H.R. 1833, ''yea.''
H. Res. 178 ''yea.''
Rollcall vote No. 152, ''no.''
Rollcall vote No. 153, ''no.''
Rollcall vote No. 154, ''no.''
Rollcall vote No. 155, ''no.''
Rollcall vote No. 156, ''no.''
Rollcall vote No. 157, ''no.''

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN STEPHEN ERIC BENSON OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Stephen Eric Benson, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Oceana, who has served in the United States Navy for twenty-five years of faithful duty to his country.

For the past three years, Captain Benson has served as the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Oceana Virginia Beach, Virginia located in my congressional district. During his tenure as Commanding Officer, Captain Benson has distinguished himself by his exceptional efforts to establish and improve upon the relationship between the community and the Naval Air Station. It is a testimony to these efforts that as he leaves his post in June of this year, the relationship between the base and the City of Virginia Beach is one of the best in the nation.

The tenacious efforts of Captain Benson to enhance the cooperation with the surrounding community and his goal of serving as a ''good neighbor'' has not only helped the Navy achieve its mission, but also has made a direct contribution to the goals of the City of Virginia Beach. His open communication policy with both the Mayor of Virginia Beach and with the local congressional delegation has been exemplary and productive for all concerned.

Captain Benson has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the sailors stationed under his command. New living quarters and recreational improvements have been either built or have been funded. With the assistance of congressional leadership, local political leaders and businesses, a new Barracks for enlisted personnel and a new recreational facility have either been funded or are near completion as he executes his next assignment.

Captain Benson has overseen the movement of ten F/A–18 squadrons and their families to Naval Air Station Oceana from Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida. A total of one hundred fifty-six aircraft and nearly nine thousand personnel and dependents have made the transition to their new home in Virginia Beach with minimum impact to operations and family members.

Again enhancing community relations, he has developed and nurtured the local Military Air show into a community affair, aligned with the City of Virginia Beach's Neptune Festival. This event, once known as the NAS Oceana Air Show is now known as the Neptune Festival Air Show. The show has been not only profitable to the Military Welfare and Recreation Fund which has a direct impact on the improvement of quality of life issues for the sailors at NAS Oceana, but was awarded the Best Military Air Show in North America for 1998 by the International Councl of Air Shows. This is a true win-win scenario which has brought recognition to not only the base, but to the community at large.

Captain Benson has personally conducted hundreds of community presentations fostering the best base-community relationships within the Hampton Roads region. He has been lauded by both the Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach and myself for his efforts in working with the local political groups and businesses for the betterment of all concerned.

Under his charge, Naval Air Station Oceana has won two consecutive Environmental Awards in 1998 and 1999 for efforts to maintain the environment on this installation. From these efforts, to rapid response teams for fuel spills, to responses to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inquiries, NAS Oceana has been praised on all fronts.

Captain Benson is an active member of the Hampton Roads Rotary and the City of Virginia Beach Neptune Festival Committee, further enhancing the cooperation and community leadership between the base and the public at large.

A totally dedicated professional, Captain Benson has set a superior personal example of all military leaders to emulate. His many contributions will continue to be felt for many years to come in the Hampton Roads area. Because of his outstanding and distinguished record of accomplishments, his tenacious efforts to keep the local community informed and his outgoing personality, Captain Benson is truly worthy of recognition. We will surely miss him at Oceana Naval Air Station.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH POSEDEL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize Joseph F. Posedel who is retiring as Business Manager of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 343 under the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry.

In his 36 years with the union, Mr. Posedel has worked to create a solid foundation for Local 343.

He joined the union in 1963 as a building trades apprentice. He became a trustee for the Trust Fund in 1970. Subsequently, he served as Vice President, President, Business Agent and Apprenticeship Coordinator for the union. In January 1996 he assumed the important leadership position of Business Manager.

As Business Manager, Mr. Posedel successfully negotiated an improved wage package, including health, welfare, and pension benefits, for union members.

Mr. Posedel is a native of the San Francisco Bay area. He grew up in Rodeo and attended St. Mary's High School, graduating in 1955. He also attended St. Mary's College in the same community.

He and his wife, Patricia, have been married for 39 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Following his retirement, Mr. Posedel will continue to serve Local 343 as a Trustee of the Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, because of Joseph F. Posedel's long and devoted service to Local 343 of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, it is fitting and proper to honor him today for his accomplishments, and to wish him well in his retirement.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWANESE PRESIDENT LEE IN OFFICE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to convey to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, on the eve of his third anniversary in office, our best wishes and congratulations. Taiwan is very fortunate to have Dr. Lee as its President.

A man of vision, President Lee supports the reunion of Taiwan and mainland China according to the principles of democracy, freedom, and the equitable distribution of wealth. During his tenure in office, he has made every effort to resume the cross Strait dialogue and to maintain peace and security in the Taiwan Strait.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join in extending congratulations and best wishes to President Lee and we look forward to his continuing accomplishments in the coming years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. CASTLE, the Speaker of the House, the Majority Leader, Mr. WATTS, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. PRYCE, and other distinguished Members of the House to introduce the Teacher Empowerment Act. This legislation will make a significant and positive impact on how we prepare our Nation's teaching force by providing States and local school districts with needed funding for the provision of high quality teacher training and for the hiring of new teachers, where necessary.

In the development of the Teacher Empowerment Act, we have made every effort to put together a bill that is in the best interests of children, parents, and teachers. We have also tried to include the best elements of teacher training proposals from the Governors, the Administration, and different Members of Congress, on a bipartisan basis. I hope that by the time this legislation is considered by the full House, we will have a bipartisan proposal that will vastly expand training opportunities for our Nation's teachers and increase the achievement of all of our Nation's students. I intend to work closely with Mr. Martinez, the Ranking Democrat Member on the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education,