well earned a 30-and-out service pension at age 50 is nonetheless subject to the reduced limit.

My bill will ease this early retirement benefit cutback by extending to workers covered by multiemployer plans some of the more favorable early retirement rules that now apply to government employee pension plans and other retirement plans. These rules still provide for a reduced dollar limit for retirements earlier than age 62, but the reduction is less severe than under the current rules that apply to multiemployer plans.

Finally, I am particularly concerned that early retirees who suffer pension benefit cutbacks will not be able to afford the health care coverage they need. Workers who retire before the Medicare eligibility age of 65 are typically required to pay all or a substantial part of the cost of their health insurance. Section 415 pension cutbacks deprive workers of income they need to bear these health care costs. This is contrary to the sound public policy of encouraging workers and retirees to responsibly provide for their health care.

THURGOOD MARSHALL UNITED
STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 130, a bipartisan bill which would "designate the United States Courthouse located at 40 Centre Street in New York, New York as the 'Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse.'"

It is most fitting to honor this great American with this distinction as he was not only the first African American Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, but was also one of the greatest trial and appellate lawyers in this nation. It was through his knowledge, advocacy, and devotion to the cause of civil rights, that propelled Thurgood Marshall into leading the charge for equality for African Americans.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 2, 1908, Thurgood Marshall graduated cum laude from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and went on to receive his law degree from Howard University here in Washington, DC where he graduated first in his class.

In 1936, Thurgood Marshall was appointed as Special Counsel to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). A short time later, he founded the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

While at the NAACP, Thurgood Marshall was successful in winning 29 of 32 cases he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. However, the victory for which he will best be remembered, was *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, in which Marshall convinced the Supreme Court to declare segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Marshall to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. After only four years of receiving this appointment, President Lyndon B. Johnson chose Justice Marshall to be the nation's first black Solicitor General. Just 2 years later on June 13, 1967, President Johnson nominated Marshall to become the first black justice of the Supreme Court where he would serve until his retirement in 1991.

As my colleagues may remember, the bill passed the House last year, but did not come to the floor of the Senate before the session ended.

As Dean of the New York State delegation, it is my hope that my colleagues here in the House on both sides of the aisle, will support H.R. 130 for I can think of no greater tribute to the late Justice Thurgood Marshall, a man who stood for integrity, justice, and equality for all.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT ANDERSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Anderson, a Duluth resident and pioneer in general aviation. On March 23rd, Scott died at the age of 33 following a tragic crash that occurred while he was testing a new aircraft in Northern Minnesota.

Scott was fatally injured when the first SR20 airplane to come off Cirrus Design's production line, which he was piloting, crashed just short of the Duluth International Airport. The plane crash is not only a serious disappointment for Cirrus Design, but is also a tragedy for general aviation aircraft development, testing and evaluation—the most critical phase of bringing a new type and model of aircraft into the mainstream of aviation.

A major in the Air National Guard, Scott was an experienced test pilot who flew F-16s for the military, in addition to his job as Director of Flight Operations and Chief Test Pilot for Cirrus Design. Test pilots are heroes of aviation who pioneer the testing of new, pre-production aircraft to ensure that all systems comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations. Scott made history last year when he piloted the SR20 during the first test of an innovative parachute recovery system; ironically, that safety device was not on board the aircraft he was flying at the time of the crash.

While we must await the evaluation and findings of the National Transportation Safety Board regarding the causes of the crash, we know that Scott did everything humanly possible to bring the plane down safely so that innocent lives on the ground would not be lost. I offer my heartfelt sympathy to Scott's wife, Laurie, his parents, Paul and Carol, and siblings, Catherine and Todd Anderson, as well as to the Cirrus Design team, for their loss. I hope, in their grief, they know that Scott made a profound difference to the State of Minnesota and to the national aviation community.

As a tribute to the memory and contribution Scott made to general aviation, which will benefit future generations, I submit an article written by Sam Cook that appeared in the Duluth News Tribune on March 24, 1999. Mr. Cook is

a talented writer who knew Scott Anderson for many years and with whom he shared a love of Minnesota's great outdoors.

[From the Duluth News Tribune, Mar. 24, 1999]

ANDERSON BLESSED OTHERS WITH LIFE

(By Sam Cook)

I can't recall exactly how Scott Anderson came into my life. He just appeared, and once Scott Anderson appears in your life it's never quite the same.

He and his friend Steve Baker were planning a canoe trip from Duluth to Hudson Bay. This was 1987. They were college kids home for the summer, and they didn't know exactly what they were getting into, but of course that didn't matter. They were going to go no matter what. As I recall, they borrowed a canoe that had been cracked up and patched back together.

I thought they might drown the day they left Duluth, Lake Superior was kicking up, but they were behind schedule so they made a break for it. They ended up portaging their canoe along Minnesota Highway 61 to jumpstart that trip, and you could see that nothing else was going to hold them back.

The trip was a throwback to the old Eric Sevareid and Walter Port trip that Sevareid turned into his classic book, "Canoeing with the Cree." Scott and Steve made Hudson Bay, all right, and it came as only a mild surprise when Scott returned and said he was going to write a book about the experience.

He had already built a submarine at college and paddled a broken boat to Hudson Bay.

Why couldn't he write a book?

He did, of course. And he learned to fly an F-16. And next thing you knew he was test flying airplanes for Cirrus Design.

Scott was one of the most engaging people you could ever hope to meet. He was big and blond and nearly bald, or else his hair was just so light you couldn't see it. I never was sure. But he had a countenance that told you he could handle anything that came his way, probably without blinking.

And that smile. When he unfurled that grin, a whole bunch of happiness spilled into the room and you felt better just for being in the man's presence.

He had some devilment in there, too, but only the harmless kind. There couldn't have been an ounce of meanness in that guy.

Once, out of the blue, he called and asked me if I wanted to be part of a race. He's been scheming again. There would be four of us, in two canoes, he said. The two-person teams would leave Duluth bound for different ends of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. We'd drive north, put in, paddle across the wilderness, exchange car keys somewhere in the middle, paddle out and drive back. First one back to Duluth wins.

I told him I couldn't make it, but it wouldn't surprise me if he pulled that off, too.

If you had a son, and he turned out to be Scott Anderson, you would have to consider yourself one lucky mom or dad. If Scott showed up at your door to date your daughter, you'd send them off happily, close the door, look at your spouse and smile. Not to worry. There was a guy you could count on.

When I heard Tuesday afternoon that a Cirrus plane had gone down, I got worried. When I learned later that night that Scott hadn't made it, I sat in my living room and bawled my guts out while my son played with his Legos.

It would not surprise me if hundreds of others did exactly the same thing I did. I'll bet Scott touched more lives in a meaningful way in his 33 years than most of us will get to in twice that. He was a brilliant, creative, remarkable guy.

I keep seeing him in my mind, and all I see is that big head and that wonderful grin and all that confidence behind it.

They say that as parents there are two things you want to give your kids—roots and wings. Scott Anderson had both, but he was partial to the wings.

I hope he's still flying somewhere.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative BARBARA LEE of California for organizing this Special Order on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to honor Women's History Month and to celebrate the contributions of Women of Color.

As the newest member of the Congressional Black Caucus and as a former municipal Judge and Prosecutor for Cuyahoga County, I wanted to use this time to honor my former colleagues of the Cuyahoga County Judicial system who have served as a source of inspiration for me for many years. They are my friends, colleagues and more importantly my sistahs.

Each of these women are trailblazers in their own right who deserve to be recognized for their years of dedication to serving, protecting and upholding the laws of Ohio and our Nation.

The first person I want to honor is Judge Lillian Burke the first black woman judge in Ohio. Judge Burke is a graduate of Ohio State University and received her JD from Cleveland State University. She was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1951 and began practicing general law from 1952–1962.

Ms. Burke was an assistant Attorney General for Ohio as well as a member of various professional and civic organizations. She was appointed to the Cleveland Municipal Court where she eventually became Chief Judge.

Jean Murrell Capers: Judge Jean Capers graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1932 and earned her JD from Cleveland Law School in 1944. She was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1945 and began practicing law that same year. Ms. Capers ran unsuccessfully three times for the Cleveland City Council before she won in 1949. She was elected four subsequent times to two year terms.

She also worked for the Phillis Wheatley Association and became involved in community endeavors, including lobbying for a federal anti-lynching bill.

In 1977, Ms. Capers was appointed Cleveland Municipal Judge and was re-elected but was forced to retire in 1986 because of an Ohio law that requires Judges to retire at age 70.

Judge C. Ellen Connally, the senior Judge of the Cuyahoga Municipal Court, is a graduate of Bowling Green State University and received her JD from Cleveland State University as well as a Masters of Art degree in American History from Cleveland State and she is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in American history at University of Akron.

Judge C. Ellen Connally was first elected to the bench in 1985, elected beginning in 1985 to Cleveland Municipal Court and is currently

the senior judge of the court. She is a former President of the Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association and has served for the past seven years as its Secretary/Treasurer.

Judge Connally, formerly served as chairperson on the Youth Violence Committee of the Task Force on Violent Crime and the Mayor's Advisory committee on Gang Violence.

She is a former member of the Board of Trustees of her alma mater Bowling Green University and in 1994–1995 she served as president of their Board of Trustees and served as the chairperson of the presidential search committee. She also served as past president of the Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association.

Mr. Speaker, the next person I want to recognize is Judge Mabel Jasper. She received her BS degree from Kent State University in 1956 and her JD from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1977.

Prior to election to the Cleveland Municipal Court, she served as general trial referee for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas—Domestic Relations Division. She was also an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Ohio, and was employed as a trial attorney for the Bureau of Workers Compensation for three years.

Judge Jasper is a member of many civic and professional organizations which include: Ohio State Bar Association; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and First woman member of the Rotary East club, a mostly all male organization.

The next person I want to honor is Judge Angela Stokes. Her name may sound familiar to many in this chamber because she is the daughter of my predecessor, Representative Louis Stokes.

Angela received her BS degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and her JD from Howard University School of Law in Washington, DC, and is admitted to the Supreme Court of Ohio, the United States District Courts and Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio and the United States Court of Appeals Sixth District.

Prior to being elected to the bench, Angela served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio where she was assigned to the Federal Litigation Section in Columbus and later in Cleveland. She also worked for the British Petroleum of America corporate law department. In 1995 she was elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court.

Judge Stokes remains active in the Greater Cleveland Community. She has dedicated her time and energy to a variety of professional and civic organizations: Active Member of the Junior League; Member of a non-profit task force SAMM (Stopping Aids is my Mission); she is member of the 11th Congressional District Caucus; board member of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Louis Stokes Scholarship fund; and member of the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga County Library Board.

Judge Keenon is a graduate of the Cleveland Marshall Law School and received her BS degree from Tennessee State University. Prior to being elected to the bench, Judge Keenon was a teacher and social worker in the Greater Cleveland Area.

Upon earning her JD, Una became staff attorney for the legal aid society and was appointed Attorney in Charge of the Juvenile Division of the Cuyahoga county Public Defender Office. She also served as managing

attorney for the United Auto Workers legal services plan. Judge Keenon was appointed by then Governor Richard Celested fill a judicial vacancy. She subsequently was elected to another full term.

While on the bench, Judge Keenon established many programs within the East Cleveland Municipal Court: Curfew laws for children of the East Cleveland community and GED program for young offenders by sending them back to school.

She is a member of many civic and professional organizations: President of the Black Women Lawyers; 1st Vice President of the League of Women Voters; Co-Founder & 1st President of Black Women Political Action Committee; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and National Council of Negro Women.

Judge Lynn Toler received her BA degree from Harvard University and her JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Lynn was elected to the Cleveland Heights Municipal court in 1994 and prior to that Lynn Toler had a distinguished career as an attorney. I have highlighted some of the civic and professional memberships as an indication of her commitment to her community: Cleveland Chapter of Links; Board Member—Board of Trustees Juvenile Diabetes Foundation; Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Services which oversaw funding for services related to the criminal justice system; and Board of Trustees for the Goodwill Starting Program.

Another one of my sisters I want to mention during this special order is Judge Shirley Strickland Staffold who received her BA degree from Central State University and law degree from Marshall College of Law.

Prior to her election, Judge Staffold was in the criminal division of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Public Defender's office. In 1994 she was elected to Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

I want to mention some of the Civic and Professional Associations that Judge Staffold is affiliated with as an indication of her commitment to our community: Member of the National Bar Association; American Judges Association; Ohio County and Municipal Judges Association; National Association of Women Judges; and First African American women to be elected President of the American Judges Association.

Judge Janet Burney received her BS from Skidmore College and her JD from Cleveland State University, Cleveland Marshall College of Law.

Prior to joining the bench this year, Judge Burney has a long and distinguished legal career that has spanned over twenty years.

Civic and Professional Associations: Member of the state bar of Ohio; United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; United States Supreme Court; Board of Trustees; St. Luke's Foundation; Interchurch Council of Greater Cleveland; Dean of Christian Education at Open Door Missionary Baptist Church; and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank my colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE for organizing this Special Order.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROBERT CONDON AND THE ROLLING READERS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to acknowledge the fine work of Rolling Readers USA and of its founder, Robert Condon, who died in January at the young age of 40.

In 1991, Mr. Condon, realizing the profound benefits of reading aloud to his sons, began reading to other children at a local homeless shelter and at a Head Start preschool. He was soon reading to children in Boys and Girls Clubs, after-school programs, and public housing sites. By recruiting 10 volunteers, Mr. Condon was able to rapidly expand this reading program to over 400 economically-disadvantaged children each week.

From this simple beginning, Rolling Readers USA was born! Eight short years later, 40,000 volunteers now read to and tutor 300,000 children each week and give \$3,000,000 worth of new books to children each year—often the first books these children have owned. Each volunteer in the Rolling Readers program reads to the same group of children each week, establishing a continuity, not only in tutoring, but in inspiring minds, touching imaginations, developing language skills, and assuring a positive impact on children's lives.

The Rolling Readers vision is very clear. We have a major crisis in our country—for 30 years literacy rates in the United States have been falling, with the biggest decline occurring in those children already in the bottom half in reading test scores. The work of Rolling Readers volunteers is critical to our nation!

Rolling Readers has grown from one man's ideals and commitment to service to become California's largest and one of the Nation's premier volunteer-based children's literacy organizations. Upon the death of its founder, Rolling Readers is sponsoring a national reading day on March 27, 1999 to commemorate his life and achievements.

I would like to add my voice to the many who are thanking Robert Condon for his vision, his leadership, and his outstanding contribution to the children of our nation.

DEATH TAX SUNSET ACT

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today to introduce the Death Tax Sunset Act which would put an end to the Federal government's most outrageous form of taxation. Very simply, my bill would put an end to estate and gift taxes after the year 2002. Hard working Americans deserve no less.

The thought that our government can take over half of a person's life savings when they die should sicken every American. How can we justify taking 55 percent of Americans' life savings when they die? The answer, quite simply, is that we cannot.

First instituted in the late 18th century, the estate tax was enacted to help our young nation build a Navy to protect our shores. Until 1916 when it became a permanent part of the tax code, it was repealed and brought back several times during times of emergency. It has been largely unchanged since the 1930's. The death tax is now a combination of three taxes: the estate tax, the gift tax, and the generation-skipping transfer tax. Its tax rate is the steepest in the tax code—beginning at 37 percent and rising to an incredible 55 percent.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses has called the estate tax "the single greatest government burden imposed upon small family businesses." The National Commission on Economic Growth noted in its report that it makes little sense and is unfair to impose extra taxes on those who choose to pass their assets on to their children and grandchildren rather than spend the money before they die. This cuts to the heart of the American dream of success from hard work and fiscal responsibility. Entrepreneurs should not be punished for their success—they should be rewarded.

Why should death taxes be repealed? Besides the fact that these taxes punish savings, thrift, and entrepreneurship, they have a devastating effect on family farmers and small businesses. According to a recent report by the Center for the Study of Taxation, 7 of our 10 businesses don't survive through a second generation and almost 9 in 10 fail to make it through a third. In fact, 9 out of 10 family business owners who took over after the principal's death in a recent survey said death taxes contributed to their business' demise.

If Congress succeeds in repealing these unfair, burdensome, and punitive taxes, the economic benefits will be enormous. In fact, the Heritage Foundation in 1997 forecast that during the ten year period after death tax repeal: an average of 145,000 new jobs would be created; our economy would yield an extra \$1.1 billion per year; personal income would rise by an additional \$8 billion per year; and the economic growth caused by repeal would more than offset any revenue lost to the treasury from the repeal. This is just one of a number of studies that detail the extraordinary benefits of repealing estate and gift taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in sunseting the most egregious form of taxation. We should set a goal of the end of the year 2002 to completely repeal death taxes. We must make it a priority so that we move away from punishing hard work, thrift, savings, and entrepreneurship and start rewarding these most American of values.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO DECLARATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

SPEECH OF

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that I clarify my position regarding the resolution that recently passed in the House of Representatives expressing congressional opposition to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state (H. Con. Res. 24).

My vote for this resolution was not a comment on the merits of a Palestinian state. Rather, my vote is a reflection of my belief that a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state at this time would hamper efforts to reach a just and lasting peace between the parties. A unilateral Palestinian declaration of an independent state outside of the framework agreed upon in Madrid, Oslo and Wye would not bode well with the current, precarious state of the peace process. This is the position advanced by our Administration. Indeed, the resolution simply restates official U.S. policy. Ultimately, this is why I voted for it.

However, I would note that I chose not to cosponsor the resolution because of my concerns with its one-sided approach. I am concerned that unilateral actions by any of the parties would have a great potential to undermine the efforts we have set forth for peace—whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis. The resolution's failure to mention any Israeli unilateral actions was, in my opinion, a grave error.

The Administration has worked hard to keep this process going—to keep the hope for peace alive for both Israelis and Palestinians. Congress should work diligently to support this effort and maintain balance.

A BILL TO AMEND THE RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION TAX CREDIT TO PROVIDE A CREDIT AS AN INCENTIVE TO FOSTER COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH BROADLY SUPPORTED NON-PROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT SECTION 501(c)(3) RESEARCH CONSORTIA

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, together with twenty-one of our colleagues, in introducing our bill, the "Public Benefit Collaborative Research Tax Credit." This bill would amend the research and experimentation tax credit in order to foster collaborative scientific research projects through broadly supported non-profit section 501(c)(3) research consortia. These collaborative not-for-profit scientific research consortia are devoted to research projects that benefit not just one company, but the economy and the country as a whole. Our amendment to the research credit would provide incentives for multi-company and multi-industry research partnerships, with the result that this important tax credit would be structured to foster the kind of collaborative research on which America's economic growth in the 21st century will depend.

Our proposal would require that the research tax credit be extended beyond its June 30, 1999 expiration date, and we strongly urge extension of the credit. The research intensive sectors of our economy find it very difficult to do planning for research due to the constant stop-and-start arising from the perennial expiration and re-enactment of the research credit. The research credit is one of our most important tax incentives for economic growth, because scientific and technological innovation

are, in the final analysis, the sources of that growth.

This is why our public benefit collaborative research credit proposal is so important. More and more scientific and technological research of the greatest economic value now takes place not in the confines of individual companies, but collaboratively—and this is true for traditional manufacturing and utility sectors as well as computers and telecommunications. Yet the research credit as it currently stands actually contains disincentives for collaborative research. Companies are required to reduce their contributions to non-profit research consortia by an arbitrary 25% before those amounts can be used in the computation of the credit. Our proposal would eliminate the disincentives in current law for collaborative research, and make the research credit "fit" modern research-partnership approaches.

Under our bill, companies would be entitled to a flat (non-incremental) 20% credit for support payments made to non-profit, tax exempt section 501(c)(3) scientific research organizations. Section 501(c)(3) scientific research organizations are required under existing law—which would not change—to make their research results available to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. In this way, our proposal assures that all the scientific research for which our new credit is allowed is public-benefit research. In addition, for support payments to be eligible for our credit, the tax-exempt scientific research organization receiving the support payments would be required to have at least 15 unrelated supporting members, no three of which provide more than half of its funding and no one of which provides more than 25% of its funding. This assures that only truly multi-company collaborative research consortia are supported by our proposal.

Examples of broadly supported section 501(c)(3) research consortia whose continued success is tied to our proposal are the Gas Research Institute, funded by member companies in the natural gas industry, the Electric Power Research Institute, funded by member companies in the electric utility industry, the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, funded by a coalition of high-technology manufacturing companies, the American Water Works Association Research Foundation, funded by water utilities, and non-profit consortia funded by other utility sectors. Collaborative public-benefit scientific research conducted by these and other section 501(c)(3) research consortia (and our bill should encourage new consortia) represents some of the most efficient and economically significant research being performed in the United States today, e.g. in the areas of cutting-edge manufacturing techniques, energy efficiency, public health, and economically rational pollution control, among many other areas. Collaborative research consortia supported by our proposal are devoted to sophisticated scientific research that in many cases no single company could afford, or would be willing, to conduct on its own, because of the uncertainty of immediate success or because of the risk of copycat competitors.

For all these reasons collaborative scientific research represents our brightest economic future. Our bill amends the research tax credit provisions to foster this goal. We urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this very important legislation, the "Public Benefit Collaborative Research Tax Credit Act of 1999."

AMENDING THE INDIVIDUALS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce the introduction of legislation which would amend the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide more flexibility for schools, and would require the expulsion and termination of education services, if a student with a disability carries a weapon to school or to a school function, and it is determined the behavior in question of the child was not due to his or her disability.

When a student brings a weapon into school, it places every individual's life in danger. Such a potentially dangerous action cannot be tolerated or accepted; regardless of whether the student has a disability. The protection of students and faculty must be a priority. We must establish a zero tolerance for weapons in schools, and not allow federal regulations to tie the hands of school disciplinarians. IDEA strongly restricts school administrators and educators in the area of discipline.

Recently, in Cobb County, Georgia, two seventh-graders were expelled by the local school board for bringing a handgun to school. Insofar as these boys have disabilities they may very well be sent to a private school at taxpayer expense, in accordance with IDEA. Under the provisions of IDEA, if a student brings a weapon to school and is expelled, then the school board is responsible for providing alternative education services. For Cobb County taxpayers, the cost of educating a student outside the regular classroom can range between \$5,000 and \$41,000 a year, depending on the level of special services required.

Ninety-five percent of students in special education who are suspended or expelled for displaying violent or aggressive behavior are not disciplined. Taxpayers should not be held responsible for these children with disabilities who carry weapons into schools or school functions. This also bill reduces the amazing amount of paperwork administrators must deal with under IDEA, and it would provide for more flexibility for schools in the disciplinary process.

While I support and voted in favor of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, H.R. 5, in 1997, I do not support condoning behavior by a student that places the students and faculty members at risk. If it is determined a disabled student's disability was not a contributing factor, that student should be held accountable for his or her actions.

THE FOODBANKS RELIEF ACT OF
1999**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Food Banks Relief Act of 1999. The purpose of this bill is to help food banks meet sharp increases in the demand for their

services. The bill responds to a steady stream of studies and reports—including my own surveys of emergency food providers in March 1998 and March 1999—pointing to alarming increases in requests for emergency food assistance, especially among the working poor, children, and the elderly. I am honored to be joined in introducing this legislation by my distinguished colleague and friend, Representative JOANN EMERSON of Missouri, who is a great champion of food banks.

The 1996 welfare reform bill partially anticipated increased demand for charitable food assistance, when it mandated that \$100 million from the food stamp program be used for commodity purchases for food banks, pantries and soup kitchens. However, that has proven inadequate. Food banks across the country report significant increases in requests for food, especially from the working poor. And just as the needs have grown, private donations have declined, as farmers, grocers, and others in the food industry have become more efficient and reduced the waste and overproduction that once helped stock food banks' shelves. Second Harvest, the nation's largest network of emergency food providers, estimates that public and private resources combined are only meeting about half the needs.

The fact is that the private charitable sector is shouldering an increasing share of food assistance needs, and it is overwhelming their capacity. It is time that Congress and the Administration started responding more effectively by assisting food banks—and by tackling the problems that are sending hungry people to their doors. It is ridiculous to expect that we can cut \$20 billion from the food stamp program, and provide only \$100 million extra each year to the food banks that former food stamp recipients are turning to, without causing hunger to soar. That is exactly what has happened, and while broader improvements to the nutrition safety net are needed, hunger won't wait. This bill would deliver the immediate, targeted relief that is needed now by food banks that are too often forced to cut rations or turn people away for lack of food.

The strong economy has helped perpetuate the myth that working people and senior citizens are sheltered from hunger. In fact, they are the main reason that the lines at food banks are growing. Children too dominate the roster of those food banks help: two out of five of their customers are children. In all, an astounding 25 million Americans are turning to food banks each month to help make ends meet and keep hunger at bay.

There is no reason that the strongest economy in a generation cannot find the small sums needed to ensure no American goes hungry. We are not short of money: states alone have \$3 billion piling up in the accounts they are supposed to be using to help make welfare reform work, and the federal government has a budget surplus for the first time in decades. We are not short of commodities: agriculture production has never been more bountiful. We are short only of political will, and the honor to lend a hand to the charities that are trying so hard to end the scourge of hunger in the richest nation in history.

I hope that my colleagues will join me and Representative EMERSON in supporting this bill.

The text of the bill follows:

H.R.—

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Food Banks Relief Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

Section 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
(1) There is authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 to purchase and make available additional commodities under this section.

“(2) Not more than 15 percent of the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) may be used for direct expenses (as defined in section 204(a)(2)) incurred by emergency feeding organizations to distribute such commodities to needy persons.”.

TRIBUTE TO TOM B. SMITH

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and great Arkansan who passed from this world earlier this year. Thomas Benton Smith, or Tom B. as his friends called him, was born in Wynne, Arkansas where he spent his life working to improve the town and Cross County.

Tom B. served as county attorney and deputy prosecuting attorney in Cross County and was municipal judge for Cherry Valley. He was also city attorney for Hickory Ridge and had served as a special Arkansas Supreme Court associate justice. A faithful Democrat, Tom B. also spent many, many hours working as the chairman of the Cross County Democratic Central Committee, as state Democratic Committee Treasurer and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention as well as Democratic state conventions. He was also Chairman of the Cross County Election Commission.

Serving his community and working to make Wynne a better place to live was something that Tom B. strived to do. He was a member of the Wynne Chamber of Commerce and the past president of Wynne Fumble Club and a past board member of the Arkansas Community Foundation. He was also the founding president of the board of Little Sheep Day Care at Wynne Presbyterian Church.

Tom B. meant a lot to me, my family and the people of Arkansas and he will be greatly missed. His perpetual good humor, loyalty to his friends and family and the things he cared about made him not only much beloved but made his community a better place to live, work and raise a family. Tom B. has honored all of us with his friendship and service and I am proud to have called him my friend.

SALUTE TO THE MOUNDS VIEW
MUSTANGS**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District is distinctly

blessed this year with the triumph of two high school men's basketball teams in the Minnesota State Basketball Tournament.

I would especially like to congratulate and commend, the Mounds View Mustangs for their thrilling 69-64 victory over the reigning Minnetonka Mustangs in the Class AAAA Championship. Behind at the start of the final period, the Mustangs climbed into the lead with less than 8 minutes left and held on to win.

My congratulations to the Mounds View High School, Coach Kaulis and all the Mustangs. Their team spirit, never say die attitude is an example for us all. At this time I would like to share with my Colleagues an article describing the Mustang victory.

[From the Star Tribune, Mar. 21, 1999]

MOUNDS VIEW HOLDS ON: HORVATH SCORES 31 AS MUSTANGS TOP LAST YEAR'S 4A CHAMPION, MINNETONKA

(By Brian Wicker)

Mounds View senior center Nick Horvath started out fabulous and got better as the game progressed, scoring a game-high 31 points to lead the Mustangs over defending champion Minnetonka 69-64 Saturday night for the Class 4A boys' basketball championship before 13,682 fans at Williams Arena.

The third-ranked Mustangs (24-3) trailed 50-49 entering the fourth quarter. After senior guard Cal Ecker hit a three-pointer with 7:43 remaining to give Mounds View a 52-50 lead, Horvath scored eight of the Mustangs' next 10 points. Mounds View led 65-62 with 45.3 second to play and held it when two three-point attempts by Minnetonka senior guard Brendan Finn missed. The Mustangs then made just enough free throws in the final minute to hold on.

"We always expect a lot of Nick [Horvath], and he produced again," Mounds View coach Ziggy Kaulis said. "But you don't win one of these things without more of a team."

Mounds View's title was the school's second, to go with the 1972 Class AA championship. Kaulis coached them both.

Said Horvath, who will attend Duke: "This is just great. This will go with my four national championships I'm going to win there."

Minnetonka point guard Adam Boone nearly lifted the Skippers in the final period (26 points), making three clutch baskets in a two-minute span to keep the No. 2 Skippers (23-4) close. The defending champions deflated somewhat, however, when star forward Shane Schilling fouled out with 1:07 to play.

Minnetonka's search for a second consecutive title began with looking for replacements for graduated four-year starters Ryan Keating and Jake Kuppe. Boone, a junior, filled Keating's void at point guard after his family moved from the Minneapolis Washburn area to Minnetonka.

The Skippers' answer for Kuppe was already present in senior Grant Anderson, a 6-7 center with superb defensive skills and a quick first step.

And, best of all, the Skippers still had the high-scoring, high-flying Schilling.

Mounds View's state tournament only lasted one game a year ago, after the Mustangs lost 55-54 to Minneapolis North in the quarterfinals. Since that time, Horvath had been part of the gold-medal-winning 18-under team at the World Youth Games in Moscow last summer and become even more dominant a player. His experienced supporting cast, including Ecker and senior forward Drew Brodin, didn't hesitate to take important shots when Horvath found himself surrounded with defenders.

With Division I talents such as Schilling and Horvath able to take over games, the

teams did their best to get rid of the opposing star. The Skippers pounded the ball inside to Anderson on their first few possessions, trying to put Horvath in early foul trouble, and were eventually successful. Schilling, on the other hand, aggressively ran into foul problems on his own.

Minnetonka led 14-12 after the first quarter, the difference being a T.J. Thedinga layup that Mounds View contended came after the buzzer.

IN HONOR OF JOHN F. SEGREST,
JR. UPON HIS 83RD BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Segrest, Jr. on the occasion of his 83rd birthday.

John Segrest was born and raised in Macon County, Alabama. He attended Tuskegee High School and was a member of the Tuskegee High School Football Team. After graduation in 1937, he went on to attend Auburn University and from there to work as a soil chemist for United Fruit Company in Costa Rica.

In 1941, he returned to Macon County to join the Air Force, feeling it important to fulfill his duty to his country. John Segrest flew his first mission in September of 1942 as a member of the 92nd Bomber Group and the 327th Squadron. Two weeks later, he was in an airplane that was hit by enemy fire. They were able to return to England, and despite the fact that he was injured, John Segrest put his men first. Forth this, he won the Air Medal and one Oak Leaf Cluster. On April 17, 1943, he was shot down over Germany and was taken as a Prisoner of War. He spent the next two years as a prisoner of war in Stalag 3. For this, he earned the Purple Heart and another Oak Leaf Cluster. He was discharged from the Air Force in 1946 and returned to Tuskegee, Alabama, and Auburn University where he completed his college degree.

John Segrest settled down in Macon County, married Frances Cobb and worked for the Macon County Extension Service from 1946 until 1957. In 1958, he became Postmaster of Tuskegee, a position he held until 1981, when he retired to take care of his mother. Since his retirement, Mr. Segrest has become even more actively involved in politics. Finally, this year, he has decided to retire as Chairman of the Macon County Republican Party.

I salute the life of John F. Segrest, Jr. and his service to his country, his state and his community.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I and my colleagues are introducing legislation to ensure that the federal Medicaid dollars recovered in last year's tobacco settlement are spent to improve the public health and to fund effective tobacco control policy.

In the last few months, the states have been asking Congress to overturn thirty years of

Medicaid law. The states want to keep the federal health care dollars recovered under the settlement and to use these federal dollars for whatever purposes they desire. In the process, members are being urged to rewrite Medicaid law.

This is wrong. Half of the funds that are being recovered are federal funds that were spent by the federal government as its share of the Medicaid expenses for tobacco-related illness. These funds should not be used to build bridges, pave roads, or fund tax cuts. They should be used for health services and tobacco control programs.

That is why today I and my colleagues are introducing legislation that will ensure that these federal health care dollars are spent in the best way possible: to improve public health and to protect the health of our children.

I know that this position is not popular among the governors, but it is right. As federally elected officials, we have a responsibility to ensure that these federal health care dollars are spent wisely.

It is indisputable that the state settlements with the tobacco companies were in large part based on Medicaid claims. Tobacco-related illness costs the Medicaid program nearly \$13 billion a year, and over half of those costs are paid for by the federal government.

Money from the tobacco settlement should be spent to break the cycle of addiction, sickness, and death caused by smoking. That is why this legislation will require that 25% of the funds be spent by the states precisely for these purposes.

The bill also requires that 25% of the tobacco settlement be spent by the states on health. We have given the states options to tailor their expenditures to their priority health care needs. They can use the funds for outreach to enroll individuals—children, the elderly, and the disabled—who are eligible for health services or to help with their Medicare premiums. They can use them to improve Medicaid coverage or services or they can use them to extend public health or preventive health programs.

Under this bill, most of the federal dollars are given back to the states, in recognition of their leadership role in suing the tobacco companies. There are, however, a few tobacco control activities that are best carried out at the federal level. For this reason, the bill retains at the federal level \$500 million to fund a nationwide anti-tobacco education campaign and \$100 million to implement the Surgeon General's recommendations on minority tobacco use. The bill also contains federal provisions to ensure that our tobacco farmers have a stable economic environment so that they can begin an orderly transition to a more diversified economy.

Today the original claims in the tobacco litigation have become story and legend, and it is easy for the facts to be forgotten. But the fact is that a substantial portion of the tobacco settlement is federal health care dollars. It is not the states' money to spend as they please. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that these federal dollars are spent to improve our nation's health.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: WORKING FOR
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL IN AMERICA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of speaking at the First Annual Summit Meeting of Journey in Faith, a non-profit organization dedicated to the moral and spiritual revitalization of America in the New Millennium. The mission of Journey in Faith is to equip the future leaders of America to be moral and spiritual strongholds for the next generation. It was an honor to open the first annual summit of this worthwhile organization. I submit the full text of my remarks at this point in the RECORD:

Thank you for your kind introduction. President Bradley, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to be with you this morning—to welcome you to Capitol Hill, and to our International Relations Committee room.

I was reading some of the background material that Gene Bradley sent to me, and I noted that among the dangers we confront as we close out the 20th Century is the continuing violence worldwide; terrorism in the Middle East, tribal-based massacres of people in Africa, the conflict in Kosovo, and the narco-guerrillas in Latin America.

I couldn't help but wonder whether it is just a coincidence that we are meeting in the room of the one Committee of the House of Representatives whose responsibilities includes concern for these events and their impact—not only on America—but throughout the world.

I'm especially pleased that Gene invited me to address you as you open your conference, because he and I go back a long way—to when our hair was darker, and we had more of it.

We have shared an interest in bringing government and business together in the planning and conduct of our Nation's foreign policies.

Gene Bradley founded "Journey in Faith" as a non-profit organization in the conviction that leadership by men and women of strong religious faith is needed now more than ever, as we stand on the brink of a new millennium.

The 20th Century was perhaps the most paradoxical in recorded history.

It saw the greatest advances ever in human progress, as recorded in material terms; expansion of personal liberty and freedom, advances in medicine, improvements in the physical quality of life, to mention just a few.

The 20th Century also recorded the greatest slaughter of human beings ever. Beyond the two World Wars, we have seen government sponsored genocide efforts—deliberately and brutally eliminating millions of innocent men, women and children, as never before.

The 20th Century also marked the emergence of our Nation to stand as a colossus on the world stage. Yet, as we look to the 21st Century, our Nation also stands at a crossroads.

On the one hand, we are the world's leading superpower. We are perceived as a symbol of strength and of integrity. We are the "city on a hill,"—to be an inspiration to other nations.

Founded as a nation rooted in the Scriptures, enriched by our Judeo-Christian traditions of law, morality and the intrinsic worth of every human being—we are poised for a new era of leadership.

On the other hand, our Nation is beset by an assault on moral values—on our homes, families and neighborhoods—as never before. It is both overt and subtle and takes many forms.

We need a resurgence of the moral values that have made our Nation strong—the values that built our Nation; that enabled us to succeed in a revolution, to go through the fires of a Civil War, to survive two World Wars, and to emerge stronger than ever.

We need a resurgence of moral values so that America can beat back the assaults that threaten us, and I believe that no challenge facing us is more serious than drugs, which are flooding into our country from abroad at an unprecedented rate.

Drugs are destroying our children, destroying families, destroying schools and communities. Drugs cost our economy billions in lost wages and salaries, in health care costs, in welfare costs and the burdens on our judiciary and corrections systems, not to mention the tragic loss of life.

Each year, there are more than 16,000 drug-related deaths and 500,000 drug-related injuries. There are 12 million drug-related property crimes. Drugs play a role in most of the violent crime that afflicts our cities and towns.

New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani recently informed our Committee that 70 percent of all prisoners are incarcerated for drug-related crimes.

The cost of caring for each new born crack baby is estimated to be \$100,000. It is also estimated that one-third of all new AIDS cases in the United States are drug-related.

Those statistics reflect a trend that began during the 1960s and 70s, when opposition to the Vietnam War helped to glamorize drugs, sex and even violence.

Drugs were further glamorized through such media events as that famous Woodstock festival—and in movies such as "Easy Rider."

Even today, elites of Hollywood and the entertainment world—and in some political circles—still consider drugs as a form of recreation. There are even widespread efforts to legalize drugs.

Yet, without question, drugs are a prescription for despair. For the addict, and for the addict's family and loved ones—there often must be a turning to a higher power if the deadly clutches of drugs are to be escaped.

Where ever drugs gain a foothold, crime, destruction and chaos follow. Yet, where we see these scourges, we also see the possibility of hope.

Even as drug use is rising among some segments of our population, there has also been a resurgence in religious affiliation.

In the midst of danger, there is opportunity, and Journey in Faith reflects recognition of that opportunity. Our nation is in a struggle to defeat the scourge of drugs.

It is a struggle that can, and must, be won, and I would like to welcome all of you as partners in a revitalization of American culture by making it drug free and by making international narcotics trafficking a top foreign policy priority.

You are launching "Journey in Faith" at an historic moment when we are poised to enter the new millennium. It promises to be a dramatic turning point in human history. The question is whether it will be a millennium marked by darkness or light.

If America succumbs to the scourge of narcotics, then the forces of darkness will have won, and the light that makes America the world's shining city on the hill will have been extinguished.

Working together, we can defeat those forces of darkness by applying a sense of moral values in our foreign policy as we

reach out to try to make this a safer and more peaceful world for all men and women.

HONORING SENATOR SAM
ROBERTS

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly courageous citizen of Georgia's Seventh Congressional District, state Senator Sam Roberts.

Unlike the U.S. House of Representatives, in Georgia we have a true, part-time citizens' legislature. The Georgia General Assembly meets once a year for 40 days, conducts the peoples' business, and adjourns. Needless to say, the need to accomplish a year's work in a few months makes for late nights and long days. The pressure is only increased by the many commitments members have to families, businesses, and employers.

However, during the most recent legislative session, no Member faced a tougher battle than Senator Sam Roberts of Douglasville. A few weeks before the session began, Sam was diagnosed with a malignant tumor in one lung. He immediately began chemotherapy and radiation treatment, which has resulted in remission of the tumor. All indications are that Sam has won his battle with cancer.

Even more amazingly, throughout his treatment, Sam did not miss a single legislative day. He sat at his desk drinking orange juice and water as his doctor ordered, and kept moving full speed ahead. In the process, he set a standard for public servants everywhere, and serves as a shining example for everyone who has ever confronted a life-threatening disease. I commend Sam for his courage, and I also salute his wife Sue, and his children Sherrie, Beau, Amber, who have been right there with Senator Sam throughout his journey.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN TAX ACT

HON. TONY HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from New York, Mr. HUGHTON, to introduce legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code to make it easier for businesses and farmers to donate food to food banks.

It can be expensive to provide food for the poor. The food must be collected, packaged, perhaps refrigerated or frozen, and transported, before it can be distributed to food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other organizations that serve the hungry. Because of this, it could make more economic sense for the businesses to discard unsold but edible food than to donate it. Indeed, billions of pounds of food are thrown away each year.

To encourage greater charitable contributions, we believe that businesses and farmers who donate food ought to receive the same types of tax incentives as do businesses who donate other types of inventory. This is not always the case.

The Good Samaritan Tax Act would do two things. First, it would equalize tax treatment of donations of food and other inventory. Secondly, all businesses, not just corporations, would be eligible for this favorable tax treatment if they donate food.

This bill has been endorsed by both industry and charitable organizations that deal with food including Second Harvest, National Council of Chain Restaurants, National Farmers Union and Food Chain.

The text of the bill follows:

H.R. —

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Good Samaritan Tax Act".

SEC. 2. CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to certain contributions of ordinary income and capital gain property) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.—

"(A) CONTRIBUTIONS BY NON-CORPORATE TAXPAYERS.—In the case of a charitable contribution of food, paragraph (3) shall be applied without regard to whether or not the contribution is made by a corporation.

"(B) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—For purposes of this section, in the case of a charitable contribution of food which is a qualified contribution (within the meaning of paragraph (3), as modified by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph) and which, solely by reason of internal standards of the taxpayer, lack of market, or similar circumstances, cannot or will not be sold, the fair market value of such contribution shall be determined—

"(i) without regard to such internal standards, such lack of market, or such circumstances, and

"(ii) if applicable, by taking into account the price at which the same or similar food items are sold by the taxpayer at the time of the contribution (or, if not so sold at such time, in the recent past)."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999.

REPETITIVE FLOOD LOSS REDUCTION ACT OF 1999

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Repetitive Flood Loss Reduction Act of 1999. Mr. Speaker, every year in the United States many of our constituents suffer the devastating loss of their home from rampaging flood waters. I am introducing the Repetitive Flood Loss Reduction Act to correct a serious flaw in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by improving pre-disaster mitigation and facilitating voluntary buyouts of repetitively flooded properties. Specifically, my legislation will:

Provide \$90 million to the Director of the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) to purchase homes insured by the NFIP that have flooded at least three times

and have received cumulative flood insurance payments of at least 125 percent of the value of the structure.

Provide \$10 million in grants to states to seek non-structural alternatives to protect flood-prone communities.

Create new incentives for home owners to comply with post-FIRM building standards. If a buyout offer is refused by the NFIP policy holder, their yearly premium will automatically increase by 150 percent and their deductible will rise by \$5,000. For every future flood incident when the structure is substantially damaged the premium and deductible will rise again by the aforementioned amount.

Grant more discretion to local flood officials to determine how best to use this program. State or local flood plain administrators will provide the Director with a list of priority structures that should be targeted for participation in the buyout program.

I am hopeful that these steps will lead to a more effective pre-disaster mitigation and buyout program that will both reduce costs to taxpayers and better protect residents of flood-prone areas. I have drafted this legislation in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Harris County, Texas, Flood Control District, one of the Nation's most experienced and innovative flood control districts. However, I want to emphasize that I consider this legislation to be a starting point to begin the debate, and I look forward to input from my colleagues, my constituents, and other interested parties.

Some ideas in this bill will be considered controversial and may need to be changed. By introducing this bill, I am not endorsing each provision, but rather, the idea that some action needs to be taken to reform the National Flood Insurance Program. In fact, it is my hope that the public will review the contents of the bill and make their specific support and objections known, so we can develop consensus legislation.

The need for this legislation was underscored by a report sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, that the National Flood Insurance Program has made flood insurance payments exceeding the values of the properties involved to thousands of repetitively flooded properties around the Nation. This report, entitled Higher Ground, found that from 1978 to 1995, 5,629 repetitively flooded homes had received \$416 million in payments, far in excess of their market value of \$307 million. My state of Texas led the Nation in volume of such payments, with more than \$144 million, or \$44 million more than the market value, paid to 1,305 repetitively flooded homes. The Houston/Harris County area, which I represent, had 132 of the 200 properties that generated the largest flood insurance payments beyond their actual value.

This included one property in South Houston that received a total of \$929,680 in flood insurance payments from 17 flooding incidents, and another property near the San Jacinto river that received \$806,591 for 16 flooding incidents, about 7 times the actual value of the home.

Other areas around the country have also had the same incidents occur. Altogether, according to the National Wildlife Federation report, although repetitive flood loss properties represent only 2 percent of all properties insured by the National Flood Insurance Program, they claim 40 percent of all NFIP payments during the period studied.

Since its creation in 1968, the NFIP has filled an essential need in offering low-cost flood insurance to homeowners who live inside 100-year flood plains. The program has helped to limit the exposure of taxpayers to disaster costs associated with flooding. However, the recent report clearly points out the need to improve the NFIP to address the problem of repetitive loss property.

Furthermore continued losses to the NFIP has increased the call by some of my colleagues to increase premiums and reduce the Federal subsidy for all Federal homeowners in the flood plain, not those who suffer from repetitive flooding loss, in order to reduce Federal budget outlays.

Without long-term comprehensive reform of the NFIP, I am concerned that in the future, Congress may follow through with proposals to double or triple flood insurance premiums for all flood-prone homeowners, as was proposed in 1995 and 1996. Many of us, myself included, fought vigorously to oppose these increases, but our victory will be short-lived if we do not make changes in the program.

These repetitive loss properties represent an enormous cost for taxpayers. They are also a tremendous burden to residents whose lives are disrupted every time there is a flood. In many cases, these residents want to move but cannot afford to do so. By repeatedly compensating them for flood damage, current Federal law makes it easier for them to continue living where they are, rather than moving to higher ground.

TRIBUTE TO OSCAR FENDLER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man from the 1st Congressional District of Arkansas who will celebrate his 90th birthday in Blytheville, Arkansas this weekend. Mr. Fendler is one of Arkansas' foremost lawyers and has practiced law since 1933 in Blytheville except for four years from 1941-45 when he was on active duty with the U.S. Navy.

Born in Blytheville and raised in Manila, Mr. Fendler has received many honors during his 65 years of law practice. He is the former president of the Arkansas Bar Association and a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Council; a fellow of the American Bar Foundation; chairman of the Section of General Practice of the American Bar Association; a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, the ABA's governing body; and a member of the American Jurisprudence Society, among other honors.

Mr. Fendler also had an interest in journalism. He is the former chief editorial writer for the Arkansas Traveler, the student newspaper at the University of Arkansas and while attending Harvard Law, he free-lanced as a reporter for the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Oscar Fendler has been a leader and advocate for Mississippi County and Northeast Arkansas for his entire life. He is a living history of that area. Mr. Fendler has been a strong voice in Arkansas law and I wish him the best on his 90th birthday and congratulate him on his 65 years of service in our state.

SALUTE TO THE HIGHLAND PARK
MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to one of the outstanding high school basketball teams in Minnesota's Fourth Congressional district who have met the challenges of athletic competition. St. Paul's Highland Park Men's Basketball Team has claimed the high school championship title in Class AAA Division.

Much praise and honor is to be extended to these young men and their coaches for their hard work and success. This team has surmounted obstacles that many thought would prevent them from reaching this achievement. Highland Park is the first public school in St. Paul to win a state boys basketball championship in fifty years.

This type of healthy competition epitomized by the Minnesota High School League that helps young people throughout our state and nation develop the self confidence and teamwork skills as they focus their energies within an exciting sports program. Once again, I offer my congratulations and I wish them luck for their future basketball seasons.

Mr. Speaker I would like to submit an article by the Pioneer Press on the victorious Highland Park Men's Basketball Team.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Mar. 21, 1999]

ST. PAUL GETS RARE TITLE BY PUBLIC SCHOOL
(By Mike Fermoye)

Highland Park compensated for a disadvantage in size with speed, a tightly run offense and a relentless defense Saturday night.

The result was a 56-46 victory over Cold Spring Rocori in the Class AAA final at Williams Arena and with that came the first state boys basketball championship by a St. Paul public school in half a century.

Humboldt beat Mankato in 1949, the last St. Paul public school to win a title. Cretin-Derham Hall, the only private school in the St. Paul City Conference, won two Class AA titles under the old two-class format, in 1991 and 1993.

Highland Park (27-2) suffered its only losses in consecutive games, first to De La Salle in the final at the Fargo (N.D.) Shanley tournament, and then to Central in its St. Paul City opener.

"When that happened," Scots coach Charles Portis said Saturday, "I thought we were headed in the wrong direction."

Instead, his team won its last 20 games.

Terrance Stokes, a 5-foot-9 point guard, ran the offense (he had five assists), made major contributions on defense and scored 14 points for Highland.

Mark Wingo would up with 17 points, had nine rebounds, and the 6-5 senior forward concluded the festivities by taking a pass from Thomas Miley and dunking it in the final second.

Sophomore Maurice Hargrow added nine points for the Scots, and he, like Stokes, was a thorn in the side of the Rocori offense all night, making five steals.

"We knew they were big," Stokes said of the Spartans, "but that just meant we had to play great defense."

Which the Scots did.

Jason Kron of Rocori led all scorers with 21 points. But no other Spartan reached double figures.

"We just didn't get the ball inside to our big guys the way we normally do," Rocori coach Bob Brink said. "It was their defense. They just put so much pressure on the perimeter that they took us out of our offense."

The Scots made their first two shots, getting a layup from Wingo to open the scoring and a three pointer from Stokes on their second possession.

But it was 2½ minutes before they scored again.

Meanwhile, the Spartans were finding the range. Kron, a 6-6 forward, made a 15-foot jump shot to put his team on the board, and 6-8 center Mike VanNevel followed up with a 12-footer.

I spent all day worrying about their height," Portis said, "It's not just that they're tall, it's that they're big and versatile. They can all play away from the basket, and that makes them really tough to guard."

Kron's sophomore brother, Steve Kron, added a three-pointer with 4:50 remaining in the opening period to give the Spartans their first at 7-5.

It was 11-7 for Rocori when Josef Mathews reignited the Scots with a three-pointer. That came with 2:28 left.

Stokes swiped the inbounds pass and scored on a layup, and suddenly Highland had its nose in front again at 12-11.

The Highland scoring spree paused briefly, as 6-6 Jeff Donnay made one of two free throws for the Spartans.

But Miley's 15-footer from the left side of the key marked the beginning of a 7-0 run for the Scots that took just 45 seconds.

Hargrow scored the last five points in the run. Mathews made an steal and then sent Hargrow in for a layup, and Hargrow knocked down a three-point shot with 55 seconds left in the quarter, increasing the Highland lead to 19-12.

The Scots slowed things in the second quarter, trying to force Rocori to spread out its zone defense. However, it was Highland's man-to-man defense that dominated the period.

After the Spartans cut the deficit to 23-18 on two free throws by Ryan Mathre with 6:06 remaining in the half, the Scots held then to two points the rest of the period.

Highland wasn't lighting it up, but Stokes converted a steal into a layup with 4:55 left, and he added a three-pointer nearly three minutes later. Miley's basket with exactly one minute to go made it 20-20, and that's how the half ended.

Rocori chopped six points off the Scots' advantage while Highland went scoreless through the first 3:55 of the third period. Mathews made a three to end the Rocori run.

Hargrow set up Wingo for a spectacular alley-oop dunk that he turned into a three-point play with 2:48 left, but Wingo's next basket was the only other one for the Scots in the quarter, and they were clinging to a 38-35 lead.

Joshua Watson scored the first points of the final quarter for Highland. Stokes supplied a layup, then missed the subsequent free throw, but Miley got the rebound and put it back in to make it 44-35. It was one of seven rebounds for the 6-8 Miley.

"The stat sheet says we outrebounded them (28-24)," Brink said. "But it seemed like they got all the crucial rebounds."

Three-pointers by Jason Kron and Steve Kron cut the margin to 44-41, before Hargrow and Wingo collaborated on another Wingo layup and with just over three minutes remaining.

Two free throws by Wingo made it 48-41 with 1:32 left.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 975, the Steel Recovery Act. For almost two years now, the United States has seen a flood of illegal steel imports enter our markets from Asia, Russia and Brazil. In the meantime, more than 10,000 Americans have lost their jobs, including over 500 in Alabama.

These foreign nations are dumping their steel on our markets in direct violation of U.S. trade laws. Hard-working Americans are losing their jobs because foreign companies are breaking our laws. Numerous American steel companies have been forced into bankruptcy as a result of foreign countries sabotaging our markets and dumping their steel at below production costs. In my home state of Alabama, one company is in dire financial trouble, putting 1,906 jobs in jeopardy.

Current trade laws are too cumbersome and too slow in providing short term relief from illegal dumping. This legislation will help us return to the pre-crisis import levels of 1994-1997. Currently, Japan's steel imports into the United States are up 96% from its pre-crisis level. Moreover, Korea's imports are up 155% and Indonesia's are up 705%. If the current Administration will not act, Congress must!

I support H.R. 975 because it contains key provisions that will help stop this crisis. By levying tariff surcharges, setting quotas and establishing programs to ensure that U.S. anti-dumping trade laws are not being violated, we can once again return to pre-crisis levels and ensure a level playing field for our domestic steel industry.

I will not allow international interests to strong-arm our steel industry and hurt our economy. Neither should you! I urge you to join me today in supporting H.R. 975.

OPENING REMARKS OF GENE E.
BRADLEY, PRESIDENT AND CEO
OF JOURNEY IN FAITH AT THE
FIRST ANNUAL SUMMIT IN
WASHINGTON, MARCH 15, 1999**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following remarks of Gene Bradley, President and CEO of Journey in Faith, delivered at the organization's First Annual Summit in Washington:

How fortunate we are to be here today—on Capitol Hill as guests of Congressman Ben Gilman and Tim Petri, Honorary Co-Chairs and Co-Hosts of Journey in Faith. How fortunate we are to be meeting in this magnificent International Relations Committee Room as we reason together: "How can we,

as partners, best contribute to the spiritual renewal of America in the New Millennium?"

I have been privileged to know Ben Gilman and Tim Petri over several enriching, fun, productive decades. I met both Ben and Tim while I was serving with IMDI, the International Management and Development Institute. Both were Congressional Members of IMDI, and Ben became an Honorary Member of our Board of Directors. Because Ben is our Honorary Host for today, I now want to say a few words about this dedicated American.

Throughout much of the cold war, Ben Gilman was on the cutting edge of U.S. policy which contributed so mightily to the defeat of the Soviet nuclear threat and aggressive world communism. He won worldwide acclaim as a human rights champion. He is noted for his relentless crusade against narcotics abuse and trafficking, co-founding the House Select Committee on Narcotics.

I have been with Ben as he briefed my institute's corporate, government, and diplomatic associates again and again—here in Washington and in most major capitols across Europe.

But the vision I hold most sharply in focus is when we went together on a mission of Jamaica at the height of the drug-trafficking crisis. Congressman Gilman—the key Member of Congress responsible for controlling narcotics—did not rely on just conferring with U.S. and Jamaican government officials. No. He needed, he requested, and he got a first-hand on-site view of what was going on. He knew that all was not going well. So in a helicopter, Ben Gilman flew 100 feet over acres and acres of marijuana crops. Yes, the drugs were there, and so was Ben.

As we began planning this First Washington Summit Meeting for Journey in Faith, I found great inspiration in these three passages from the Holy Scriptures (Matthew and Mark):

(1) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

(2) * * * freely ye have received, freely give.

(3) Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

First Point: America is a light that cannot be hid. As Ben Gilman has stated so accurately and eloquently, America is perceived worldwide as a symbol of strength and integrity, a city set on a hill—a free society rooted in Judeo-Christian traditions of law, morality, and the intrinsic worth of every human being. We find confirmation of our spiritual heritage as we tour the Congress, the White House, Washington's spectacular monuments . . . as we examine our founding documents beginning with America's Declaration of Independence which solidly affirms—. . . we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights . . ."

From Jefferson: "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time." The official motto of the United States, "In God we trust," was legislated by Congress in July 1956. We are reminded of that motto, "In God we trust," by the inscription on the coins we carry in our pockets.

Second Point: Here in America, freely we have received; and most notably in this century, freely have we given in the cause of freedom to the world. Without America, could the Allies have defeated Nazi Germany in World War II? Without America, could our courageous Allies in NATO have compelled the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Empire? We close out the 20th century with profound gratitude to God and to the heroic men and women whom Tom Brokaw has profiled in his book as "The Greatest Generation."

Third Point: Now America's mandate for the century just ahead is to go out into the

world and share with others the priceless heritage and blessings we have been privileged to enjoy. Journey in Faith is one element—just one initiative—in this vast panorama of opportunity. We are a new religious institute with focus on leadership and on the fulfillment of this mission:

The mission of Journey in Faith is to conduct leadership pilgrimages to the Bible Lands—where today's leaders and tomorrow's future leaders can walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, learn the leadership lessons He taught, deepen their faith, and experience spiritual renewal.

In my remarks I shall focus on three points: (1) Birth of the idea—Journey in Faith. (2) Where we are today in our second year—a status report, as we prepare to enter the next century. (3) Our vision for the decades ahead.

1. BIRTH OF THE IDEA

With us today is my partner in journalism, Wes Pippert—dedicated Christian, accomplished book author, senior correspondent for UPI here in Washington and the Middle East. Wes and I were deeply engaged in interviewing Christian leaders for the book we are co-authoring on *Modern Miracles*. Wes had served for three years in the Bible Lands. My Bible Lands mission was for just two weeks—but a two-week pilgrimage that deepened my faith and redirected my life. Wes and I asked ourselves: "What if the Christian leaders we are interviewing for our book—men and women of strong spiritual courage, could experience the priceless privilege each of us has known?"

Wes and I began exploring the idea with those we are profiling in our book beginning with General Ronald H. Griffith. We had interviewed the general for his remarkable experience during Desert Storm; his story appears in our article published in *New Man Magazine* entitled, "Miracle in the Desert." Ron's response to the idea was immediate and enthusiastic; Journey in Faith had his full support. And this support, more than any other single factor, helped to launch our mission. Ron became co-chairman for the Pilot Pilgrimage in January of last year. He is co-chairman for this two-day Summit today and tomorrow. And he is chairman of the new non-profit religious-educational institute we have founded.

Next, we met with our friend, Scott Scherer, President of Trinity World Tours, who has become Mission Director for Journey in Faith. Scott contributed a service none of us could have anticipated: He was able to obtain free airline passage and free hotel arrangements for the 36 leaders who would become members of our Pilot Team.

2. WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Journey in Faith finds itself where we are today because of the foundations laid through our unforgettable 7-day pilgrimage one year ago. In that Pilot Pilgrimage we followed the journey pioneered by Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago—across the Sea of Galilee where we sailed through a storm, where Christ had walked across the raging waters—the Mount of Beatitudes, the field where Jesus fed the 5,000, the desert and the pinnacle where He rebuked and vanquished the devil—the sites of His miracles where He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, comforted those who mourn, raised the dead—the site of the Last Supper—the last 24 hours—the trial, the crucifixion, the Garden Tomb and the miracle of Christ's resurrection. All of us were deeply moved. What did that seven-day pilgrimage mean to us? To quote just three of our pilot-team members:

(1) West Point Chaplain (Major) John Cook: "I've been a Christian for 32 years and a minister for almost 13 years, yet my Journey-in-Faith to Israel has been a life-chang-

ing experience * * * (2) Clyde King, Brooklyn Dodgers Hall of Fame: "I was transformed." (3) Rome Hartman, Producer, CBS/60 Minutes: "Walking in His footsteps and seeing the land He saw was plenty powerful, but to also hear His Word taught at every stop along the way is life-changing."

We had a marvelous team—including 4 from the ministry—4 military (three- and four-star generals)—education, the professions—CBS-60 Minutes, CNN, National Public Radio—giants from the sports world—corporate, the Congress, former director of the CIA.

Why do we focus on leaders?

Because leaders are decision-makers whose decisions impact the lives of others—indeed, the whole of society. Who is a leader? Each of us is a leader to the degree we accept the responsibilities thrust upon us. Our conviction is that leadership is inherent within each of us—and then expands into the home, and then out into our profession, and out into our world.

3. OUR VISION FOR THE DECADES AHEAD

As we stand at the threshold of the 21st Century, our vision for Journey in Faith is that we can expand outward from our pilot leadership team to embrace America's leadership in these 10 sectors of society: 1. Ministry, 2. Military, 3. Sports, 4. Education, 5. Health, 6. Business, 7. Law, 8. Congress, 9. Journalism, and 10. Entertainment.

"The process" can be gentle, dynamic, indeed irresistible—like dropping a pebble into a pond and witnessing the waves as they go out in concentric rings until they reach all shores.

Our actions are on course. Here is a "status report in brief": 1. We are chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational-religious institute. 2. Our starting line-up of Members and Associates is confirmed and in place. 3. Our Second Pilgrimage is already planned and scheduled by our Mission Director, Scott Scherer—for January 15-23, Year 2000. 4. We are solvent and debt-free. Our charter members have invested well over a quarter of a million dollars of their own cash and personal resources.

This is a strong, an encouraging beginning. But as we all recognize, nothing worthwhile really comes "for free"—not in our homes, not in our churches, not in our nation. Without laying solid economic foundations for the future, Journey in Faith could be remembered simply as an inspiring pilot effort. Our founding members believe that if the Lord has brought us this far,—and indeed He has, with joy and grace and fellowship,—then surely He can take us all the way.

What does it take to go all the way? We believe that immediate priorities include these three:

First, we must stay sharply focussed on our mission—leadership pilgrimages to the Bible Lands. We've got to resist temptations to get caught up in today's political controversies, either in Washington or overseas. Our focus—100 percent—is on the lessons lived and taught by Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago.

Second, we must continue to give highest priority to further building our leadership team. On this front, we are experiencing strong momentum, expanding from a pilot team of 36 members a year ago to well over 100 today, and with a goal of no less than 300 within a year. We invite each participant in this summit to join our team as an Associate if you are not already enrolled. There is no time, legal, financial, or other commitment beyond which each Associate feels he or she would like to contribute.

Third, we must plan and conduct our Second Pilgrimage on schedule and with excellence—January 15-23, the Year 2,000. And importantly, we must include young men and

women of spiritual faith who will become members of our Future Leaders Program. In parallel, we must define plans for a continuing, expanding series of pilgrimages well into the early years and decades of the 21st century.

Within two years, we can envision Journey in Faith pilgrimages beginning to generate their own income and cover their own expenses, including sponsoring future leaders, without outside financial support. As of today, we can plan two pilgrimages for this next year, the first year of the new century—and then four each year—responding to the needs and opportunities as they surely will present themselves. When we first met Scott Scherer, we learned that he had just conducted some 80 Holy Land tours the previous year, all self-financing. What is a reasonable forecast for Journey in Faith?

Our vision includes forming partnerships with a "family group" of cooperating organizations—such as those five who have joined with us in convening the summit: The International Management and Development Institute, the American Society for Law and Justice, Regents University, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Center for Religion and Diplomacy. All five are superb organizations whose leaders play a strong role in society.

We can anticipate co-sponsorship with Seminary and Divinity Schools—conducting Bible Lands Pilgrimages for their young men and women studying for the ministry who would have no other way to study, on site, the Scriptures as taught by Jesus Christ.

We can envision the rewards of involving young chaplains from the military academies: West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force Academy. How do we measure the value to our soldiers, and airmen stationed worldwide, prepared to defend America's vital interests against hostile attack?

While we cannot predict the potential for Journey in Faith with precision, we feel that the potential is substantial. With Paul, we can say, "For now, we see through a glass, darkly . . ." And we can also remember Paul's declaration, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

We close this assessment by reminding ourselves of the words of Jesus Christ which we quoted in our introduction. These passages stand as an inspiration and a mandate not just for His era but for ours as well: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid—freely ye have received, freely give—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

THE MEDICAID CHILD ELIGIBILITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Medicaid Child Eligibility Improvement Act of 1999, to help more children obtain the health care they need through Medicaid. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are currently 4.4 million children in our nation who are eligible for Medicaid but are not receiving the care they need because they are not enrolled in the program.

In Texas, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services Commission, there are currently 800,000 Medicaid-eligible children who are not enrolled in their critical health insurance program. Without this

coverage, children do not receive the preventive health services they need and deserve. Clearly, we need to do more outreach to these children and their families and encourage them to sign up for Medicaid.

This legislation would allow public schools, child care resource and referral centers, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) workers, homeless eligibility agencies, and child support agencies to make the preliminary decision that a child is eligible to enroll in Medicaid so that they can receive coverage while waiting for full Medicaid eligibility determination. Schools and these other agencies are on the front lines of caring for children and can help to educate their families and enroll them in Medicaid.

Under the Balanced Budget Act enacted in 1997, States received a new option under Medicaid to grant "presumptive eligibility" to certain children on a temporary basis as their Medicaid eligibility is determined. My legislation would expand this presumptive eligibility option to make it more flexible and attractive to the States. The presumptive eligibility period is normally sixty days and gives States sufficient time to complete the Medicaid eligibility determination process. If a state ultimately determines that the child is not eligible for Medicaid, none of these entities would be penalized or lose funding due to a negative determination. Under this legislation, we would be enrolling children on an expedited basis and could reach some of those 4.4 million children who are eligible but not enrolled.

While some would argue that there will be a cost associated with increasing participation in the Medicaid program, it is important to remember that when Congress enacted Medicaid, it assumed that these children would be covered. I would argue that adding these children is not only morally right, but also cost-effective in comparison to letting these children receive health care on an ad hoc basis. Many of these children will simply go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment and will not be able to pay for these services. In the end, we will pay the cost. With Medicaid coverage, our public institutions will be reimbursed and these children will receive better care through primary care providers instead of high-cost, emergency-care based services.

This legislation is also fiscally responsible in that it would require a state to deduct from their state allotment any funding used for this program. I believe that the small cost associated with this outreach effort will not adversely impact States' ability to provide health care for low-income children and in fact could reduce the States' disproportionate share expenditures.

We know that these children are not being properly served now and we must find innovative ways to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid. My legislation would simply accelerate the application process while maintaining sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would give states greater flexibility to determine which entities can make these determinations, and States are authorized to apply certain limitations in order to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would also permit the Secretary of the Health and Human Services to review States' decisions and ensure that the appropriate entities are allowed to enroll these children. None of these entities could immediately offer these services until their state and the

federal government has deemed them to be eligible to undertake preliminary determinations.

I believe this is an important public policy matter which we need to address. My legislation would enroll more children in Medicaid while ensuring that appropriate entities are reviewing these applications. I believe it is more cost-effective to enroll these children and ensure that they are receiving the primary care services they need, rather than sending these children to emergency rooms where children will be sicker and taxpayers will end up paying more. I also believe that we need to improve our current Medicaid presumptive eligibility law by including these new entities which were not included in the Balanced Budget Act. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation and would appreciate your support for this effort.

SHANNON MELENDI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my colleagues the tragic circumstances of a constituent, Shannon Melendi, a nineteen-year-old sophomore at Emory University.

Five years ago on March 26th, Shannon disappeared from a park where she worked. No one has seen Shannon since that day.

The prime suspect, a part-time umpire, was previously convicted of kidnaping and sexually abusing a child, but served only two years of his sentence. This was his third sexual offense.

Perhaps if this man had served his full prison sentence, Shannon would not have disappeared. Or, perhaps if he had received a harsher sentence, due to the fact that it was his third sexual offense committed against a child, Shannon would still be here today.

When sexual crimes are committed, we need to ensure that these criminals serve their full sentences so that we can be safe from sexual predators.

Shannon's father summed it up best when he said, "What happened to us cannot be changed, but because of what happened to us, changes can be made."

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DAN AND BEV GANZ

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. McCarthy of New York. Mr. Speaker, March 27, 1999 marks the 50th anniversary of the wedding of Daniel M. Ganz and Beverlee Kaufman, familiarly known as Dan and Bev Ganz. The two are currently residing in Boca Raton, Florida, but for more than 35 years they were residents of Rockville Centre, New York. In a fashion fitting such an occasion they will be celebrating this anniversary with their two children, family, and close friends.

For many years Beverlee and Danny Ganz lived in Rockville Centre, Long Island, where

they raised their family and were active in community affairs. Dan was particularly active with the Recreation Department as a volunteer working with untold numbers to improve their tennis skills.

The couple sent their children to the Rockville Centre public school system. From here their son and daughter, David and Sandy, went to find success both academically and in their respective careers. David went off to Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., and their daughter Sandy, after receiving South Side High's Laurel Award, went on to Northeastern University in Boston.

After earning a masters degree in physical therapy Sandy became an associate director of physical therapy at the Hospital for Special Therapy in Manhattan. She would later go on to become the director for the Amsterdam Nursing Home division and author a number of physical therapy treatments.

David became a lawyer, practicing in New York City and New Jersey and served a two year term as president of the American Numismatic Association. He is currently serving as the Mayor of Fair Lawn, New Jersey and has just published his 14th book-length work.

It's rare today that any couple can spend a half century in wedded bliss, but this is a couple that has done just that. Though Dan turns 80 this October and Bev will be 75 in just a few weeks, they are enjoying their golden years together, playing tennis, golf, and exploring the Internet.

After the love between he and his wife, there are two constants in Dan's life. He has a heart that keeps on giving and he continues to perform magic, which he has done professionally for nearly 70 years. With Bev at his side he frequently performs for youngsters with terminal diseases, such as AIDS.

Dan and Bev are wonderful role models for their three beautiful grandchildren, Scott, Elyse, and Pam. As this couple gathers with their daughter-in-law Kathy, a host of relatives and close family friends I would like to wish them well and congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman LEE for organizing a Special Order during Women's History Month to recognize the achievements of women of color. I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor a few of the women of color who made important contributions to the entertainment industry earlier this century: Marian Anderson, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, and Hattie McDaniel. These incredibly talented women overcame great obstacles to earn international acclaim and forge a path for the women who followed.

The legendary contralto Marian Anderson never took no for an answer. From her early days as a choir member, to her historical concert at the Lincoln Memorial, Ms. Anderson struggled against racism and ignorance to become one of the world's premiere opera stars. In the years after her legendary performance, she was awarded the Congressional Medal of

Honor by President Carter and went on to serve as a delegate to the United Nations.

Ella Fitzgerald was the first woman presented with the Los Angeles Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award, which honors those who build bridges among races and generations. Ella Fitzgerald was a major force in the music world and contributed to the evolution of jazz and the business of entertainment during her long, distinguished career. Named the "First Lady of Song," she was a pioneer in her field and went on to win ten Grammys.

Although she did not live to see her fortieth birthday, Bessie Smith had a tremendous influence on entertainment. From her modest beginnings as a vaudeville performer, Ms. Smith grew to be the nation's highest paid African American performer of the early 1920's. Her vibrance and creativity altered the music business and gave blues a more prominent role in American music and culture.

Hattie McDaniel was a woman of many firsts: the first African American woman to sing on network radio in the United States, the first African American to win an Academy Award and the first African American to star in a title role on a television sitcom. Also from humble beginnings, Ms. McDaniel moved from the quiet nights of her home in Kansas to the bright lights of Hollywood. Beating out Eleanor Roosevelt's maid, Elizabeth McDuffie, for the role of Mammy in "Gone With the Wind," Ms. McDaniel took a small role and created a character so memorable that she conquered the hearts of audiences world-wide.

These women are just a small sample of the many women of color who have contributed to the arts and helped shape our nation's culture. There is no question that they needed more than their tremendous talent to triumph during a time of institutionalized discrimination. They were models of courage, ingenuity, persistence, and character.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH STILL STRIVING FOR ECONOMIC EQUITY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Women's History Month and in tribute to the many women who, through the ages, dared to challenge injustice and discrimination in the workplace. It is the tireless work of those leaders who came before us that allow women to enjoy the benefits of the 90s. However, as we all know, those long distance runners for equality and social justice have not completed their course. During Women's History Month, we pause to reflect what we have accomplished in the past, and the work we must do for the future.

Women have made great strides in education and in the workforce. The majority of undergraduate and master's degrees are awarded to women, and 40 percent of all doctorates are earned by women. More than 7.7 million businesses in the U.S. are owned and operated by women. These businesses employ 15.5 million people, about 35 percent more than the Fortune 500 companies worldwide. And women are running for elected of-

fices in record numbers. When I first came to the House in 1987, there were 26 women in the House and two in the Senate. In 1999, there are 58 women serving in the House, and nine in the Senate.

While many doors to employment and educational opportunity have opened for women, they still get paid less than men for the same work. Women who work full-time earn less than men who are employed full-time. The average woman college graduate earns little more than the average male high school graduate. Full-time, year-round working women earn only 74 cents for each dollar a man earns.

Although women are and continue to be the majority of new entrants into the workplace, they continue to be clustered in low-skilled, low-paying jobs. Part-time and temporary workers, the majority of whom are women, are among the most vulnerable of all workers. They receive lower pay, fewer or no benefits, and little if any job security.

Women account for more than 45% of the workforce, yet they are underrepresented and face barriers in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Just this week, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the most prestigious science and engineering university in the country, issued a report revealing that female professors at the school suffer from pervasive discrimination.

That is why I introduced the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Development Act. I call it my WISE Tech bill, and it passed the 105th Congress and has been signed into law.

This Act sets up a commission to find out what is keeping women out of technology at this critical time, and what we can do about it. The bill will help us ascertain what are effective and productive policies that can address the underrepresentation of women in the sciences and could help alleviate the increasing shortage of information technology workers and engineers. This legislation is a first step in countering the roadblocks for women in our rapidly-evolving high-tech society, and will help women break through the "Glass Ceiling" and the "Silicon Ceiling" in the fields of science, engineering, and technology.

Last month, we introduced the third Violence Against Women Act, building on the commitment and success of our 1994 legislation. We are only beginning to understand the impact of domestic violence on American businesses. Domestic violence follows many women to work . . . 13,000 attacks each year . . . threatening their lives and the lives of co-workers and resulting in lost productivity for their companies.

The economic problems of the elderly affect women in disproportionate numbers because women tend to have lower pensions benefits than men. Pension policies have not accommodated women in their traditional role as family caregivers. Women move in and out of the workforce more frequently when family needs arise making it more difficult for them to accrue pension credit.

Consequently, Social Security is especially important for women. Women are heavily reliant on Social Security, and since its inception, Social Security has often been the only income source keeping women from living out their days in poverty.

Social Security has worked for women; it is a system where every worker pays in, and

every retired worker receives a pension that she can count on. Social Security has worked for women because workers who earn less receive a larger proportion of their earnings in benefits than those who earn more.

Women must play an important role in shaping Social Security for the future. Social Security reform must be assessed in terms of impact on women, the majority of Social Security recipients. A Social Security system that works well for women, will benefit all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, celebrating Women's History Month highlights the accomplishments of women and the need to open new doors in the future. But this special month would be meaningless if women's needs are forgotten during the rest of the year. We must continue to increase the workplace opportunities for women, which will benefit Americans in every corner of every state, as we face the economic challenges of the 21st century.

CONGRATULATING THE MARIPOSA
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TRACK AND
FIELD TEAM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mariposa High School girls track and field team, the Lady Grizzlies. Upon the completion of the 1998 season, the Lady Grizzlies secured their fourteenth consecutive Southern League championship. This sets an all-time record for girls track and field in the State of California.

During their streak, no opponent has posed a true threat to the Mariposa team. In 1985, the Lady Grizzlies won their meet with a score of 100, outdistancing their closest competitor by 24 points. In the 13 seasons since, they have more than doubled the score of the second-place team on 10 occasions. To add to the accomplishments of the Lady Grizzlies from 1985 to 1998, their relay teams have won 24 of the available 28 league championships, and their athletes have won 120 out of 186 possible individual league titles. Among the team members from 1990 to 1997, 8 members of the Lady Grizzly team have gone on to compete in track and field on the college level.

Since 1985, the year this winning streak began, the number of teams in the Southern League has fluctuated between 6 and 10 squads. Also in that time, Mariposa has seen 5 different head coaches, 3 principals, and 4 district superintendents. The stability the Lady Grizzlies have maintained throughout these 14 years is a testament to the dedication of the athletes, as well as to the encouragement they have received in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Lady Grizzlies of Mariposa High School have performed exceptionally throughout the last decade and a half. They have illustrated the virtues of dedication, tenacity, and team work. I encourage them to continue on this path, and wish them the best of luck in the future. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mariposa Lady Grizzlies track and field team.

CAMP-PRICE DRY CLEANING ENVIRONMENTAL TAX CREDIT ACT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, Rep. DAVE CAMP and I are introducing the Camp-Price Dry Cleaning Environmental Tax Credit Act, legislation which would provide an incentive for dry cleaners to transition to environmentally friendly dry cleaning technologies. Under this legislation, dry cleaners would be able to take a 20-percent tax credit on the purchase of technologies that substantially reduce risks to public health and the environment.

The Federal Government can and should help accelerate the transition to technologies that meet our criteria for greater energy efficiency, or greater protection of public health and the environment. If we really want the private sector to move toward greener and healthier technologies, and if we don't want to simply rely on new regulation to do it, the simplest, most effective method is through targeted tax incentives. President Clinton has proposed this type of approach for equipment that helps reduce energy consumption, and I think it is also appropriate for equipment that helps protect human health and the environment.

We are just beginning to see the possibilities of what technology can accomplish for environmental protection. Environmental technology promises to mend the rift that has too often arisen between environmental protection and economic development. It will make reducing pollution easier and cheaper, and it will itself become an engine for growth in our economy.

I am pleased to join with my colleague on this initiative and look forward to working with him to achieve its passage.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, during this Women's History Month, I'd like to tell you about Johnnie Carr, Daisy Bates, and Diane Nash, three women of color who helped shape America.

How many of you know these women and how their work contributed to the greatest social revolution of our time?

The role of black women in the civil rights movement has largely been overlooked by historians. Yet, black women throughout the South organized protests, strategized, rounded up volunteers for marches and sit-ins, raised money, registered voters—and put their lives on the line.

This network, which crisscrossed cities, towns, and rural areas across the South, provided the underpinning for Dr. King's organization.

The famous Montgomery bus boycott of 1955–56 that put Dr. King in the nation's spotlight for the first time was started by and sus-

tained by women, who put their reputations, their lives, and their jobs on the line. Women organized carpools through their churches and found funds to help support those who had been fired because of their participation in the boycott.

Johnnie Carr of Montgomery helped bail out Rosa Parks who had triggered the boycott when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Mrs. Carr helped organize that famous boycott and went on to organize the Montgomery Improvement Association and the struggle to desegregate life in Montgomery.

During the course of the boycott that lasted for 382 days, Johnnie Carr arranged for church and private carpools to carry people to their jobs and helped clothe and feed those who had been fired or blacklisted because of their support of the boycott.

Mrs. Carr told the Chicago Tribune in 1994, "We focused on segregation in every phase of life. We were willing to risk bodily harm and even death. . . . The bus company personnel did so many things to intimidate us, but we stood firm in refusing to ride the segregated buses. People walked together in the pouring rain, holding hands and singing."

The boycott was a success, and ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregation on Alabama's buses to be unconstitutional.

Daisy Bates story is set in Little Rock, Ark., where she was a leader in the fight to desegregate the city's all-white Central High School. She and her husband ran the Arkansas State Press Newspaper and were active in the local chapter of the NAACP. Daisy Bates was the "coordinator" of the nine children who were selected to attend Central High School, starting on September 4, 1957.

Many of you, if you are old enough, will remember watching events unfold in black and white on your TV sets. On September 3, the Governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, ordered the National Guard to surround the school to prevent the nine students from entering the school. His actions were, of course, in direct violation of the 1954 Supreme Court ruling that outlawed "separate but equal schools."

"The parents [of the black children] were justifiably afraid for their children's safety," Bates told the Chicago Tribune. "But we felt that we had to risk everything. . . ."

A mob lying in wait for the arrival of the children tried to lynch 15-year-old Elizabeth Eckford. On September 23, they tried again to enter the school, succeeded but had to leave because of the threatening mob outside. Bates demanded that President Eisenhower intervene and violence spread throughout the city.

The President dispatched 10,000 members of the National Guard and the 101st Airborne division and Central High was integrated.

Although Daisy Bates "won," it was not without a great price. She and other local NAACP leaders were arrested and she and her husband lost their newspaper business when they refused to cave-in to the demands of advertisers that she dissuade blacks from applying for admission to Central High School.

Diane Nash grew up on Chicago's South Side and in 1959 went off to Nashville to attend Fisk University, one of our nation's leading historically black colleges. "There were no restaurants in downtown Nashville where black people could sit and eat in an unsegregated manner, and only one movie theater, where we were relegated to the balcony," Nash told a Chicago Tribune reporter in 1994.

She began attending workshops on non-violence and soon found herself involved in lunchcounter sit-ins that eventually spread across the South. Beginning on New Year's Day 1960 in Greensboro, N.C., and Nashville, the civil rights activists targeted the lunch counters of Woolworth's Walgreen's and Kresge's and other local restaurants. By that summer, Nashville became the first city in the South to desegregate its lunch counters. Another victory for nonviolence—and good organization.

Nash went on to help form the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and in 1961 helped to organize the first Freedom Ride from Birmingham, Ala., to Jackson, Miss., in which blacks and whites rode the bus together in violation of state laws.

"Riders were beaten repeatedly at the various stops, and buses were set ablaze," Nash later recounted. "The riders were considered so dangerous that many gave sealed letters to be mailed in the event of their deaths."

Nash went to jail for her efforts to integrate interstate bus travel and went on to serve on a Presidential committee that made recommendations for what was to become the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

History teaches us many things, but the most important lesson we can learn from Johnny Carr, Daisy Bates and Diane Nash and their struggle for civil rights is that through courage, commitment, and a willingness to work together, each and every one of us can overcome our most difficult and sometimes seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Let me close with an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last sermon, the one he gave in Memphis on April 3, 1968, the night before he was murdered:

Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation. . . .

In this House of Representatives I am pleased to serve with 13 women of color who are also helping to shape our great America. Working together, we can envision and realize that America.

REMARKS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week a man was forced to mourn the loss of his wife, not once, but twice in one week.

After believing that he had buried his wife Michaelle—who was one of the victims of the ill-fated boat of Haitian refugees that sunk off the coast of Florida March 5—Mr. Edner Doirin was informed that the morgue originally gave him the wrong body. So he had to endure a second burial to lay his wife to rest.

This is tragic in itself. But what makes it intolerable is that Mr. Doirin's wife should never have had to be buried at all.

She should be alive and well. Instead, she is one of the many victims of an illegal smuggling operation that treats human beings like cargo.

The March 5 disaster that left as many as 40 people dead is one of the most historically deadly smuggling incidents ever off of our South Florida shores.

And it came on the heels of a similar tragedy in mid-December, when as many as 13 people drowned in another illegal smuggling attempt.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is clearly on the brink—again—of an illegal immigration crisis. In the short period between January 1 and March 10, there have been a total of 45 illegal landings, 31 interdictions and 34 identified smuggling activities, resulting in over 400 illegal alien entrants by sea.

These are part of an effort by smugglers to take advantage of desperate, innocent people living in rapidly deteriorating conditions in Haiti, Cuba, and other impoverished or politically repressive countries.

We have heard the Clinton Administration say that it is "doing everything it can" to address this situation and that—even after this recent tragedy—there is no need to change its policies or to target additional resources.

I strongly, strongly disagree.

I do not believe that this Administration has truly committed itself and the resources that Congress has given it to adequately addressing the problem of illegal immigration and alien smuggling.

President Clinton has reportedly ignored his own immigration officials. He also has ignored the 1996 law that we passed in Congress that both provided funding and required that 1,000 new Border Patrol agents be hired each year from 1997 to 2001.

They call this decision to intentionally ignore the law a decision to—quote—"take a breather."

Recently, INS Commissioner Doris Meissner testified before a Senate subcommittee that the Administration decided to "take a breather"—and say no—when she and Attorney General Reno both requested funding for the 1,000 new agents.

And while the Administration is "taking a breather," people are drowning off the coast of Florida.

What angers me even more is to see my own state of Florida becoming the weak link and the focal point of current illegal smuggling efforts.

While the number of immigration control agents has more than doubled during the past five years—to over 8,000—Florida hasn't seen an increase of agents in 10 years.

In Florida, 52 Border Patrol agents are trying to stop an estimated 12,000 illegals who come into Florida by sea each year. Because of their few numbers, the Border Patrol and Coast Guard together are only able to catch a mere 10% of them.

Not only are there huge gaps in our Border Patrol, but the mechanisms designed to nab the illegal aliens that slip in are also failing.

The INS has now decided to change their enforcement tactics and has suspended most surprise workplace inspections that would identify illegal workers and the employers who hire them.

These once-successful tactics are not only being eliminated in Florida, but across the country. And the switch sends a clear message to illegal aliens and smugglers that they're OK unless they get caught committing a crime.

I think it's unbelievable that our enforcement standards are going down just when illegal immigration is on the rise.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush wrote to Attorney General Reno following our most recent tragedy requesting additional efforts. I would like to call upon the Clinton administration to honor his requests:

He is asking—and I am asking—for:

More effective intelligence operations to detect immigrant smuggling—The recent tragedy was detected by commercial ship, not U.S. intelligence.

Greater interdiction efforts along the U.S. coast. More deaths could be prevented if boats of illegal immigrants were stopped at sea.

Increased federal resources to make the prevention of immigrant smuggling a top priority, with an increased focus on South Florida.

Expanded holding capacity for the Krome detention facility located in Miami-Dade county so that officials will be able to detain larger numbers of illegal aliens after raids.

The creation of a federal task force to focus on smuggling.

An aggressive public information campaign directed at smugglers.

Mr. Speaker, people are dying—dying just short of Florida's shores, of America's shores. The responsibility for preventing these tragedies lies solely with the Administration, who has been given the way by Congress to act—but apparently not the will.

I strongly urge President Clinton to mount an aggressive, relentless effort to put a stop to the insidious problem of illegal immigrant smuggling once and for all . . . before more lives are lost.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ELIMINATE TAXES ON TIPS UP TO \$10,000

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill that will benefit millions of Americans directly, substantially and quickly, including most notably single mothers and students. Furthermore, this legislation will lift some of the heavy burden of government off of thousands of small businesses.

My bill is very simple. It calls a tip what it is: a gift. All tips earned, not to exceed \$10,000 annually, would be tax-free. This puts hundreds of dollars a month back where it belongs, with the individual who earned it.

Those who work in the service sector, who rely principally on tips for their income, work in a system transacted largely in cash. Accounting for small amounts of cash for income tax purposes is not only unworkable, it is unenforceable even if a paperwork scheme could somehow be conceived.

Small amounts of cash, received through hundreds and hundreds of transactions, and almost never while standing behind a cash register, should not be taxable. Washington bureaucrats lack an understanding as to just how impractical the present system is to all those who labor so hard for their tips.

The system simply breaks down.

Tips cannot possibly be reported accurately, and law-abiding citizens who work for tips do not wish to be labeled cheaters by people who don't understand the realities of their work.

It is time to change that.

My bill caps the tax-free earnings of those who make waiting on tables a career in high-end restaurants and resorts, at \$10,000. But for the 95 percent of those in the service sector who work for tips, it's time to change the tax law covering income from tips.

Under current law, service employees who typically earn tips are assumed to have made at least 8 percent of their gross sales in tips. This tax is applied regardless of the actual level of the tip. Further, if the service personnel earns more than 8 percent in tips they are expected to report them accordingly. The end result for these employees, many of whose base salaries do not exceed minimum wage, is that they may have to pay taxes on income they didn't receive.

In addition, accounting for tips and gross sales is a burden on every restaurant, bar or other small business whose employees are regularly tipped. They are constantly under threat of an audit, where the IRS will hold their business responsible if the agency determines tip skimming to have occurred.

By putting in place a reasonable annual cap and strictly defining a tip, this tax relief bill is clearly focused on low- to middle-income households. According to the industries involved, most of the employees that will be helped are either students or single mothers. In addition, most of the employees are at the beginning of their careers.

Those in the service sector who rely on tips for their income are a special breed of people. Those who work for tips see a direct relationship between effort and reward like few others. Night after night, day after day, weekend after weekend, the millions of bell hops, valet parking attendants, coat checkers, taxi drivers, hairdressers, bartenders, waiters and waitresses are on the job, working hard and providing vital services to people of every walk of life.

Let us give a break to those who labor so hard for their living. Let's show them, for a change, that the Federal Government is not so out of touch, and has some understanding of life for so many, especially during their younger years in entry level jobs. I hope other Members will join with me in this common sense proposal that will help millions of hard-working Americans.

COMMENDING CITIZENS FROM
CONNECTICUT FOR AIDING VIC-
TIMS OF HURRICANE MITCH

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call my colleagues' attention to the work of a number of people from Connecticut who are helping to make life easier for our neighbors in Central America.

Last October, Central America suffered the greatest natural disaster of this century when Hurricane Mitch roared through the region. In Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, Hurricane Mitch caused more than 9,000 deaths, left millions homeless, and resulted in \$8.5 billion in damage to homes, hospitals, schools, roads, farms, and businesses. As these countries were consolidating the gains of democracy, this brutal natural disaster came along and wiped out years of progress.

I have attached an article that appeared this week in the *Hartford Courant* which illustrates that the people of Connecticut are going out of their way to alleviate suffering and restore a small ray of hope to the people of Honduras. The Honduras Relief Committee of Connecticut—led by Dario Euraque, Cynthia Hill and a number of other students at Trinity College—has raised \$30,000 for relief efforts and sent 50 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies to Honduras.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that Congress has failed to provide desperately needed assistance to the hurricane-ravaged nations of Central America. I commend the people of Connecticut are helping to fill this void by providing assistance directly to the people of Central America. This kind of assistance is vital to alleviate suffering. Moreover, it also deepens the bonds of friendship between the people of the U.S. and the people of Central America. This will pay dividends for years to come.

AMBASSADOR OUTLINES NEEDS OF HONDURAS

(By Cynde Rodriguez)

The Honduran ambassador to the United Nations asked for continued global and financial support Saturday as the country begins to rebuild after being devastated by Hurricane Mitch last fall.

The ambassador, Hugo Noe Pino, told a small crowd at Trinity College that, several months after the natural disaster, Honduras is looking for financial help to rebuild roads, bridges, homes and schools. While Honduras received millions of dollars in emergency food and supplies right after the hurricane, Pino said there is still a lot of work to be done.

Hurricane Mitch killed more than 9,000 people and caused about \$7 billion to \$10 billion in damage.

New maps of Honduras are now being drawn to reflect rivers that have taken new courses and villages that were forced to relocate.

Pino said there is a big concern that Honduras will be forgotten in the coming months, that developed countries in the position to help may turn their attention and dollars elsewhere.

"In the emergency part, one month after the hurricane, international help was very important and opportune to prevent hunger. The most important need now is to rebuild," Pino said. "After six months, people forget about what happened and there's a problem in another part of the world and the attention goes there."

In an effort to prevent that from happening, the Clinton administration recently asked Congress for an emergency package of \$956 million to rebuild Central America. The money would be in addition to the \$300 million already provided for immediate disaster relief.

Locally, the Honduras Relief Committee of Connecticut continues to raise money and supplies, said Dario Euraque, director of international studies at Trinity and the committee's treasurer. Since November, the committee has raised \$30,000 and has sent 50 tons of food, clothing and medical supplies to Honduras.

Trinity senior Cynthia Hill will be one of three students to go on a relief mission in June. Hill and the others will use a \$2,000 donation from Trinity to buy food and medical and housing supplies for Hondurans while they are there.

An anthropology major who graduates in June, Hill said she was compelled to help with the relief effort because "the devastation was so all-consuming."

"Every aspect of the country was hit," said Hill. "I see it as they have a right to be rebuilt. . . . It was a natural disaster. It just

happened to be Honduras, but it could've been any of us."

COMMENDING SIX AFRICAN AMER-
ICAN LEADERS FOR THEIR
VITAL ROLES

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of six African American leaders in Denver who fulfill vital roles in their communities. It is to commend these outstanding citizens that I rise to honor Rev. Paul Martin, Gloria Holliday, Rev. James Peters, Jr., Menola Neal Upshaw, Rev. Jesse Langston Boyd, Jr., and Arie Parks Taylor.

Reverend Paul Martin is the Chair of the Denver Urban League and also Senior Pastor at Denver's Macedonia Baptist Church. In conjunction with his church, he has laid the groundwork for a senior citizen's manor and remains active in creating and finding more housing for seniors. He has not only protected the interests of the elderly, but in conjunction with the Urban League, he has ignited the dreams of youth as well. Another example of this commitment is his work to open the Redeemer Alternative School for pre-kindergarten through 8th grade age children in Los Angeles, CA.

Currently, Reverend Martin is on the frontlines of a movement to redevelop neglected Denver neighborhoods. Through his work with the Stapleton Development Corp., he has helped take strides in the redevelopment of the old Stapleton airport site in central Denver. The Reverend is also working conscientiously to revitalize Northeast Denver. It comes as no surprise to me or any other member of our community that Reverend Martin was recently presented with the Humanitarian Race Relations Award by the city and county of Denver.

Gloria Holliday has amassed a long history of hard work on behalf of the African American community. In the 1960's, she served as secretary to legendary civil rights activist, Medgar Evers. Working with Evers on voter registration and integration, she organized the first economic boycott of racist business merchants in Jackson, MS, and fought valiantly to desegregate hotels in Atlanta, GA. Her desegregation efforts continued in Denver when she confronted and helped integrate retailers like King Soopers, Safeway and Denver Dry Goods Co.

Gloria has been a long time Democratic Party activist. She now serves on the Board of the Regional Transportation District (RTD) where she has been instrumental in creating an ad wheel that won the highest American Public Transit Association award. She also won the Black Women for Political Action's Award for Politics based on her work for RTD and her own personal endeavors. Not surprisingly, Gloria is also known for her outstanding work with youth. For young and old, she is a pillar in the community.

Reverend James D. Peters, Jr. also has a long history of civic leadership. This commitment has earned him several notable honors,

including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Special Service Award and the Outstanding Service Award, presented to him by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Peters worked for Dr. King in Connecticut where he raised money for civil rights causes. These funds were used to organize bus trips from Connecticut to the South for demonstrations and for bailing protestors out of prison among other things.

In Denver, Reverend Peters helps to fulfill both the spiritual and humanitarian needs of Denverites through his work as Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church and as a member of the Denver Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. As a member of that board, he assists 22,000 public housing residents in enhancing the living conditions of their homes. His devotion and service to the community have earned him several accolades. Since his arrival in Denver, the Anti-Defamation League recognized him with its Civil Rights Award and the Denver City Council cited him for his leadership in Denver.

Menola Neal Upshaw has devoted herself to the city of Denver as the President of the Denver branch of the NAACP and as a teacher and administrator. Mrs. Upshaw taught elementary school students in Oklahoma City, East St. Louis, Illinois and Denver. She served as a Denver Public Schools administrator for 26 years. The Denver Public Schools recognized her outstanding work as a teacher and administrator with a cherished award, the Teacher of the Year Award. Menola also won the NAACP Legend of the Year Award and Woman of the Year Award.

She has been a member of the NAACP since she was 9 years old and the president of the Denver branch since 1994. She has won additional awards for her parenting skills and work with her church. She won the Parent of the Year Award from Ottawa University and the Most Valiant Woman award given by the Zion Baptist Church, where she served as Sunday School Superintendent for 25 years.

Reverend Jesse Langston Boyd, Jr., enriches Denver working as the pastor of Shorter Community African Methodist Episcopal Church and also through his own community efforts. His contributions to his parishioners have included the rebuilding and relocation of his church, containing education facilities and a multi-family housing complex. He is a past president of the Denver Ministerial Alliance and Methodist Ministers Fellowship in Denver and has served as a member of the Executive Board of Denver's Council of Churches.

He has also held important secular positions. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of Denver-Metro Push and is the organizer of PUSH-Los Angeles. In addition, former Governor Roy Romer appointed him the first African American on the State of Colorado Wildlife Commission and to the Colorado Commission for Prenatal Care.

I would also like to recognize Arie Parks Taylor who has devoted a lifetime to improving Denver. Arie Taylor is often compared to Bella Abzug, a former Congresswoman from New York, who is remembered for her custom of wearing hats and her advocacy for the disadvantaged. Arie wears hats as well, but it is her compassion for people that helped Colorado so much.

Arie served Colorado as a State Representative for District 7 for 12 years. While in office

she passed legislation amending fair housing and civil rights laws. She also sponsored legislation to help people with hemophilia and sickle cell anemia find care. She caught the eye of the Nation when she served three times as a delegate at the National Democratic Convention, where she protested the seating of all-white southern delegations. Not only did she work in these positions, but she retired in 1995 as Denver's first African American Clerk and Recorder.

Please join me in commending Rev. Paul Martin, Gloria Holliday, Rev. James Peters, Jr., Menola Neal Upshaw, Rev. Jesse Langston Boyd, Jr., and Arie Parks Taylor for their courage and fortitude. It is the strong leadership they present in their everyday lives that make them so beloved in our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT
FREEDOM FROM RESTRAINT ACT
OF 1999

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Rep. Degette and our colleagues in introducing the Patient Freedom from Restraint Act of 1999. According to recent estimates, between 50 and 150 people die each year in psychiatric hospitals and other residential treatment centers while restrained or in seclusion. This legislation would extend much needed and long over due protections for people who rely on others for their care and safety. Specifically, our legislation will protect individuals living in residential facilities for adults and children who are developmentally delayed or suffer from a mental health disability.

According to a 1996 GAO report on institutions for the mentally retarded, one of the most common problems of care was excessive or inappropriate use of restraints. Other reports indicate the deaths due to restraint result from inappropriate and reckless use of restraint techniques and neglect of the patient's well being. Even if there is no physical harm due to restraint, the violent act can have long-term implications for the patient's psychological health and recovery.

Restraint and seclusion have no medical or therapeutic function. In fact, these techniques may do more to harm the individual than help. The only time that such measures are warranted occur when the person's behavior creates an immediate threat to the health and safety of self and others.

Currently, there is no federal statute or uniform regulation that protects patients from the misuse of restraints and seclusion. Many years ago, the same problem existed in nursing homes. Patients were indiscriminately restrained and suffered terrible as a result. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 greatly changed how the nation's elderly are treated. In essence, we revised the Social Security Act to make clear that restraint and seclusion could be used only in extreme cases. The result of that legislation has been an incredible improvement in the treatment that seniors receive. The staff of nursing homes found that simple changes in the environment and procedures made restraints unnecessary.

Our legislation would not prohibit the use of restraint or seclusion, it merely identifies the conditions when they may be used. The more important aspect of the legislation is that it would protect the health and safety of the patient. Our legislation would require that treatment facilities document the use of restraint and seclusion in the patient's treatment or medical record. In addition, to reporting the incident, the staff of the facility must document treatment a treatment plan to reduce the future risk of episodes requiring restraint or seclusion.

The legislation would require that residential facilities train their staff in the appropriate use of restraint techniques and its alternatives. We believe that this is an essential feature of the bill. Many of the deaths and severe injuries that patients experience result from misuse of standard restraint procedures.

Finally, the legislation would require that cases of severe injury and death be reported to the State's Protection and Advocacy Board, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Documentation of these cases is an essential mechanism for protecting the rights and liberties of the patients.

MORE JOBS IN THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Department of Justice and SBC Communications for reaching an agreement which resolves the Department's antitrust concerns about SBC's pending merger with Ameritech. This agreement brings consumers one step closer to more options, lower prices and more substantial jobs in the telecommunications industry. The intent of the 1996 Telecommunications Act was to bring more competition to the telecommunications industry and this merger would be a good step towards a more competitive marketplace.

I commend SBC and Ameritech for their commitment to American workers. This proposed merger has the support of the AFL-CIO, the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. SBC and Ameritech have committed to these labor unions that this merger will increase, not decrease, the number of good jobs in the telecommunications industry. SBC has already proven itself. Despite some critics' concerns, since SBC merged with Pacific Telesis, residential and business prices for basic local service in California have remained stable. In the meantime, SBC has also introduced new products and services and has created more than 2000 new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the FCC to move quickly in approving this merger and to enforce the Congressional intent of the 1996 Telecommunications Act to lower prices, provide more choices for consumers and create new jobs in the industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during a rollcall vote: number 27, on Approving the Journal. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO BARTON E. WOODWARD

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Barton E. Woodward, a Colorado water expert, who recently passed away at the age of 57.

Woodward was born near Snyder, Colorado, in 1941. He was a 1959 graduate of Snyder High School and received his degree in broadcast engineering in 1963 from Bob Jones University. Also in 1963, he and Roxanne Miller celebrated their marriage, and then moved to the family farm near Snyder.

In addition to being a farmer, Woodward pursued other interests including computer consulting and water engineering. For the past 15 years, he was very active in Colorado water issues, including serving on the board of directors of the Riverside Irrigation District and most recently as the district superintendent. As superintendent, he was instrumental in the construction of Vancil Reservoir.

He has also served as president of the Groundwater Appropriators of the South Platte since 1984 and currently was on the board of directors of the South Platte Lower River Group. He was a long-time member of Colorado Water Congress and former president, and also served as president of the Pioneer Water and Irrigation District.

Woodward also served the community as an activist in the Republican Party, serving as Morgan County Republican Party Chairman and on the Republican Central Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to this man whose friends, including me, knew him to be a man of compassion, integrity and honesty. When he gave his word, you could count on it. His passion for agriculture and knowledge of resources will be sorely missed by the agricultural and water communities of eastern Colorado.

OUR THANKS TO SUSAN L. TAYLOR

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in expressing appreciation to a remarkable woman of our times who will be lending her support to a school in my Congressional District this weekend, Ms. Susan L. Taylor.

Editor in Chief of Essence Magazine and Senior Vice President of Essence Communications, Ms. Taylor still manages to give generously of her time so that others might enjoy a fuller and richer life. On Saturday, March 27, she will be featured as the keynote speaker at an event entitled "An Afternoon of Inspiration" in support of New Hope Academy in Newark, New Jersey, so that the school may continue to offer young people the chance to achieve their dreams. She is a believer in the African proverb that "It takes a whole village to raise a child."

I was fortunate to serve on a panel at Essex County College several years ago with Ms. Taylor where the discussion centered around the challenges facing single parents. Her presentation was so impressive and dynamic that years later, people are still coming up to me and commenting about how well they recall that discussion.

Ms. Taylor has inspired many others with her outstanding professional success. Under her leadership, Essence Magazine enjoys a monthly circulation of 1 million and a readership of 7.6 million.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues share my appreciation for Ms. Taylor's generosity in sharing her time and talents with others. We thank her for her appearance in support of New Hope Academy and wish her continued success.

TRIBUTE TO NELLIE MACKAY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Nellie Mackay, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service. She will be honored this Saturday, March 27, by parents, family, friends, and professionals for her outstanding contributions to the community at the Sixth Annual Senior Citizen Luncheon hosted by the Patterson Volunteer Committee, Inc. at the Mott Haven Community Center.

Born in Elkton, Tennessee, Ms. Mackay moved to New York and has been a resident of Patterson Houses for 32 years. A 1986 graduate from Vermont College and graduate of Medical Aide Training School in 1997, she has certainly shown the importance of life long learning.

She is a Bronx State Committee member and a member of Community Planning board #1. Through her years of service, she has served on the National Advisory Council of Save a Marriage, the City of New York Child Abuse and Maltreatment committee, and New York University Food Service and Management program among many others.

Mr. Speaker, Nellie also visits Middletown New York Prison once a year to do a Black History workshop with inmates. She was the representative for Senior Citizens for Social Security from 1973 until 1975 and in 1979 she ran a workshop for children from the Mott Haven Day Care Center about their heritage, which appeared in Big Red newspaper. She has been involved in a wide variety of community activities, including volunteer work with the elderly and marriage counseling.

The business, professional, and civic organizations to which she belonged, like the honors

and awards she was given are almost beyond counting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Nellie Mackay for her outstanding achievements and her enduring commitment to the community.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the First-time Homebuyer Affordability Act. I am joined in this effort by 20 original cosponsors. I am also pleased to announce that Senator KERRY (D-MA) will be introducing this legislation in the Senate.

This bill is a pro-homeownership initiative, based on the principle of empowering families and individuals to use funds in their own retirement accounts to buy a home.

The First-time Homebuyer Affordability Act unlocks the \$2 trillion currently held nationwide in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) for homeownership use. It does so by allowing individuals to borrow up to \$10,000 from their own IRA (or from their parent's IRA) to use as a downpayment on a first-time home purchase. Since funds are borrowed, rather than withdrawn, the homebuyer does not incur Federal taxes or a premature withdrawal penalty.

This bill is a targeted effort to narrow the arbitrary disparity between treatment of 401(k) retirement plans and IRA retirement plans. Under current law, individuals may borrow from their 401(k) retirement account without paying taxes for a broad range of purposes, including buying a home. Yet, individuals cannot borrow or otherwise use funds in their IRA for personal use, even to buy a home, without incurring Federal taxes. This is a significant and inequitable impediment to homeownership.

Two years ago, Congress took a modest step toward lowering financial barriers to the use of IRA funds for home purchase—through enactment of a waiver of the 10 percent premature withdrawal penalty for withdrawal of up to \$10,000 from an IRA account for a first-time home purchase. However, such a withdrawal still subjects the homebuyer to Federal taxes on the amount withdrawn. For a \$10,000 withdrawal by a typical taxpayer in the 28 percent tax bracket, this creates a Federal tax liability of \$2,800—leaving only \$7,200 for a downpayment on a home purchase.

Under the First-time Homebuyer Affordability Act, funds may be borrowed tax- and penalty-free from an IRA account for a period of up to 15 years, either on a fully amortized or interest only basis. The loan must be repaid if the house is sold or if it ceases to be a principal residence. When the loan is repaid, the funds are restored in the IRA account, fully available for re-investment on a continuing tax-deferred basis.

Alternatively, the bill permits use of IRA funds for a first-time home purchase as a home equity participation investment. Under this approach, IRA funds are used for downpayment; when the house is sold, the investment, plus a share of the profit from home sale (typically 50 percent) is repaid to the IRA account.

The purpose of IRAs is to encourage long-term savings and investment, to provide a financial cushion in retirement. Yet, even though buying a home is one of the best investments an individual can make, it is not an eligible IRA investment. Allowing an individual to borrow from their IRA to buy a home effectively makes this an eligible investment.

Allowing IRA borrowing for home purchase would also eliminate a disincentive against IRA contributions. Many young families and individuals are hesitant to tie up funds in an IRA account that they may need later to buy a home. And, IRA borrowing for home purchase does not deplete the IRA account, since the funds are replenished when the loan is paid back.

Finally, this legislation is responsibly drafted, to prevent self-dealing and generally track provisions of 401(k) loans. Nonpayment or forgiveness of the loan is treated as a premature withdrawal. In such event, the unpaid amount would be subject to Federal taxes and a 10-percent premature withdrawal penalty.

Other protections include a prohibition against taking an interest deduction on the borrowed funds, and a limitation that loan rates cannot vary by more than 200 basis points (2 percent) from comparable Treasury maturities.

As Congress considers proposals to create new individualized retirement accounts, it is important to structure such accounts in a way that provides access for home purchase. But, it is equally important to remove the significant tax barriers to home purchase for the \$2 trillion in existing IRA retirement assets. The "First-time Homebuyer Affordability Act" accomplishes that important goal.

FEDERAL PRISONER HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT ACT

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act, which would require Federal prisoners to pay a nominal fee when they initiate certain visits for medical attention. Seventy-five percent of the fee would be deposited in the Federal Crime Victims' Fund and the remainder would go to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the Marshals Service for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this Act. Each time a prisoner pays to heal himself, he will be paying to heal a victim. The U.S. Department of Justice supports the Federal inmate user fee concept, and has worked on crafting the language contained in this bill.

Most law-abiding Americans pay a copayment when they seek medical attention. Why should Federal prisoners be exempted from this responsibility?

This reform on the Federal level is overdue. Health care costs for Federal prisoners has risen considerably over the past several years. Only a handful of states exceed the Federal system in the cost of care per inmate. Establishing a copayment requirement would exert an immediate downward pressure on prison health care costs.

States have recognized the value of copayment programs, and they have proliferated in

recent times. Now, well over half of the states (at last count 34) have copayment programs on a statewide basis, including Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Additional states are considering implementing copayment programs. Moreover, at least half of the states—some of which have not enacted this health care reform on a statewide basis—have jail systems that impose a copayment on inmates seeking certain types of health care.

Copayment programs have an outstanding record of success on the State level. In June 1996, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care held a conference that examined statewide fee-for-service programs. Dr. Ron Waldron of the Bureau of Prisons concluded that "inmate user fees programs appear to reduce utilization, and do generate modest revenues."

Evidence of the effectiveness of copayment programs continues to surface. Tennessee, which began requiring \$3 copayments in January 1996, reported in late 1997 that the number of infirmary visits per inmate had been cut almost in half. In August, prison officials in Ohio evaluated the nascent State copayment law, finding that the number of prisoners seeing a doctor had dropped 55 percent and that between March and August the copayment fee generated \$89,500. And in my home state of Arizona, there has been a reduction of about 30 percent in the number of requests for health care services.

Copayment programs reduce the overutilization of health care services without denying the indigent of necessary care. In discouraging the overuse of health care, prisoners in true need of attention should receive better care. Taxpayers benefit through the reduction in the expense of operating a prison health care system. And the burden of corrections officers to escort prisoners feigning illness to health care facilities is reduced.

The Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act provides that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall assess a nominal fee for each health care visit that he or she—consistent with the Act—determines should be covered. The legislation also allows state and local facilities to collect health care copayment fees when housing federal prisoners.

The Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act prohibits the refusal of treatment for financial reasons or appropriate preventative care.

Finally, the Act requires that the Director report to Congress the amount collected under the legislation and an analysis of the effects of the implementation of this legislation on the nature and extent of health care visits by prisoners.

Congress should speedily enact this important prisoner health care reform bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Department of Justice to pass this proposal.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for this legislation, that seeks to address the serious steel dumping problem which has resulted in the loss of over 10,000 steelworker jobs nationwide; but also to inform my colleagues about a concern that I have about some potential impacts of such legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe that the rapid escalation of steel imports into the United States over the past eighteen months has reached crisis levels. Reports indicate that steel imports increased by 72 percent from November of 1997 to November of 1998, and that increase has led to staggering layoffs and reductions in work hours for those working in our nation's steel industries. Those layoffs and work stoppages have seriously concerned me and should alarm all of us.

During that period, imports from Japan were up 260 percent, imports from Russia advanced 262 percent, and those from Korea increased by over 220 percent. Imports from Brazil, Ukraine, China, Indonesia, and South Africa have steadily grown. In some cases, foreign manufacturers have been shown to have sold steel for well under the cost of production.

It is clear that the United States must take strong action to ensure the enforcement of our trade policies. Mr. Speaker, I support policies that enhance U.S. trade partnerships, but I also believe that we must demand fair and responsible trade behavior from those partners. Our nation must not stand idle while our laws are flagrantly violated. Therefore, I strongly support the intent of H.R. 975 and the measures that the legislation would implement to control steel import levels at pre-crisis levels.

However, my concern lies in the potential impact that this legislation may have on a manufacturer in my district—a manufacturer that would face legitimate hardship under the current version of the bill.

The district which I represent, Washington's third district, includes several steel and aluminum production facilities. One of these facilities is The Broken Hill Proprietary Coated Steel Corporation (BHP CSC), located in the city of Kalama. In December of 1997, BHP began production of cold rolled full hard steel and galvanized sheet steel that is frequently used in the metal building and construction industries. The facility annually utilizes approximately 350,000 tons of hot band steel in the manufacture of over 300,000 tons of bare and painted sheet steel products.

Unfortunately, I have been informed that availability of the hot band steel needed for this plant is limited from domestic producers. The technologies utilized in the manufacturing process at the Kalama facility apparently require that very specific requirements be met for the quality, physical properties and size of the hot band steel used as a raw material, and

most domestic producers of hot band steel are reportedly unable to meet the demands of the Kalama plant.

Therefore, BHP CSC has relied on imported hot band steel for the majority of their needs since beginning operations in 1997, and the primary source of those imports has been the BHP parent company, located in Australia. That Kalama plant has been the exclusive recipient of imports to the U.S. from the company's Australian parent. This plant has not been used as a conduit for large quantities of steel imports to be used by other manufacturers.

My concern deals with the consequences of imposing a strict quota on steel imports. In its current form, the legislation only cuts back steel imports to levels existing in July of 1997. This restriction is not only reasonable, it is necessary, and to be clear, I think we need this legislation. However, it may also severely limit the availability of the high-grade hot band steel required by the Kalama BHP facility.

As a consequence, Mr. Speaker, the productive capacity of the plant will be significantly diminished, and the limits may, in fact, result in the loss of jobs in the steel industry. Now, I can't imagine that supporters of this legislation would find job losses to be an acceptable result of a United States response to illegal trade activities.

And Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to call your attention to why this facility is so important to the economic survival of this corner of rural America. This economically disadvantaged area in Southwest Washington was, until recently, primarily dependent on natural-resource based industries for its economic survival. As a result of increasing limitations on timber cutting and shrinking salmon runs, the workforce needs in Cowlitz County have been scaled back again and again. Only six years ago, this area faced double-digit unemployment rates, and still has one of the highest rates in the nation.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we pass legislation that may affect the job security of over 250 hard-working people in Cowlitz County, I get gravely concerned. That's why I immediately began working on this issue when I was sworn into office at the beginning of this year.

And it is also the reason that I drafted an amendment to this legislation to provide limited waiver authority for companies with legitimate barriers to obtaining steel products for their manufacturing processes from domestic sources, to import limited amounts of steel in order to continue operations. My amendment would have permitted the Secretary of Commerce to establish a certification process to determine whether or not a manufacturer has sincere impediments to obtaining adequate quantities of steel raw materials; and, in such cases, to waive the import restrictions in only those cases.

Unfortunately, the rule providing for consideration of this legislation prevented me from introducing such an amendment, and precluded members from having the opportunity to vote on a measure that I believe would make a minimal, but desperately necessary adjustment to the overall bill. In fact, that rule prevented the introduction of any amendments.

Although I find this disappointing, I have received assurances from my colleagues that efforts will be made to address this situation as this legislation moves through the process, and I will continue to support those efforts.

As a Member of Congress, I have a responsibility to ensure that what we do here in Washington, DC, benefits my constituents in Washington State, and also to help safeguard our national interests. I believe that the enactment of this legislation, as perfected by my amendment, would serve both of these purposes. Although still imperfect, I will act today to enforce the trade policies of the United States, while continuing my efforts to protect the economic security of all steelworkers nationwide as the legislative process moves forward.

I ask my colleagues to support these efforts as we work with the other body in considering this measure. We all have an interest in keeping jobs in the United States, so let's work together to take the strongest, most appropriate measures possible to bolster this industry.

Of equal importance, I call on the President to address this situation before this flood of steel imports overwhelms what remains of the United States steel industry—an industry that has retrooled to become one of the most efficient in the Nation. In the future, as a result of this measure, I hope that we can take swifter, and more effective actions when sudden surges in foreign exports to our nation unfairly threaten our industries.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank my colleagues Mr. VISCLOSKY and Mr. TRAFICANT, and many others, for their tremendous, persistent work in bringing public attention to this issue and for helping bring this measure to the full House for our consideration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to insert in the RECORD that I inadvertently voted no on Roll Call 69 on March 24, 1999. I intended to vote yes on this amendment offered by Representative Tiahrt to H.R. 1141, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill.

This amendment would have offset the remaining portion of the Supplemental that was not offset by the bill. It is vitally important that all additional spending is offset. Because if it is not offset, it is paid for out of the Social Security Trust Fund surplus.

Of primary concern is Social Security. As we all know Social Security is the most popular and important program in the nation's history. It touches almost every family in America. When it comes to Social Security, this program must not be sacrificed to tax cuts or extra spending. I look forward to the day when we engage in the debate on reform with the knowledge that every cent in the Social Security Trust Fund is safe.

IN HONOR OF DR. HORACIO AGUIRRE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today it is a distinct honor to recognize Dr. Horacio

Aguirre, an outstanding journalist, good family man and contributing member to our South Florida community, for his many years of dedication and vision in the area of journalism. As an acknowledgement of his endeavors, the Miami International Press Club will present Dr. Aguirre with its 1999 Good News Award on April 15th.

The Cuban patriot Jose Marti once said: "Talent is a gift that brings with it an obligation to serve the world, and not ourselves, for it is not of our making". Dr. Aguirre has taken those prophetic words to heart, for his entire life has been dedicated to protecting and advancing the entire spectrum of journalism with his feverish talent and love for the field.

From his early years as the editorial writer at El Panama America newspaper in Panama, to his experience as a founding editor with one of the longest running dailies, *Diario Las Americas*; Dr. Aguirre has always been a champion for all journalistic causes.

His achievements have been such that other nations such as Panama, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Spain have all bestowed awards upon him. Dr. Aguirre has also been very active with the Inter-American Press Association, where he has held the posts of Secretary, Chairman, First Vice-President and President.

Mr. Speaker, in an era where journalistic rights have come under increasing attacks from dictatorial governments, Dr. Horacio Aguirre is worthy of recognition because he is and continues to be a defender of journalists' rights to report.

He has contributed immensely to the hemispheric discussion on this most important of issues. Dr. Horacio Aguirre offers to all of the Americas what the brilliant Ruben Dario gave to his native country, Nicaragua: "I offer unto you the steel upon which I forged my efforts, the coffer of harmony that guards my treasure, the crown of diamonds the idol that I adore."

CONGRATULATIONS TO HIGH POINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, while all eyes will be on St. Petersburg this weekend to observe the NCAA Final Four basketball championships, those of us in the Sixth District of North Carolina are already celebrating a roundball title. We are proud to say that High Point Central High School has won the North Carolina 2-A girls basketball championship.

The High Point Central Bison defeated St. Pauls 78-63 to capture the 2-A crown in Chapel Hill on March 13. High Point Central finished the year with a record of 28-2 and captured its third state title in seven years—an impressive feat.

What makes the win even more remarkable was that the Bison went into the title contest knowing one of their senior starters was injured. Lee Culp broke her foot on the Thursday before the Saturday championship, but that didn't stop her from scoring a team-leading 20 points in 29 minutes of action. For her gutsy performance, Culp was named MVP of the game.

Her coach, Kenny Carter, told the Greensboro News & Record, that Lee was part of a very special group of seniors. "I can't describe it," Coach Carter told the newspaper. "I had the seniors write a paper about what it's like to be there. And they each used the word 'in-describable.' I know this, they gave me a rebirth of energy. They've been with me for four years, and I wouldn't trade them for any team or any players I've ever had."

Joining Culp in the total team effort were Katie Copeland, Kanecia Obie, Leslie Olson, Elizabeth Redpath, Laura Kirby, Velinda Vucannon, Shonda Brown, Leslie Cook, Erica Green, Shemeka Leach, Krystion Obie, and Nasheena Quick.

Coach Carter will be the first to tell you that the Bison win was thanks to the players, coaches and staff working together to achieve a common goal. In addition to Coach Carter, congratulations are due to his assistants Jetanna McClain, April Rose, Scottie Carter, Eugene Love, Kim Liptrap, and Chris Martin. Also helping in many ways were the team managers Chasity Brown, Jessica Allen, and Serenity Klump.

So, while everyone watches the Final Four this weekend, fans of the High Point Central Bison are already celebrating the "Final Three"—the third state championship in seven years. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate High Point Central for winning the state's 2-A girls basketball championship.

A TRIBUTE TO SHASHUNNA WILLIAMS, AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, AND BESSIE DEANS

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to three constituents, Shashunna Williams, Augustine Washington, and Bessie Deans, who were tragically killed in an automobile accident on their way back from a home health care training seminar. These three caring women are remembered by their family, friends, colleagues, and by their patients.

Shashunna was 22 years old, the youngest staff member in the agency, and engaged to be married this summer. She was an observant health aide, attentive to her patients' needs, and determined to overcome any obstacles she encountered. She brought to her job a vibrant energy and genuine concern for others that was often displayed with a humorous twist.

Bessie was 39 years old, and a certified nurse's aide since 1987. She was married and a devoted mother of two sons, whose sporting activities she regularly attended. Bessie was well known in the community and her caring spirit manifested itself in kindness above and beyond the call of duty. Bessie's dependability, loyalty to her patients, and her unflinching energy earned her the gratitude of all those to whom she came in contact.

Augustine was 42, a mother of four, a grandmother, and a certified nurse's aide for over ten years. She excelled in caring for the elderly, who always praised her for her kindness and generosity. Augustine visited home

health patients during the day and had a second full time job at a nursing home in the evening. Augustine was a team player, most dependable, and a fine example of a hard working, caring employee.

Mr. Speaker, these three women exemplified the very best in their chosen field. We, in the Fourth District of Louisiana, share their families', colleagues', and patients' grief over their loss. I know they all will miss them terribly.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO IMPOSE STRICTER MANDATORY PRISON TERMS FOR CRIMINALS USING FIREARMS

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing legislation to impose tougher mandatory jail sentences on criminals who use guns.

It is well understood by my colleagues that gun control is an issue over which reasonable people will often disagree. The bill I am introducing today, however, is reflective of an idea about which we can all agree—criminals who use firearms deserve tough sentences. This legislation seeks to increase the mandatory minimum penalties for individuals who possess, brandish, or discharge a firearm during the commission of a federal crime which is violent or involves drug-trafficking.

For possession of a firearm during such a crime, this bill would increase the minimum mandatory sentence from 5 years to 10. For brandishing a firearm, the minimum sentence would be raised from 7 years to 15. If the firearms is discharged during the crime, this bill would set the mandatory minimum sentence at 20 years, a substantial increase from the current 10 year minimum.

Tough sentences work. Just ask the people of Richmond, Virginia. The city's Chief of Police, Jerry Oliver, testified before Congress just this week about Project Exile, a program by which individuals who use a firearm during the commission of a crime are prosecuted in federal court rather than state court, making them subject to stiffer penalties. These tougher sentences, accompanied by a public campaign to tout them, have been a central cause for the city's significantly diminished homicide rate. We need to draw from Richmond's example.

I urge my colleagues to join me in the effort to enact a law which makes it perfectly clear that profound punitive consequences await those criminals who use deadly firearms.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today, after years of arduous effort, survivors of the Holocaust who had their assets withheld from them by Swiss banks and others have finally received justice in the form of a settlement be-

tween the banks and the survivors' attorneys achieved last year. Under the settlement, survivors around the globe will receive \$1.25 billion. This settlement will finally return the assets to survivors more than 50 years after they were entrusted to these banks.

In addition to the survivors who are party to this historic settlement, there are survivors who are needy and have received one-time payments from the Swiss government through the Swiss Humanitarian Fund. Payments from this fund to needy Holocaust survivors in the United States have totaled \$31.4 million. Banks and corporations in France, Austria, Italy and Germany are establishing similar funds to compensate claimants for bank accounts, insurance policies, slave labor and other assets. Whether the payments are from the banks, the Swiss government or other sources, they should be excluded from taxation because the survivors are receiving back what was rightfully theirs to begin with.

Survivors who sued banks, insurance companies and manufacturers who profited from slave labor during the Holocaust did so because there was no other avenue for them to seek justice. Deprived of their assets, or those of their families, these brave souls fought unsuccessfully for fifty years until now to regain what belonged to them.

I rise today, joined by my colleague, Representative ROBERT MATSUI, to introduce H.R. 1292, the Holocaust Survivor Tax Relief Act of 1999. Senators FITZGERALD, MOYNIHAN and ABRAHAM are also introducing companion legislation in the Senate. Our legislation will exclude these payments from federal income tax.

There is little time to debate over these payments when the average Holocaust survivor is 80 years old. We must do everything we can to ease the lives in their final years, and therefore it would be wrong and immoral to tax them on the long overdue receipt of the assets. What these survivors are receiving from the various funds is money that is rightly theirs in the first place.

These survivors of the Holocaust deserve justice. Having escaped death at the hands of the Nazis, they were subjected to victimization by European banks and insurers. Those who endured the tortures of slave labor have never been compensated for their servitude to the Nazis. Now that they have begun to receive some measure of justice let us not add insult to their injury by taxing these long overdue payments to which they are entitled.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS LEGISLATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln once said "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan . . ." Today, we must follow his counsel.

When veterans joined the military, they were promised "free" health care for life. There are some who would like to see the commitments this Nation made to our veterans just fade away—not to honor the promise that this Nation made to them. I do not believe we can allow that to happen.

For that reason, Congressman JERRY MORAN and I are introducing the Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 1999. This legislation will enable us to deliver on the promises our country made to its veterans who answered the call to duty.

The men and women of America's Armed Forces have been faithful in their service. They have not asked much—just what they were promised. Our Nation pledged to provide these veterans quality health care.

We have fallen short on that promise. The Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 1999 will make health care for our veterans better and more accessible. First, the bill establishes a voluntary Medicare subvention demonstration project that allows Medicare to reimburse the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for Medicare health care services furnished to certain veterans at VA medical facilities. This will give veterans more flexibility in choosing their health care providers.

The bill directs the administering Secretaries to select up to ten demonstration sites in geographically dispersed locations for program participation. Of these ten sites, one must be in an area near a base closed by the base re-

alignment and closure law and one must be a predominantly rural area. None of the demonstration project funds may be used to build new buildings or expand existing ones. This 3-year program begins on January 1, 2000. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the VA to establish and operate four managed health care plans at demonstration sites.

Tricare, the health care program for all branches of the military must be reformed. Many veterans are refused by physicians because Tricare is notorious for delinquent reimbursements and because the reimbursement rates often fall below those allowed by Medicare. This bill takes a big step toward leveling the playing field for our veterans.

The bill directs the Secretary to ensure that health care coverage available through the Tricare program is substantially similar to the health care coverage available to Federal employees; makes benefits portable; minimizes the certification requirements for access to the extent possible; and requires that claims be processed and payed in a simplified and expedited manner. These changes will begin to eliminate the bureaucratic red tape and improve access and payments for beneficiaries.

The bill also allows the Secretary of Defense to increase the reimbursement rate for Tricare if it is necessary to ensure quality health care for veterans.

The bill includes a sense of Congress urging the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to "review their policies and procedures to identify areas in which the administration does not currently process claims for veterans in a manner consistent with the objectives set forth in the national performance review, and to initiate the necessary actions to process such claims in such manner and report to Congress on measures taken to improve the processing time of claims."

In summary, this bill will do much to improve the quality of health care for our Nation's veterans. The heart-wrenching film "Saving Private Ryan" portrayed the enormous dedication and sacrifice our veterans endured on behalf of this Nation. As the number of elderly veterans continues to increase, it is imperative that we take the necessary steps to protect them—and to honor our commitment to them. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our veterans by improving their health care system