

our allies. To approve any of these measures would send a message to our troops, allies and enemies that the United States is not unified or committed to ending the tragedy in Kosovo.

The final resolution the House considered was Senate Concurrent Resolution 21. This resolution authorized the use of United States air forces to participate in the NATO action in Kosovo. I voted in favor of this resolution. The United States is already involved in the air operation in Kosovo and refusing to support that ongoing operation is, in effect, telling our air crews that we are not behind them and this operation. Mr. Speaker, I know that every member of this House supports our men and women in the military but refusing to support this resolution sends mixed messages to them. We must be united in our support of them and must let them know that.

A SALUTE TO OWEN MARRON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and profound respect that I rise today to salute Owen A. Marron, one of the most exemplary longtime leaders in the U.S. labor movement. Brother Marron was appointed to the Alameda County Central Labor Council in 1982 after a two-year stint in the U.S. Army and a long affiliation in the local United Steel Workers Union and SEIU. He rose up the ranks of leadership after his appointment to the Labor Council and was at the helm as Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the past decade. He was also elected vice president of the California Labor Federation.

Brother Marron will be honored as Unionist of the Year on June 17, 1999 in Oakland, California. His numerous contributions and achievements will be applauded and well wishes will be extended as he retires. He will leave a legacy of commitment, strong leadership, unbending advocacy for affirmative action and for the rights of the disabled community, and tenacity in organizing and fighting for working people.

Brother Marron's forty plus years in the labor movement will be long remembered and his leadership will be missed. I join his friends and colleagues in thanking him for his untiring efforts. Brother Owen Marron has indeed made a positive difference in the lives of many individuals.

CONGRATULATING THE LEUKEMIA SOCIETY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Leukemia Society of America on its 50th anniversary. The Leukemia Society has led the fight to end this terrible disease and many individuals are alive today thanks to its work. This organization possesses not only the scientific and medical expertise needed for

such a task, but also the understanding and sensitivity to lend support to the patients and families faced with the challenge of leukemia.

I am personally active with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia Society, and dedicate all my work to the memory of our son, Todd Richard Roukema, who was taken from us by the tragedy of leukemia. I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Richard W. Zahn, our chapter's president, for his dedication and hard work. Dr. Zahn is one of the many people who make the Leukemia Society a success and is bringing hope to all those families who are facing this disease.

In August 1944, 16-year-Robbie deVilliers was diagnosed with acute leukemia. Three months later he died, as did 96 percent of the children diagnosed with leukemia that year. In 1950, as a memorial to their son's brief life, Robbie's parents established the Robert Roesler deVilliers Foundation in an effort to support scientific research into their son's disorder. In 1951, with an income of \$11,700, the foundation approved its first research grant. With the hiring of a medical consultant, the foundation established its principle of awarding research grants to young scientists over the next few years. In 1955, it changed its name to the Leukemia Society, eventually becoming known as the Leukemia Society of America to reflect its national stature.

During its half-century of operation, the Leukemia Society has grown tremendously, expanding its scope and developing a wealth of expertise and knowledge. With an income of more than \$83 million a year, the Society now funds research into the blood-related cancers of lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma as well as leukemia. Under the Leukemia Society's leadership, new chemotherapy drugs combined with radiation treatment have increased survival rates. Today, 80 percent of children under 15 survive leukemia and certain types of leukemia can be cured.

While the past 50 years of accomplishment brings great hope, one adult or child still dies from blood-related cancers every nine minutes. Leukemia and lymphoma are the leading fatal cancers in men and women under 35. Cures for these diseases must be found. Research challenges remain and the Leukemia Society valiantly pursues its mission.

As I have stated, we know personally the tragedy of cancer: My husband, Dr. Richard W. Roukema, M.D., and I lost our son, Todd, to leukemia in 1976 at the age of 17. At that time, bone marrow transplants and other techniques that offered hope were only in their experimental stages. Since then, many advances have been made that have spared thousands of other parents the heartbreak we faced. It is thanks to the brilliant researchers and physicians supported by the Leukemia Society that hope can be maintained.

Today, we are within grasp of a cure for many forms of cancer but much research remains to be done. I thank God for those who are willing to labor toward this goal and pray that with their help a cure can be found and that no one will ever again have to suffer from this terrible disease.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the extraordinary accomplishments of two schools which are located in my home district. Concordia Elementary and Moulton Elementary recently were selected to receive the Blue Ribbon Schools award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established by the U.S. Secretary of Education in 1982. Since its establishment, more than 3,500 schools have been recognized for their excellence.

Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership, a clear vision, a sense of mission, and most importantly, solid evidence of family involvement. Through exceptional academics, athletics and after-school programs, these schools have set themselves apart from other schools. Concordia and Moulton have achieved the recognition of a Blue Ribbon School that comes from their outstanding level of excellence. Teachers, administrators, parents, volunteers and students should be applauded for their efforts.

I would like to express my congratulations to these schools. Concordia Elementary and Moulton Elementary should be proud of their accomplishment. Nothing is of more importance to our families, our communities and our country than the quality of education in America.

RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 1999

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Retirement Security Act of 1999. This bill, nearly identical to legislation I introduced in the last Congress, would help put the Social Security system on a better financial footing while providing future Americans with the peace of mind that comes with their own personal retirement accounts.

Under my bill, the government will establish a retirement account for each newborn American citizen, initially worthy \$1,000. The money for the initial \$1,000 will come from income taxes on that portion of Social Security income currently subject to the income tax. This amount is to be invested in the same funds available in the Federal employees' Thrift Savings Plan two of which promise higher rates of return than the Social Security Trust Fund. The investment decisions among the funds are to be made by the parent or guardian until the account holder reaches the age of majority when he or she is able to make such decisions. The account holder, or his or her parent, can add to the principal of the account, up to \$2,000 per year tax free. But even if that ever happens the \$1,000, if invested in the common stock index fund, at the historical real rate of return of 7 percent, would grow to \$89,000 in 1999 dollars. This happens to be just enough to cover the current average Social Security benefit.