

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE CHILD CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Child Care Quality Improvement Act of 1999. As more and more families with infants and young children are forced to send both parents to work, the need for child care—especially infant care and care at non-traditional hours—continues to expand. As the need for care grows however, startling findings in a study on the cost and quality of child care by the University of Colorado at Denver's Department of Economics report that more than 80% of child care services in the U.S. is thought to be of poor or average quality.

I want to make sure we're not missing the mark. Although it is true that child care is in short supply and is too expensive for many families to afford, we must not allow the demand for child care services to override the need for quality. It is critical that children receive care that promotes their healthy growth and development. We cannot allow them to be placed in substandard conditions.

Today I am introducing the Child Care Quality Improvement Act of 1999, to help states increase and meet their child care quality goals. My bill would provide funding for Quality Improvement Grants to be transferred to local child care collaboratives.

Grants would be made by the Federal government to states which have established goals for child care quality improvements in six areas: increased training for staff, enhanced licensing standards, reduced numbers of unlicensed facilities, increased monitoring and enforcement, reduce caregiver turnover, and higher levels of accreditation. States would then make grants to local child care collaboratives to make quality improvements.

My bill take a benchmarking approach that helps states define quality targets and measures the states' progress toward meeting their long-term quality goals. State plans would be subject to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for approval and monitoring. States would be required to report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on their progress in meeting their quality goals in order to remain eligible for future funding.

I am introducing this legislation in response to a report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) which found that most states lack strong standards for quality child care, such as requiring a sufficient educational training level of child care workers, keeping child to staff ratios low, and requiring safety and health provision on hand washing and playground equipment safety. The report further concluded that child care center staff turnover—which hurts the quality of care children receive—is very high and is largely due to the extremely low level of pay teachers in child care centers receive.

I have sought the expertise of child care professional and early childhood development specialist across the country, including Dr. Edward Zigler, Sterling Professor of Psychology, former Director of which is now the Administration for Children, Youth and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, and founder of the federal Head Start Program. Dr. Zigler tells us that a national policy to encourage an increase in state quality standards is of great value, and that the goal of this legislation—to improve child care services in the states—is both necessary and urgent.

Congress has wrongly refused to require significant quality standards for the child care dollars we allocate each year. The federal government should give states the resources to raise state quality standards and improve child care quality at the local level, but only through a system of measurable indicators of desired outcomes. We must allocate these funds with the guarantee that incentive grants will continue to raise standards and improve the quality of care.

As the father of a young son, I know the difficulty families face when choosing a caregiver for their children. My bill gives families peace of mind by encouraging the state and local facilities across the country to provide the high quality of care every child deserves.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF ST. MARY'S/GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the volunteer corps who make up the "backbone" for St. Mary's/Good Samaritan Hospital's Centralia and Mt. Vernon campuses.

Volunteers such as founding member Pat Bunchman, Mercedes Campbell, Barbara Francois, and Pauline Raines, represent some of the longest-serving members of the volunteer group. These hospital auxiliary groups provide volunteer service and funding thus far of \$1 million for patient and hospital equipment since they began their efforts.

Pauline Raines said the volunteering needs "patience," "commitment," and being a "people-person." The ability for these tasks to be put to use and the initiative to implement these programs are a tribute to what the United States stands for. It is a wonderful thing to see American values exhibited in such a benevolent and rewarding program such as the hospital auxiliary groups of St. Mary's/Good Samaritan Hospital.

I applaud their volunteer service, and site it as a testament of volunteerism aiding our communities and enriching our lives.

RECOGNIZING LAMBERTVILLE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lambertville, New Jersey's sesquicentennial. Lambertville is a historic town, which has been and continues to be a source of pride for the state of New Jersey. I am proud to represent it in Congress.

Lambertville first grew to prominence as a key stop along the Old York Road, the main route from Philadelphia to New York, in the early 1700's. At the beginning of the 19th century, the building of the Delaware and Raritan Canal helped the town become a leading industrial center for manufacturing. Railroads began to take on much of the canal traffic in the late 1800s, and Lambertville retained its importance as a trade center by serving as the headquarters of the Pennsylvania-Belvidere Railroad. By the turn of the century, more than 3000 factory workers produced such items as wooden wagon wheels, rubber boots, railway cars, bottled beer, and ceramic white ware within the town's borders.

Although Lambertville's factories and mills are closed today, the town continues to thrive. The historic downtown district offers art galleries, antique shops, and a variety of wonderful restaurants. Lambertville retains a colonial charm, with Victorian, Colonial, and Federal styled buildings housing its 4,000 residents. The annual Shad festival in April, a two-day event that marks the arrival of spring and the run of the shad fish upstream to the Delaware River, salutes ongoing efforts to revitalize and maintain the quality of our water.

Lambertville's celebrations of its anniversary will be taking place throughout the summer. In the spring, a documentary on the town will be released.

Lambertville, New Jersey represents the best of small town life. As we look for ways to control development and to create livable communities, Lambertville offers a vibrant, positive example. I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the town of Lambertville on its sesquicentennial.

HONORING THE GRADUATES OF THE 90TH PRECINCT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which

• 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.

has led and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, I ask you to join me in congratulating the following Academic Achievement Award Recipients:

Christian Nitti and Joshua Romero—PS 16.
Massiel Santana and Josette Dueno—PS 18.

Pearl Ramos and Andrew Vasquez—PS 19.
David Rodriguez and Cindy Escoboza—PS 84.

Lasnette O'Garro and Jose Lozada—PS 147.
Steven Rodriguez and Janyra Quinones—PS 196.

Giselle Burgos and Christina Santiago—PS 250.

Kimberly Gonzalez and David Quinga—PS 257.

Michelle Rivera and Ior Kretowicz—Most Holy Trinity R.C.

Jennifer Pascual and Nicole Medici—St. Nicholas R.C.

Marcus Copeland and Ann Liriano—PS 380.
Kaity Cheng and Yu Chen—I.S. 318.

Sabrina Ramphal and Yamil Tavarez—I.S. 49.

Fances Dover and Wendy Morel—J.H.S. 50.
Abner Rodriguez and Monica Aldana—I.S. 71.

Nella Bastien and Raquel Aponte—H.S. Enterprise Business & Tech.

Essanai Velasquez and Luis Ramos—El Puente Academy/Peace & Justice.

Keith Madden and Zorielle Rodriguez—Transfiguration R.C. School.

Desirae Nazario and Joann Danio—Saint Peter & Paul R.C.

Jennifer Chavez and Gabriella Padilla—All Saints R.C.

WAGING THE DRUG WAR

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, last week a Narcotics Eradication Task Force from the Republic of Colombia visited Washington. The Task Force included three retired Colombian Generals, a former Minister of Defense, the ex-Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, the Army's former Inspector General, journalists, academics and a Magistrate from the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. They came to Washington at the request of the bipartisan National Security Caucus with an important and powerful message for all of us.

I hope all of my colleagues will pay careful attention to the alarming statistics they provided:

Eighty percent of the world supply of cocaine is produced or transits through Colombia, and over 75 percent of the heroin seized on the U.S. East Coast is from that nation.

Over 20,000 Americans die every year from abusing illegal narcotics. Drug abuse is also the main reason America's prison population has doubled between 1988 and 1998 and our nation has to spend over \$35 billion on its correctional system.

There has been a 27 percent increase in drug use among 12–17 year olds, and 78 percent of American students report that drugs are bought, sold or used in their high schools.

According to the most recent reports issued by the Clinton Administration, there has been an incredible 378 percent annual increase in the use of pure Colombian heroin. Heroin use has become an epidemic in almost every town, big or small, in our country. It is cheaper, purer and easier to obtain than ever before.

A recent report released by the Colombian Army demonstrates that the FARC rebels have earned more than \$5.3 billion over the last eight years through drug trafficking, kidnapping and extortion.

Colombia has one of the highest rates of murder and kidnapping in the world. Attacks by rebel forces displaced over 300,000 people last year and 95 percent of all crimes go unpunished. The number of outstanding arrest warrants is over 150,000 and the judiciary has a backlog of over 3.5 million cases.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can win the war on drugs but it will take a real commitment. We cannot just wish it away, and education alone is not going to stop drugs. Furthermore, interdiction alone will not stop the drug lords.

Almost every American family has been affected negatively by drugs, including my own, not only from usage but from the sale of drugs. I want to tell you how disappointing, how hurtful it is and how damaging it is to a family. The Narcotics Eradication Task Force from Colombia expressed sincere gratitude for the economic assistance of the United States, but they also demonstrated that we need a real and comprehensive war on drugs.

The Task Force members reminded us that many brave Colombian soldiers, policemen, judges and statesmen have lost their lives in the War on Drugs. They reminded our colleagues of heroes such as Enrique Camerino, a Border Patrol agent from just east of my district. He was buried alive after being tortured by Mexican drug loads.

The Narcotics Eradication Task Force met with Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) and our colleagues Cass Ballenger (R-NC); Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), Joe Crowley (D-NY), Kevin Brady (R-TX), Cliff Stearns (R-FL) and Mark Sanford (R-SC). According to the Task Force, the Colombian cartels processed coca paste flown from Peru and Bolivia for over a decade.

It was not until the 1990s that the cartels promoted the planting of coca in the remote and sparsely populated eastern plains and jungles of Colombia, where the guerrillas had strong influence. Initially the guerrillas were content to protect laboratories and "tax" the different phases of the production process.

They have since moved into direct involvement in the whole production process. They provide a good share of the cocaine produced in Colombia and collect protection money for the rest. The same holds true for the more recent production of heroine.

However, as their income from drugs increased the guerrillas' kidnaping activity did not diminish. Around 1,600 people were reported kidnaped in 1997 and over 2000 were abducted in 1998. The true figure is unknown but probably much higher, since families are routinely ordered not to inform the authorities and many heed this warning. Guerrillas are believed to be responsible for 60% of the kidnaping in Colombia and collect more than 200 million dollars annually from these activities.

The Colombian guerrillas are thought to be the world's richest and most powerful criminal organization. But guerrillas combatants do not operate in a vacuum. Although the various legal Marxist parties have had little success at the polls, their unarmed supporters have infiltrated many government organizations. They also have permanent representatives abroad that run, with the collaboration of the extreme left in the United States and Europe, a powerful propaganda and disinformation operation.

The visit of the Narcotics Eradication Task Force was made possible by the Colombian non-profit organization, Forum Interamericano. The Task Force also expressed its concern over the excessive concessions made by President Pastrana to the FARC rebels in a well intentioned but badly planned peace initiative. As an inducement to the FARC to sit at a negotiating table Pastrana ordered the withdrawal of the Armed Forces from a coca producing region the size of Switzerland, 16,000 square miles. This has given the terrorist guerrillas a safe sanctuary where the rebel group is recruiting combatants, keeping kidnap victims and has continued to produce drugs.

HONORING MT. MORIAH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to applaud the efforts of the Mt. Moriah Christian Church in Centralia, Illinois for their strength and dedication in rebuilding after vandals set a fire that destroyed the church in August of 1997.

Mount Moriah believed to be the first church in Marion County was built in 1829. The May 16 rededication ceremony with county historian George Ross as the guest speaker told of the great history behind this community asset.

Credit should go to the dedicated members, Dale Nollman, and Carpenter's for Christ for their assistance in the rebuilding process. They not only restored the church, but also brought the building up to standards including making it wheelchair accessible.

I am truly pleased to see that the Mt. Moriah Christian Church's efforts will keep this part of community history living with new chapters to come well in to the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment to my family on Wednesday, June 9, 1999, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 182–184.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address an issue of great importance to me and to many members of the community I represent. Fair and equal access to capital and credit should be a fundamental right, yet for too long it has been a privilege based on race or economic class. The dream of owning your own home or business slips away when financial institutions discriminate against hardworking, creditworthy Americans.

Fortunately, blatant discrimination in the lending industry is in decline, home ownership and small business opportunities are on the rise and we can attribute much of this progress to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). CRA rates federal banking agencies on how they meet the credit and capital needs of all the communities in which they are chartered and from which they take deposits. Community organizations, elected and religious leaders, and ordinary citizens have a right to offer their opinions regarding the CRA performance of lenders during CRA exams or mergers of CRA. Additionally, CRA has leveraged a tremendous amount of reinvestment for our nation's inner cities and rural areas. For example, in 1997, low- and moderate-income borrowers received 28 percent of the nation's mortgage loans—up dramatically from 18 percent in 1990. According to the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, banks have made over \$1 trillion in commitments to CRA-related loans and investments since the law was passed in 1977. In Rhode Island, CRA has revitalized cities throughout the state. From Constitution Hill in Woonsocket to the West End of Providence to Newport, community based housing and economic development activities are taking place because of CRA.

As we here in the Congress consider financial modernization and H.R. 10, I will strenuously oppose any effort to weaken CRA. In addition, we must strengthen our nation's reinvestment and fair lending laws through re-opening requirements on policyholders. We should ensure that CRA will leverage new business opportunities by helping insurance companies, community organizations, and local public agencies identify missed market opportunities in traditionally underserved neighborhoods.

I urge my colleagues to stand firm in support of CRA during the debate on H.R. 10. Supporting the measurable progress we have made in expanding economic opportunities for all segments of our society is the right thing to do.

RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY
REINVESTMENT ASSOCIATION,
Providence, RI, May 24, 1999.

Hon. ROBERT WEYGAND,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK KENNEDY,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WEYGAND AND CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: The RI Community Reinvestment Association (RICRA) is a thirteen-year-old organization working to encourage the public and private reinvestment in the housing and community economic development of low and moderate neighborhoods in the state. RICRA provides foreclosure prevention advocacy for individual homeowners.

The future of CRA is at risk. Given the importance of the Fleet proposed acquisition of BankBoston with 50 bank branches to be sold. One example, the City of Pawtucket has on the table all Fleet and BankBoston branches to be sold. CRA is revitalizing our cities in Rhode Island. From Constitution Hill in Woonsocket to the West End of Providence to Newport and South County, community-based housing and economic development activities are taking place because of CRA. CRA must be preserved. Financial Modernization should benefit all segments of our communities and individual households. Financial Modernization should not be just for depositors with daily balances in the six-figures income. Financial Modernization must include community reinvestment.

RICRA is requesting that as our Congressional Delegation in the House of Representatives that you join the procession for a one-minute statement on CRA. We've enclosed the text for your consideration. If you agree to do a one-minute speech, please work with Rep. LaFalce's staff (Tricia Haisten 202-225-4247).

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of working to save CRA.

Sincerely,

RAY NEIRINCKX,
Coordinator.

EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES FOR 30%
DISABLED VETERANS**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support allowing veterans with a service-connected disability of 30% or more to use military exchanges. I am pleased that the House Armed Service Committee approved report language urging the Pentagon, in coordination with the Veterans Administration, to study the feasibility of providing exchange privileges to veterans with a disability of 30% or more. I want to reiterate my support for this policy, and I hope that the Pentagon will favorably report back the results of their study to the Armed Services Committees in both the House and Senate before the end of this year.

Today, as many as one million disabled and deserving veterans are unjustly denied the ability to patronize military exchanges. Exchange privileges are granted to veterans who incur a serious disability while in service that warrants medical retirement, but veterans whose disabilities increase after separation from military service are denied this privilege.

I support extending exchange privileges to disabled veterans whose service-related inju-

ries exacerbate over time. Many veterans who incurred service-connected injuries that did not appear initially to be serious enough to warrant medical retirement, but these injuries often have a delayed effect and develop later in life into more severe disabilities that significantly impair their health.

The Department of Defense can afford to give exchange privileges to veterans with service-connected injuries which have led to a disability of 30% or more. I do not believe that allowing these deserving veterans exchange privileges will greatly burden exchange operations or the appropriated funds budget. Already, employees of the military exchange systems, who have never served a day in uniform, enjoy exchange shopping privileges. Disabled veterans deserve no less.

We should grant exchange privileges to this group of patriots because it is the right, fair and honorable thing to do. I am pleased that the bill we are considering today urges the Pentagon to correct this injustice.

RECOGNIZING WCXO IN CLINTON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate WCXO in Clinton County which will begin broadcasting in mid-June from a state-of-the-art FM facility.

This station will not only provide music entertainment; it will also give a valuable resource to local residents by its commitment to the community through its broadcasting of boys' and girls' high school sporting events, local and headline news reports, and farm reports.

Owned by Joy Publishing, the station will be headed by General Manager Annette Bevel. Under her guidance and their dedicated staff composed mostly of Clinton County's own, I am confident that the station will be a great asset to Clinton County.

I applaud these efforts to improve communication, entertainment, and information within Clinton County and wish them well.

IN HONOR OF MR. WHIT CLARK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Whit Clark the principal of Col. John Glenn School.

Whit Clark has been a very successful educator for 33 years and an effective principal at Col. John Glenn for the last 13 years. Whit Clark has done an outstanding job as an educator for the last 33 years. For his exceptional efforts, he received a commendation from Mayor Gerald Trafis.

He has been a wonderful example in his community for truly being a man for others. His dedication to his profession is something that sticks out and should be recognized. He has a love for his position unlike anyone I have ever seen. He will be greatly missed when he retires on June 6th of this year.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring one of Cleveland's great educators Mr. Whit Clark.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL
PARK WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act of 1999. This legislation will provide important protection and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding nearly 250,000 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The bill is essentially identical to one my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs, introduced in October of last year, which in turn was based on similar measures he had proposed in the 103rd and 104th Congresses. It also reflects previous proposals by former Senator Bill Armstrong and others. I am grateful to have the opportunity to press forward in the effort to complete the work they began.

Over the last several years my predecessor worked with the National Park Service and others to refine the boundaries of the areas proposed for wilderness designation and consulted closely with many interested parties in Colorado, including local officials and both the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the St. Vrain & Left Hand Ditch Water Conservancy District. These consultations provided the basis for many of his bill's provisions, particularly regarding the status of existing water facilities, and I have drawn on them in shaping the bill I am introducing today.

Covering 94 percent of the park, the new wilderness will include Longs Peaks and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams, all untrammelled by human structures or passage. Indeed, examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of Rocky Mountain National Park are included in this wilderness designation.

The features of these lands and waters that make Rocky Mountain National park a true gem in our national parks system also make it an outstanding wilderness candidate.

The wilderness boundaries are carefully located to assure continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas; privately owned land, and areas where additional facilities and roadwork will improve park management and visitor services. In addition, specific provisions are included to assure that there will be no adverse effects on continued use of existing water facilities.

This bill is based on National Park Service recommendations, prepared 25 years ago and presented to Congress by President Nixon. It seems to me that, in that time, there has been sufficient study, consideration, and refinement of those recommendations so that Congress can proceed with this legislation. I believe that this bill constitutes a fair and complete proposal, sufficiently providing for the legitimate needs of the public at large and all interested groups, and deserves to be enacted in this form.

It took more than a decade before the Colorado delegation and the Congress were finally able, in 1993, to pass the most recent bill to designate additional wilderness in our state's national forests. We now must take up the urgent question of wilderness designations of lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. And the time is ripe for finally resolving the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that are dealt with in this bill.

All Coloradans know that the question of possible impacts on water rights can be a primary point of contention in Congressional debates over designating wilderness areas. So, it's very important to understand that the question of water rights for Rocky Mountain National Park wilderness is entirely different from many considered before, and is far simpler.

To begin with, it has long been recognized under the laws of the United States and Colorado, including a decision of the Colorado Supreme Court, that Rocky Mountain National Park already has extensive federal reserved water rights arising from the creation of the national park itself.

Division One of the Colorado Water Court, which has jurisdiction over the portion of the park that is east of the continental divide, has already decided how extensive the water rights are in its portion of the park. In December, 1993, the court ruled that the park has reserved rights to all water within the park that was unappropriated at the time the park was created. As a result of this decision, in the eastern half of the park there literally is no more water for either the park or anybody else to claim. This is not, so far as I have been able to find out, a controversial decision, because there is a widespread consensus that there should be no new water projects developed within Rocky Mountain National Park. And, since the park sits astride the continental divide, there's no higher land around from which streams flow into the park, so there is no possibility of any upstream diversions.

As for the western side of the park, the water court has not yet ruled on the extent of the park's existing water rights there, although it has affirmed that the park does have such rights. With all other rights to water arising in the park and flowing west already claimed, as a practical matter under Colorado water law, this wilderness designation will not restrict any new water claims.

And it's important to emphasize that any wilderness water rights amount only to guarantees that water will continue to flow through and out of the park as it always has. This preserves the natural environment of the park, but it doesn't affect downstream water use. Once water leaves the park, it will continue to be available for diversion and use under Colorado law regardless of whether or not lands within the park are designated as wilderness.

These legal and practical realities are reflected in my bill—as in my predecessor's—by inclusion of a finding that because the park already has these extensive reserved rights to water, there is no need for any additional reservation of such right, and an explicit disclaimer that the bill effects any such reservation.

Some may ask, why should we designate wilderness in a national park? Isn't park protection the same as wilderness, or at least as good? The answer is that the wilderness designation will give an important additional level

of protection to most of the park. Our national park system was created, in part, to recognize and preserve prime examples of outstanding landscape. At Rocky Mountain National Park in particular, good Park Service management over the past 83 years has kept most of the park in a natural condition. And all the lands that are covered by this bill are currently being managed, in essence, to protect their wilderness character. Formal wilderness designation will no longer leave this question to the discretion of the Park Service, but will make it clear that within the designated areas there will never be roads, visitor facilities, or other man-made features that interfere with the spectacular natural beauty and wildness of the mountains.

This kind of protection is especially important for a park like Rocky Mountain, which is relatively small by western standards. As surrounding land development and alteration has accelerated in recent years, the pristine nature of the park's backcountry becomes an increasingly rare feature of Colorado's landscape.

Further, Rocky Mountain National Park's popularity demands definitive and permanent protection for wild areas against possible pressures for development within the park. While only about one tenth the size of Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain sees nearly the same number of visitors each year as does our first national park.

At the same time, designating these carefully selected portions of Rocky Mountain as wilderness will make other areas, now restricted under interim wilderness protection management, available for overdue improvements to park roads and visitor facilities.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill will protect some of our nation's finest wild lands. It will protect existing rights. It will not limit any existing opportunity for new water development. And it will affirm our commitment in Colorado to preserving the very features that make our State such a remarkable place to live. Thus, the bill deserves prompt enactment.

I am attaching a fact sheet giving more details about the bill:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
WILDERNESS ACT

1. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the nation's most visited parks, possesses some of the most pristine and striking alpine ecosystems and natural landscapes in the continental United States. This park straddles the Continental Divide along Colorado's northern Front Range. It contains high altitude lakes, herds of bighorn sheep and elk, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra, old-growth forests and thundering rivers. It also contains Longs Peak, one of Colorado's 54 fourteen thousand-foot peaks.

2. CONGRESSMAN UDALL'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Former Congressman David Skaggs from the Second District had been working for years to designate certain areas within the Park as wilderness. Congressman Skaggs introduced a bill last year, and this proposal by Congressman Udall is essentially identical.

The Udall proposal would designate nearly 250,000 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, or about 94 percent of the Park, as wilderness, including Longs Peak—the areas included are based on the recommendations prepared over 24 years ago by President Nixon with some revisions in boundaries to

reflect acquisitions and other changes since that recommendation was submitted; designate about 1,000 acres as wilderness when non-conforming structures are removed; and add non-federal inholdings within the wilderness boundaries to the wilderness if they are acquired by the United States.

The Udall proposal would NOT create a new federal reserved water right; instead, it includes a finding that the Park's existing federal reserved water rights, as decided by the Colorado courts, are sufficient, nor include certain lands in the Park as wilderness, including Trail Ridge and other roads used for motorized travel, water storage and conveyance structures, buildings, developed areas of the Park, and private inholdings.

3. EXISTING WATER FACILITIES

Boundaries for the wilderness areas are drawn to exclude: existing storage and conveyance structures, thereby assuring continued use of the Grand River Ditch and its right-of-way; the east and west portals of the Adams Tunnel and gauging stations of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project; Long Draw Reservoir; and lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District, including Copeland Reservoir.

The bill includes provisions to make clear that its enactment will not impose new restrictions on already allowed activities for the operation, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction of the Adams Tunnel, which diverts water under Rocky Mountain National Park (including lands that would be designated by the bill), or other Colorado-Big Thompson Project facilities. Additional activities for these purposes will be allowed, subject to reasonable restrictions, should they be necessary to respond to emergencies.

RETURN OF VETERANS MEMORIAL OBJECTS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an amendment to the Senate version of the FY2000 Defense Authorization Bill. Section 1066 of the Senate version prohibits the return of veterans memorial objects to foreign nations without specific authorization in law.

Although it might seem to be a well-intentioned attempt to protect veterans memorials, this amendment is, in fact, an underhanded attempt to infringe upon the chief executive's authority to, in good, return questionably acquired items to their rightful owners.

We all agree that this nation had been involved in a number of unjust conflicts. Regrettably, our troops have been involved in dubious actions, both here and in foreign lands. Without, taking dignity away from those who have fallen and those who followed orders, we should strive towards preserving our ability to right certain historical wrongs.

Under the cloak of protecting veterans memorials, this amendment is actually an attempt to impede the facilitation of a compromise between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines. F.E. Warren Air Force Base plays host to a memorial comprised of two church bells seized from the Philippines. As the bells are equally important to Filipinos, they have requested the repatriation of one.

I have worked in the last Congress to bring this compromise. Veterans groups, church offi-

cial, and members of this body have expressed support. Section 1066 of the Senate version is designed to undermine the progress we have made on this issue.

I urge the members of the conference committee to be mindful of this. Let us be straightforward and put the real issue on the table. I urge the members of the conference committee to act accordingly on this matter.

HONORING WILLIAM H. WALKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor an individual who served our great Nation in war time, and served our children in peace. William H. Walker not only served our Nation as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, but also served as an educator at Lincoln Elementary School in Centralia, Illinois.

The Illinois native from Carbondale passed away at age 83. During his life, he was a patriot and an inspiration to the civil rights movement, City of Centralia, and children of Lincoln Elementary School. Mr. Walker is also an inductee in the Centralia Historical Hall of Fame.

Dan Griffin, Superintendent of the Centralia City School District in which William Walker served said of Mr. Walker, "He was well-respected by the black community and white community alike, and by all educators. . . . The best way I can sum up Bill Walker is that he was a gentleman's gentleman."

I commend him on his life-time service to the nation. His life should be a reminder to us all about what service to the Nation means.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in opposition to the Gilman-Goss amendment.

This foolish and dangerous amendment would prohibit the use of funds to maintain a U.S. military presence in Haiti after December 31 of this year. The effect of this amendment is to gut US Support Group Haiti, an important humanitarian, engineering and civic affairs operation, and deny our President the flexibility he needs to determine our nation's troop deployments.

Haiti is currently planning to hold elections later this year. This elections follow months of political instability. It is vital that the United States show our support for the democratic process in this country.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Members on the other side of the aisle have

attempted to interfere in our nation's support for democracy in Haiti. Last month, Republicans led an effort to squash a human rights observation mission that represented the one credible human rights organization in Haiti during this difficult time.

Now, these same critics of our nation's policy toward Haiti are attempting to force our troops to leave at a time when their presence is especially important to support stability and aid in democratization efforts.

The people of Haiti are looking forward to having elections later this year. Requiring the courageous and dedicated men and women of our nation's armed forces to leave the country now would send a terrible message to the Haitian people about our willingness to support the democratic process in this country. Now is not the time to consider withdrawing these men and women at this critical point in Haiti's history.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the Gilman-Goss amendment.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES REYNOLDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Reynolds for his commitment to educating and shaping the lives of our youth. Mr. Reynolds is retiring from his position as principal at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Reynolds' school spirit and enthusiasm for sports was demonstrated in the 1950s as a student at Benedictine where he was an All Scholastic basketball and football player for the Benedictine Bengals. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University, Mr. Reynolds returned to his alma mater as a teacher and football and basketball coach. From there he went to Warrensville High School as head football and assistant basketball coach.

Mr. Reynolds continued his career in education by serving as assistant principal at Monticello Junior High. He later became Unit Principal at Cleveland High School. Finally, he accepted the position of principal at Warren High School where he remained until he retired.

However, his retirement was short-lived. After Father Dominic Mondzelewski stepped down as principal at Benedictine, Mr. Reynolds was persuaded to come out of retirement to become Benedictine's first lay principal. During his tenure, he upgraded the school technology and implemented many new programs, including Project Real, the Renaissance Honors program. In addition, he has instilled a renewed pride and school spirit among the student body.

Mr. Reynolds took great pride in his leadership role at Benedictine, a school that excels in educating young men and sends 99 percent of its graduates to college. Benedictine is known not only for academics, but also athletics. The high school currently holds the record in the lower 48 states of winning five state athletic championships over two academic years.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Reynolds for his career as an

outstanding educator. Benedictine will celebrate his retirement at a dinner on June 5, 1999. I wish Charles Reynolds and his family the very best.

TAIWAN EXTENDS A HELPING
HAND TO THE KOSOVAR REFUGEEES

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

President Lee has announced that he will sponsor an aid package amounting to US\$300 million for the refugees in Kosovo. He should be highly commended for his leadership. President Lee's generosity should inspire other wealthy nations of the world to open their hearts and pockets to help the war-torn region.

Taiwan is a geographically small nation, yet its government and people have large, unselfish hearts. They recognize the need for generosity toward the Kosovars, and they are always more than willing to help the less fortunate throughout the world.

President Lee's offer of financial assistance to Kosovo is very generous, and Taiwan should be recognized by the United States and the entire world for this selfless, charitable action.

A FITTING HONOR FOR SHEILA
DECTER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on July 27 I will be here on the floor of the House. Ordinarily that would be a source of pride to me, because I very much enjoy serving in this institution and appreciate the privilege of doing so which I receive from my constituents. But on July 27, I will be here with some regret, because my presence in the House will mean that I will be absent from the event honoring Sheila Decter, Executive Director of the American Jewish Congress in Boston.

From my days in the Massachusetts Legislature in the 70s, through my current service in the House, I have relied on Sheila Decter's wisdom, knowledge, and commitment to fairness for all people in my effort to do my job. Sheila Decter is one of the great natural resources of Massachusetts, and no one better deserves the honor she will be receiving on July 27 than she.

In her work through the American Jewish Congress Sheila Decter exemplifies the notion set forward by the great Rabbi Hillel, because she shows that working to protect the rights of Jews in this country and elsewhere are not only compatible with a strong commitment to universal human rights, but in fact reinforces and strengthens that commitment. Sheila Decter exemplifies the point that fighting injustice against any one group is best done by

putting that in the context of the fight against injustice everywhere. She has enriched the life of our community, and she has made my job a lot easier. And while I know that our rules require us to address all remarks to the Speaker, I hope I will be permitted an exception so I can say: Mazel Tov, Sheila.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF LECLAIRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the LeClaire Christian Church of Edwardsville, Illinois which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Throughout the years, the church has seen great change as it has moved from Odd Fellows' Hall to Garfield Street to its present location on Esic. The church has also seen their membership grow by four times throughout the years. Through this growth the church has expanded construction in order to provide greater facilities for congregation and community use.

The Anniversary Committee, chaired by Twila Ellsworth said the celebration has brought back former members as well as ministers from the past.

I am happy to see the steps the anniversary committee has made to celebrate their past as well as continuing their steps to offer quality programs and services to the community.

YUMA AGRICULTURE FORUM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this spring I held a widely-attended agriculture forum in Yuma, Colorado to hear from a panel of citizens representing Colorado's agriculture industry. Panelists shared their thoughts regarding the worsening agriculture economy in America and provided valuable suggestions for improving the industry's chances for success.

Record-low commodity prices, disease and weather-related problems, coupled with declining export opportunities and a weak demand, have taken a devastating toll on America's agriculture industry. Farm income has fallen dramatically over the past two years and it is difficult to predict how soon it might rebound. While Congress recently helped stave off disaster in rural America with an emergency assistance package, it is quite evident serious long-term policy decisions must be implemented to ensure the lasting future of rural agriculture.

Upon returning to Washington, D.C. from Yuma, I shared this report with House Agriculture Committee Chairman LARRY COMBEST, my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee and other key Members of Congress in order to provide them with the valuable information and suggestions I received from my constituents. This information has already

proven quite helpful in prioritizing the agricultural policy agenda for the 106th Congress and I have been asked to distribute it to all Members.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD, the summarized comments and suggestions of Colorado's agriculture community.

DAVE FRANK, OWNER, MAINSTREET INSURANCE

When Mainstreet Insurance first began issuing multi-peril insurance policies to producers, the 1985 farm program was in effect which mandated participating farmers own crop insurance to cover potential nominal and catastrophic losses. This policy of mandatory coverage was reinforced under the Freedom to Farm Act of 1995, which imposed additional restrictions and sanctions upon uninsured producers. This is good for agriculture, because it encourages sound risk management practices among producers and can help prevent the need for frequent taxpayer-funded government bailouts.

However, following a year of historically low commodity prices, natural disasters, and lost export opportunities due to a worsening economic crisis in Asia and eroding markets in Europe and Latin America, Congress in late 1998 found it necessary to provide nearly \$6 billion in farm disaster and market loss assistance for American producers. Rather than provide higher relief payments to those producers who purchased crop insurance than to those who did not, Secretary Glickman provided the same level of relief to all qualifying producers. There is little incentive for some to invest in crop insurance if it is determined the government will step in and provide the same level of "emergency" assistance to all producers, regardless of coverage.

There are a number of ways to improve our current federal crop insurance program. First of all, the federal government should refrain from providing emergency or disaster relief to producers who signed non-insured waivers giving up their rights to any disaster payments. Much as an uninsured store-owner would not expect the government to take responsibility for his or her losses in the event of a fire, an equally uninsured farmer should not expect the government to cover losses stemming from another unforeseen disaster.

Secondly, the government should encourage higher levels of crop insurance coverage among producers. Currently, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) subsidizes the 50%, 55%, and 65% coverage level premiums at 32% of cost, while only subsidizing the 70% and 75% levels at 18% of cost. It is difficult to encourage farmers to move from the 65% to 70% coverage level if their indemnity will only increase a few dollars while their premiums almost double. Instead, the RMA should invert the subsidy schedule to encourage higher level of coverage. Many U.S. counties are now testing coverage plans up to 80% and 85%. The RMA should consider testing plans up to 90%, 95%, or even 100% of farmers' Actual Production History (APH).

The RMA also must become more customer service-oriented and more attentive to the changing needs of producers operating under a new, market-drive agriculture program. Crop production and crop practices have changed rapidly and dramatically since the 1995 Farm Bill. Many farmers are changing their rotations and planting different crops, while others are planting continuous crops. There are a number of clients who live in one county, yet their land extends over into the next county. In many cases, the RMA allows a crop to be insured in one but not the other. The land is the same, the crop is the same, and the farmer is the same, yet only part of the crop is allowed to be covered by crop insurance. Discrepancies such as these discourage sound management practices at the very

time the government should be encouraging them.

RANDY WENGER, INSURANCE AGENT, PRODUCER

One of the biggest problems clients encounter centers around the use of the Average Production History (APH). When farmers have three or four years of losses in a row, the APH suffers considerably. Furthermore, even though the APH is capped at 20 percent, producers are assessed a 5 percent surcharge in order to cap their policies, and therefore suffer twice.

The first way to improve the APH would be to eliminate the 5 percent surcharge. Secondly, the 20 percent cap on the APH should be removed. Thirdly, the APH should not be allowed to fall below the transitional year yields stated in the actuarials. Many companies are aggressively pursuing new and innovative policies for higher subsidies, but such policies are often quite costly to acquire.

It would also be very helpful to extend the insurance sales deadline past March 15th, possibly until April 15th or May 1st. Such an extension would allow uninsured producers, or those with policy caps, to sit down and discuss various policy options with insurance providers to determine the most appropriate and efficient plan.

ELENA METRO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLORADO PORK PRODUCERS

Agriculture producers are suffering considerably from overly-burdensome federal environmental regulations often based upon emotion rather than upon sound science. Furthermore, environmental regulations, whether based upon science or emotion, significantly drive up the price of agricultural goods. Consumers increasingly want goods which are convenient, nutritious, environmentally sound, and inexpensive. While it is certainly the consumers right to want these things, it is becoming more and more difficult, even with new technology and increased efficiency, to provide such products at the low prices consumers prefer. Burdensome regulations needlessly drive up production costs and subsequently consumer prices.

America must work ever harder to open foreign export markets for our producers and ensure free and fair trading policies at home and abroad. Not only is it vital to secure expanding overseas market-share for domestic goods, but we must also guarantee fair competition at home. Statistics show Americans are eating over four pounds of additional protein per year. Such an increase suggests more of this protein will be purchased from foreign producers, which in turn means we must assure fair import policies and a fair competitive environment for Colorado and U.S. producers.

Urban encroachment is another issue of major concern to farmers and ranchers and the future of agriculture. We are losing more and more agricultural land to development each year and in the process sacrificing valuable farmland which can never be reclaimed for production agriculture. As an illustration, there is a man who farms two miles away who had just finished spraying his wheat field for pests. The next day, he was walking on his land when he spotted two women riding horses through his property. "Excuse me ma'am, but this is my land you are riding on," he said. "But it's just a field," one of the riders replied. "No," the farmer responded, "I just sprayed chemicals on my crops yesterday which could be hazardous to your horses." One of the women spun her horse around to face him and said, "Well, where do you expect us to ride then?" The farmer replied, "If you want to ride, then buy more land."

This story represents a common occurrence, where farmers and ranchers, having kept to themselves and worked their land in

an often secluded, rural environment for generations, are now experiencing encroachment from an ever-increasing population. Old homesteads are being replaced and surrounded by homes, businesses, shopping centers and apartment complexes. If such growth is not somehow managed, planned, or organized, the repercussions on the farming industry could be great.

For one thing, unemployed farmers and ranchers cannot simply walk across the street to find a new job like people who live in Denver. The loss of the hog industry to Eastern Colorado would create mass unemployment and economic depression. It would be similar to the loss of US West to Denver. Secondly, the reduction in domestic agricultural production would naturally lead to more reliance upon imported food. There is the possibility such products would not have the same high level of food safety expected of domestic products.

LARRY PALSER, VICE PRESIDENT, COLORADO WHEAT ADMINISTRATION

There are many reasons for the widespread discouragement among wheat producers today. U.S. producers are experiencing the lowest wheat prices in eight years, coupled with the largest stock since 1988. While acknowledging low prices can be attributed to the cyclical nature of commodity markets, we should also be working to turn the corner toward price improvement by selling and exporting more wheat. There are many reasons why export sales are not at the levels we would prefer to see, but the two primary areas include overall trade policy and sanctions reform.

One of the primary aims of the Freedom to Farm bill was increased market access for production. Over the past four years, wheat imports by six countries (Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, and Sudan) have more than doubled. Unfortunately, however, the United States has imposed strict trade sanctions prohibiting the export of U.S. agriculture products to every one of these countries. This represents approximately 15 percent of global demand for U.S. wheat exports and amounts to the largest self-imposed market-loss since the 1980 U.S.S.R. embargo. American farmers in 1998 harvested the largest supply of wheat this decade and now face the lowest levels of serviceable imports to account for the demand of the decade. This greatly contributes to the price-depressing carryovers we are currently experiencing. Access to these and other restricted markets is essential to the long-term success of the wheat industry.

Even with record-low prices for American wheat, foreign competitors are capable of undercutting U.S. prices through export subsidies such as those employed by the European Union. In addition, the Canadian and Australian Wheat Boards have utilized trade agreements to garner better tariff rates and higher wheat prices. The U.S. government should be fighting harder than ever to improve the competitive ability of domestic producers by strengthening our negotiating authority and securing more advantageous trade agreements. We should also level the playing field somewhat by fully utilizing the export enhancement programs, market development programs, PL480 and others to regain our rightful percentage of the world market. Finally, there should be in place a permanent mechanism to reimburse producers for market losses caused by U.S.-imposed sanctions and restrictions.

In regards to crop insurance, the other panelists are correct in their assessment we must do everything possible to strengthen and enhance risk management programs for producers. The federal funding mechanism should be inverted so that higher costing

coverage policies have their premiums subsidized at a better rate. This would encourage producers to purchase higher coverage policies. Furthermore, if the United States moves away from federal disaster assistance programs, the crop insurance program and other risk management tools must provide adequate coverage at an economical price for producers.

STEVE THORN, FORMER OFFICER, COLORADO CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Trade sanctions and trade policy issues have already been mentioned by other panelists, but these are definitely very vital issues for producers today. With over 70 global economies off-limits to U.S. producers due to trade sanctions, farmers and ranchers are subsequently denied access to nearly 50% of the total world market. In the past it has been said that three out of every four bushels of corn will be used here in the United States, but that the price is tagged to the one bushel we sell overseas. Whatever the percentage is today going overseas, the prices we receive for our products are a whole lot less than they used to be. While U.S. producers are the most efficient coarse grain and feedstuff growers in the world, they are certainly not treated that way at home or abroad.

Part of the problem stems from the very nature of government-led farm programs. Once legislation is drafted, debated by committees, and voted on by the entire Congress, it ends up under the authority of unelected bureaucrats with little or no accountability to the producers they are charged with serving. The legislative proposal that once sounded so simple and helpful ends up as a convoluted mess by the time it works its way to the implementation stage. Most of the expenditures do not end up going where they were intended to go and policies rarely turn out right when implemented by the agencies. County Farm Service Agency (FSA) representatives, for instance, have had to postpone appointments for weeks sometimes because of delays in receiving proper information and support from the USDA.

It is very important to provide producers with a strong and viable safety net, but whatever policy is enacted must be clearly delineated for agency follow-through and must allow for significant Congressional oversight. Lawmakers are capable of crafting successful legislation, but if it gets passed off to bureaucrats with little care or understanding of the original intent of the bill then it simply turns into another worthless piece of paper.

In addition, while Congress by nature must establish rules, regulations, laws and initiatives which apply to the entire country, there needs to be an understanding that what is right for Iowa is not necessarily right for northeast Colorado. Planting and harvesting times are different as are decisions regarding financial planning and insurance coverage. Colorado producers must be taken into consideration along with the rest of the country when deadlines are determined.

Finally, it is important to enact Fast Track trade negotiating authority for the president in order to ensure clean, effective trade negotiations and to help secure fair trade agreements for American producers. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) sounded good on the surface, but there are several aspects which have turned out to be different than anticipated. The Mexican government, for instance, has not been importing dry beans at the level they said they were going to import. Not only that, but they have set up a permit system to restrict the level of imports and have not even been taking delivery on the beans for

which they purchased the permits. Dry beans may store for longer periods of time than some wheat and some corn, and certainly longer than pork and beef, but they will not store forever. Facing such restrictions and uncertainties is harmful to American producers.

ROGER HICKERT, PRESIDENT, COLORADO LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

Cattle prices historically run in ten-year cycles. The last ten years, however, between natural occurrences and various issues within the industry, have brought significant changes to those cycles. In the early 1990's, specifically the winter of 1992, the industry saw big losses in the feeding industry along the high plains of the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, and Southwest Kansas. This resulted in a gap in the market and extremely high prices in 1993. As soon as the inventory was there, however, the market immediately corrected itself and that created extreme lows and major losses for the industry. Those losses now have extended for approximately five years and have been stretched out somewhat by the concentration in the industry. This concentration appears to have extended to the feeding industry as well as the packing industry and has created a whole new business atmosphere with different players and different reporting practices.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) in its last convention moved to support mandatory price reporting of all live sales. This issue is a two-edged sword because not only would the high prices being eliminated need to be reported, but so would the unreported low prices. Most producers probably would not come in and say "well, I sold cattle today for \$0.58 even though the price is \$0.62." Those are going to show up and probably change the average, so again, it is a two-edged sword. But it would help to determine what the good cattle are selling for.

Many of the problems faced by the industry, particularly the equity loss incurred over the past twelve months, have been some of the most tremendous ever faced by the feeding industry. Much of it can be attributed to indications the cattle industry was at a bullish point in the cycle and many in the industry moved away from risk management and dropped positions on the futures board. For many big companies, like Coke Industries, the loss was just too extreme to stay in the feeding business.

Another issue is the movement toward more alliances. Producer, feeder, and packer alliances are beginning to become the branded product, and as the industry moves toward branded products, producers and feeders will have to be very careful which brand or alliance they get into. Dr. Gary Smith of Colorado State University (CSU) suggests that in the next five years, those not involved in an alliance will probably not be here in the next five years, and that choosing an alliance will probably be the most important decision they make within that time period.

A significant concern for the industry right now is the European Union (EU) hormone ban on beef, particularly since exports account for 10 percent of the industry's business. This ban is nothing more than a trade barrier because there is no scientific evidence anything is wrong with the meat. It is simply a way to deny market-share to U.S. producers. The American beef producer can compete with anybody in the world on a level playing field, but they cannot compete against Canadian producers who benefit from heavy grain subsidies and can feed cattle for half the price. It is not fair that Canadian producers benefit from this subsidy and then haul their live cattle to local areas to be slaughtered and stamped by the USDA.

While the Colorado Livestock Association has officially taken a neutral stance on the country-of-origin labeling issue, it is certainly one with which the industry must contend. There are many in and out of the industry calling for such labeling, but such a policy, if enacted, could work both ways for the U.S. industry. The more informed consumer, it is believed, will prefer to purchase U.S. beef, which is widely considered to be the best and cheapest product available in the world. But there are some among the public who may decide for whatever reason to purchase Australian or Argentinean grass-fed beef instead.

Congress must also work to pressure federal agencies to cut down on unnecessary regulatory burdens. Environmental regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency, in particular, have grown ever more restrictive and significantly cut into agriculture profits. The industry is working hard to stay ahead of the regulations, but many smaller feed lots find it very difficult to afford the \$15,000 to \$20,000 just to keep up with the environmental regulations.

JERRY SONNENBERG, COLORADO FARM BUREAU

It is important any environmental regulations promulgated by the EPA be based upon sound science. These regulatory burdens do cost a lot of money and do cut down on profitability and productivity, but if they are deemed to be absolutely necessary, they must work for everybody and be backed by sound science.

Country-of-origin labeling is an important policy to implement. There are some who may prefer Australian or Argentinean beef, but the fact is most consumers believe American producers raise the best and safest commodities and food in the world and we should be confident and proud to put our name on it.

It is imperative the United States works to open foreign markets. As mentioned earlier, the more than 70 countries currently sanctioned by the U.S. government represents a significant market for the U.S. agriculture industry. Agriculture generally takes the brunt of most imposed sanctions, and when U.S. products are denied access to a market, another exporting country will supply the product in our place.

We must not eliminate and sanction foreign markets at a time when world population is forecast to increase, and possibly double, within the next 50 to 60 years. The United States has a surplus of agricultural products, yet 25 percent of the world is considered to be under-nourished. The U.S. must find ways to deliver its goods to that 25 percent, whether through the utilization of the Export Enhancement Program (EEP) or through other means.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has really tied the hands of American producers domestically through its use of ambiguous and disputable policies and restrictions. In particular, the designation and regulation of potential Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat land has not been based upon known facts or sound science. For example, at the same time the Fish and Wildlife Service documents the mouse never strays beyond 150 feet from waterways, the EPA is calling for a 300-foot buffer. The EPA's regulation simply does not correspond with the known facts and science as documented by the agency with jurisdiction over the issue. The burden of proof must lie with the federal government in proving beyond a doubt the presence of this species, in addition to documented proof it is in fact threatened, before imposing burdensome regulations on America's farmers and ranchers.

RON OHLSON, DIRECTOR, YUMA COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

The role of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is to work face to face with local producers

and help them utilize available programs and tools. When assisting with programs such as the Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program, the fewer levels of bureaucracy the program must pass through on the way to the producer, the better. This program, for instance, looks nothing like the plan originally passed by the Congress because of all the bureaucracy. There should be some way for local FSA representatives to make minor policy changes and avoid duplication with other agencies in order to better serve producers. Over the past seven or eight years there has also been a deterioration in the grass-roots nature of coordination and assistance. Now, local control is increasingly considered to be an area, state, or regional office. This assistance must continue to be administered by those who know the producers and their needs best.

While a number of farm programs are supposed to be phased out under the Farm Bill, agency staff is being reduced faster than the programs they are expected to administer. Ongoing programs are difficult to maintain, particularly when insufficient staff is available to administer and implement the large, ad-hoc programs that develop quickly and unexpectedly like this Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program. County offices must be given the time and ability to implement the programs correctly and efficiently the first time. The implementation software for this particular program, for instance, did not arrive from Washington, D.C. in a timely manner and it made things very difficult.

It is getting to the point that many offices do not know how they are going to handle the high workload. The counties of Eastern Colorado have among the largest workload around. The seven counties in this district have a higher workload than Utah and Nevada. Large programs and tasks are delivered to the understaffed offices as priority items but none of their other projects can be set aside or delayed. The level of paperwork is immense too—it might be helpful to revisit the Paperwork Reduction Act to determine if it is being fully implemented.

Many producers in this area are also very concerned about the Kyoto treaty. This treaty, if approved and implemented, will have a severe impact on the agriculture industry, which is expected to shoulder a large share of the burden.

DEB NICHOLS, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR, IRRIGATION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Irrigation Research Foundation is a privately owned, non-profit, independent research and demonstration site. It is the only research station focusing on irrigation and is located over the Ogallala Aquifer. The primary purpose is to find ways to make production more economical and to demonstrate wise water use.

Earlier this decade, a group of local producers wanted to see studies useful to their own production and throughout the region. It was important to know what populations to plan, ways to work with soil compaction to produce better yields, different options for setting up variety trials, how to make more of a profit, and a way to see all of the different companies side-by-side to inspect their premier varieties. Ed and Jessie Troutman purchased a quarter of land north of Yuma in January 1994 from the Dekalb Seed Company and established the Irrigation Research Foundation. Today, the foundation has a board made up of diversified, farm-oriented individuals, both retired and working, who represent the banking industry, the insurance industry, dairy associations, cattle producers, commercial fertilizer sales people, and individuals from the University Cooperative Extension.

Some of the crops raised in 1998 were corn, wheat, sunflowers, soybeans, pinto beans,

milo, sugar beets, millet, canola, field peas, and cotton. There is a silage plot, Iowa corn, transgenic corn resistant to specific insects, a corn population study, herbicide-resistant corn, and the premier corn study is the water and nutrient management study.

The Irrigation Research Foundation works with Dr. Maudie L. Casey, a water specialist from Colorado State University (CSU), on a study which looks at variable fertilizer rates, population levels, and irrigation rates. This study is designed to determine the optimum which will produce the greatest profit, not necessarily the greatest yield.

In 1998, the foundation acquired a 5-year lease of dry land from the City of Yuma. While the primary focus of the Irrigation Research Foundation is on water, dry land research is also very important to many members. Evolving technology has presented new ways to manage dry land. The foundation is demonstrating ways to use continual cropping with various rotations to not only produce an annual yield, but also to at the same time preserve the soil, reduce wind erosion, and help wildlife.

The Irrigation Research Foundation also provides various forms of public service to the community. The foundation is currently arranging to hold several classes for the community through Morgan Community College, there are sugar beet planter test days where producers can have their equipment tested free of cost, training is available for commercial applicators and emergency personnel in the handling of hazardous products, such as fertilizers, chemicals, pesticides, and herbicides. The foundation also produces for the public an informative annual report and holds several field days throughout the year. Wheat field days are held in June, sugar beet days are held in September, and the premier show is the Farm Show held in August which allows affiliated companies to showcase their products, provides an opportunity for producers to learn about the foundation's studies, and presents an opportunity for many individuals in the industry to interact with one another.

ROSS TUELL, MEMBER, YUMA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Yuma County Economic Development Committee is funded by the County of Yuma and the two cities of Yuma and Wray. The committee focuses primarily on retaining and expanding existing businesses by serving as an information service, helping write business plans, locate funding sources, and complete documents and forms. The committee also looks to add value to existing operations and add new businesses to the community. The most important effort is keeping producers on the farm, otherwise we lose them and the stores in town that serve them. One challenge is balancing the positives and negatives of expanding economic growth. The bigger the farms get, which they presently are, the larger the pieces of equipment they require, which means fewer implement dealers, fewer employees, and fewer businesses in town.

From a producer's standpoint, the policies that would help agriculture the most are those which would expand markets and reduce burdensome regulations and expenses. Specifically, the Congress and the president should work to enact Fast Track trade negotiating authority, eliminate the death tax, cut capital gains taxes, and lower the marginal income tax rate.

While some opposed to cutting capital gains taxes and the death tax claim it benefits only the extraordinarily rich in the country, it is simply not the case. The extremely wealthy do not worry much about these taxes. If they have something they want to sell or bequeath, they are going to

do it anyway and the tax is not going to affect them much. But family farms are different. Families must sell the farm just to pay the taxes and then nothing is left.

Furthermore, as mentioned earlier in the forum, the U.S. must revise its policy regarding the sanctions currently imposed on over 70 countries. As Dr. Barry Flinsbaugh from Kansas State University (KSU) has stated, if the U.S. is going to continue using food as a weapon, we ought to change the way we do it. Instead of holding it back, we should simply give it to them. We are not fighting the people who are starving, we are fighting governments, and the governments do not care that the people are starving, which is why we have human rights concerns in the first place. It is much easier to throw forty metric tons of wheat at them than it is to throw a million-dollar piece of electronic hardware at them.

DAVE THOMAS, YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Thomas addressed his comments to me. He said, "Congressman, I would like to thank you for coming to Yuma County and for being our voice in Washington because we have a lot of concerns here today. I know you will carry those forward. All of the concerns mentioned today affect Eastern Colorado and I know you will be our voice."

CINDY HICKERT, FORMER WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

While not a resident of Yuma County, Commissioner Hickert does conduct business here. For one reason or another, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been exerting more pressure on the Health Department to develop more of a paper trail. It should really be more important to get things done correctly than to concentrate more staff on creating a paper trail. As was mentioned earlier in the forum, any new regulations and restrictions must be based upon sound science.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking all of the participants for their input. Mr. Tim Stulp moderated the forum and did an outstanding job of drawing many helpful thoughts and comments from our expert panel of speakers. I might also point out Mr. Speaker, that mid-way through the forum, Mr. Combest of Texas addressed the crowd, by telephone and loudspeaker, and assured Colorado producers of efforts in the House to strengthen America's agriculture economy.

INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY FLATS OPEN SPACE ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Rocky Flats Open Space Act. This legislation will preserve important open space and wildlife resources of this former nuclear weapons production facility in the heart of a major metropolitan area.

The Rocky Flats facility sits on land purchased by the federal government in the early 1950s for the production of nuclear weapons components. Since 1992, Rocky Flats' mission has changed from production of nuclear weapons components to managing wastes and materials and, cleaning up and converting the site to beneficial uses in a manner that is safe, environmentally and socially responsible, physically secure, and cost-effective.

The land at Rocky Flats is generally divided into a buffer zone of about 6,000-acres and an

industrial area of about 385-acres. The industrial area contains the building and facilities that were used to manufacture nuclear weapons components. The buffer zone has been generally used as an open space perimeter around the centrally located industrial area.

Since it was established in 1951, the Rocky Flats buffer zone has remained essentially undisturbed. This land possesses an impressive diversity of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. It also represents one of the last sections of critical open space that makes up the striking Front Range mountain backdrop.

The concept of preserving this land as open space is not new. Recently, the city of Westminster, Colorado, just east of Rocky Flats, conducted a citywide poll asking residents how they thought the Rocky Flats site should be managed into the future. The results of that poll were released in February 1999 and they show that people overwhelmingly support the preservation of Rocky Flats as open space. In fact, 88 percent of the respondents picked open space as the preferred land use. Additionally, from 1993 to 1995, The Rocky Flats Future Site Use Working Group, composed of a broad range of local community representatives and the public, evaluated the potential future uses of the Rocky Flats site. In 1995, the Group issued a set of recommendations, which included keeping the buffer zone in open space. Furthermore, the 1996 Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement and corresponding Rocky Flats Vision Statement, the documents which govern cleanup of the site, contemplate open space uses for the buffer zone. In short, my bill reflects the preferences of the citizens who live around the site by designating the buffer zone as open space.

Just last month, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson designated about 800 acres of the northwest section of the buffer zone as the Rock Creek Reserve to preserve and protect the important wildlife, cultural and open space resources of this area. My bill complements the Secretary's action by acknowledging the important wildlife and open space opportunities of the entire buffer zone. Because a number of future management decisions still need to be made, my bill also creates a Rocky Flats Open Space Advisory Council, composed of representatives of the communities, citizens and state and federal agencies, to make recommendations as to how the buffer zone should be managed as open space.

It is important that there be a rational and more predictable process for addressing land use and the open space potential of Rocky Flats. My bill ensures that state and local government will have a seat at the table in determining the future of land use at Rocky Flats.

In addition, it is important to underscore that my bill will not affect the ongoing cleanup and closure activities at Rocky Flats. My bill encourages DOE to remain on track for the cleanup and closure of the site by the year 2006. It also directs that the bill's provisions for open space management cannot be used to establish cleanup levels for the site, and instead directs that the appropriate cleanup levels be based on public health and safety considerations.

Specifically, the Rocky Flats Open Space Act would declare that the lands owned by the federal government at Rocky Flats will remain in federal ownership, and that the lands comprising the buffer zone (about 6,000-acres) remain as open space. Additionally, the bill

would create an Open Space Advisory Council, comprised of representatives of the local community and citizens, to make recommendations on the appropriate entity to manage the wildlife, wildlife habitat and open space resources of the buffer zone. The advisory council would also provide any other advice on how this open space resource should be managed. Furthermore, the bill would stipulate that the U.S. Department of Energy continues with all required cleanup and closure activities.

The bill would not establish the Rocky Flats industrial area as open space, but that would not be precluded by the bill if the communities find such use appropriate. Similarly, the bill won't affect the scope and schedule of cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats—it does not hamper achieving a cleanup and closure by the year 2006—or affect the historic former Lindsey Ranch Homestead facilities that presently exist in the buffer zone. It also won't affect the recently created Rock Creek Reserve established by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for about 800-acres in the northwest area of the buffer zone.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE ANTONIO B. ECLAVEA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate Chief Warrant Officer Five Antonio B. Eclavea, a native son of Guam, on his very distinguished career and well-earned retirement. CW5 Eclavea has made his contribution to the strength and security of our nation through his faithful and professional military service.

By having been one of the first soldiers ever to be promoted to the grade of Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5), Antonio B. Eclavea has brought great recognition to himself, the island of Guam and her people. Although the first warrant officers promoted to the rank of CW5 were selected in 1992, it was not until 1993 that the United States Army first appointed active duty CW5's. CW5 Eclavea holds the distinction of being the first Army warrant officer promoted to CW5 in the Adjutant General Corps.

Born on September 9, 1934, in the city of Hågatña, CW5 Eclavea initially served in the military through the United States Air Force. Attaining the rank of Master Sergeant, he made a career move and joined the Army in 1969. After eleven years, he traded his Air Force stripes for warrant officer's bars.

For over four decades CW5 Eclavea served at various posts, including tours of duty in Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, and the Republic of Korea. He was also stationed at a number of stateside locations, earning the respect and admiration of superiors and troops. In addition to completing the Army Adjutant General Course and the Master Warrant Officer Course, he also received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Business Administration from Marymount College. Awards and decorations conferred to him include, among others, the Distinguished Serv-

ice Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. Currently the most senior warrant officer in the United States Army, he is serving in his final assignment as the Assistant Executive Officer to the Army Chief of Staff.

CW5 Eclavea's distinguished military career is a source of pride for the people of Guam. I congratulate CW5 Eclavea on his outstanding achievements. Together with the people of Guam, I join his wife, Rose Marie, and his sons Johnny, Anthony, Michael, and Mark, in proudly celebrating his great accomplishments. I hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF NELSON CINTRON, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first Hispanic Councilman in the City of Cleveland, Nelson Cintron, Jr.

Mr. Cintron has had many extraordinary accomplishments as a city councilman. He expanded the Puerto Rican Parade from 1 day to 4 days thus creating the Puerto Rican Society of Cleveland. Fulfilling a promise he made to his father, he brought the first 24 hours a day Hispanic Radio Station to Cleveland through Cablevision in 1991. He was also the first to win local primaries for Cleveland City councilman 1989, 1993, and to win the election in 1997, thus fulfilling another one of his life long dreams.

Mr. Cintron has also been an outstanding leader in his community. He is currently a member of several clubs and community organizations including: Alma Yaucana Club, Azteca Club, San Lorenzo Club, the Puerto Rican Society of Cleveland, Spanish American Committee, the Ohio Latin Broadcasting Inc, St. Michael Church, Latinos Unidos and the Hispanic Club.

Through his hard work and dedication to helping the Puerto Ricans in Cleveland, Mr. Cintron has set an example of what can be accomplished and has been a positive role model for the Hispanic community in Cleveland. Mr. Cintron is a tremendous inspiration to all Americans. Through his strong devotion he has been an exceptional leader in the Puerto Rican Community and has helped them make a name for themselves.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Nelson Cintron, Jr., a dear friend and the first Hispanic Councilman for the City of Cleveland.

TAIWAN TO AID KOSOVAR REFUGEES

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan,

who has announced Taiwan's decision to provide \$300 million in aid for Kosovar refugees and the reconstruction of war-torn areas of Kosovo. The aid includes emergency food and shelter for Kosovar evacuees in Macedonia, as well as short-term occupational training in Taiwan to help refugees speed the reconstruction of war-ravaged areas.

President Lee and the government and people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for voluntarily participating in the international relief effort for the people of Kosovo. Their actions are in stark contrast to People's Republic of China's hostile attitude toward the United States and NATO and their political obstruction to maintaining peace in the fragile democratic nation of Macedonia. This generous humanitarian action by Taiwan, a nation of 21 million freedom loving people, who live in the threatening shadow of tyranny imposed on mainland China, emphasizes the reason that the United States must remain a loyal friend and unwaveringly support the defense of freedom for the Taiwanese people.

I am enclosing for the record a copy of President Lee's June 7, 1999 presidential statement regarding assistance to Kosovar refugees.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVAR REFUGEES

The huge numbers of Kosovar casualties and refugees from the Kosovo area resulting from the NATO-Yugoslavia conflict in the Balkans have captured close world-wide attention. From the very outset, the government of the ROC has been deeply concerned and we are carefully monitoring the situation's development.

We in the Republic of China were pleased to learn last week that Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the peace plan for the Kosovo crisis proposed by the Group of Eight countries, for which specific peace agreements are being worked out.

The Republic of China wholeheartedly looks forward to the dawning of peace on the Balkans. For more than two months, we have been concerned about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees who were forced to flee to other countries, particularly from the vantage point of our emphasis on protecting human rights. We thereby organized a Republic of China aid mission to Kosovo. Carrying essential relief items, the mission made a special trip to the refugee camps in Macedonia to lend a helping hand.

Today, as we anticipate a critical moment of forth-coming peace, I hereby make the following statement to the international community on behalf of all the nationals of the Republic of China:

As a member of the world community committee to protecting and promoting human rights, the Republic of China would like to develop further the spirit of humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction. We will provide a grant aid equivalent to about US \$300 million. The aid will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food, shelters, medical care, and education, etc., for the Kosovar refugees, living in exile in neighboring countries.

2. Short-term accommodations for some of the refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of job training in order for them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.

3. Furthermore, support the rehabilitation of the Kosovo area in coordination with international long-term recovery programs when the peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful Kosovo homes.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this unjust and unfair rule. The Majority Leadership is still refusing to allow several Democratic amendments to be considered by this House. I am especially opposed to this rule because my amendments to extend Section 2323 of Title X of the U.S. Code were not ruled in order.

Section 2323 established a five percent contract goal for small disadvantaged businesses and certain institutions of higher education, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-serving institutions. Achieving this modest goal is the objective of the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and NASA. This important law is scheduled to expire in the year 2000.

I proposed two amendments to extend Section 2323 beyond the year 2000 and improve the implementation of this important provision of law. My colleague, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, also proposed two amendments to extend and modify Section 2323. So there were four different proposals regarding contracting for small disadvantaged businesses and minority institutions and none of them were ruled in order by the Republican leadership.

Recent trends have provided compelling evidence for the continuing need for affirmative action goals in Federal contracting. Following the *Adarand v. Pena* decision by the Supreme Court, the Federal Government undertook a review of affirmative action programs, and subsequently, 17 of these programs were altered or eliminated.

These changes have led to a significant drop in the number of Federal contracts awarded to minorities and women. For example, in 1995, the Department of Energy, which contracts out 80 percent of its purchases of goods and services, awarded \$215.8 million in contracts to women and minority-owned businesses. In 1997, the amount dropped to \$66.1 million. It would be extremely unfortunate if a similar decrease in Federal contracting with minority-owned businesses were to occur at the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and NASA.

Section 2323 is a modest goal to encourage contracts with minority-owned businesses and other small businesses. As a result of this provision, many businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals have been able to compete for, have been awarded and have executed Defense, NASA

and Coast Guard contracts. Section 2323 has allowed small disadvantaged businesses and minority institutions of higher education to make a positive contribution to the national security of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this unjust rule and support a fair rule that will allow the Members of this House to consider the extension of Section 2323.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MICKEY MENDOZA

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mickey Mendoza of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, a young man whose life was ended in a tragic incident in Ecuador on April 11, 1999. Regrettably, to this day, no full explanation has been offered by Ecuadorian officials to describe the circumstances surrounding Mickey's death. All that we know for sure is that a bullet from a gun belonging to a police officer in Guayquil, Ecuador senselessly ended the life of a promising fourteen year old American citizen.

I met with Mickey's parents, Galo and Doris and their three children shortly after this death and I know the pain they are enduring. Today I have come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to say that I fully share the Mendoza family's desire to get to the bottom of how Mickey died. They are owed this answer and I intend to continue my work with U.S. officials in Ecuador to ensure that they get a full accounting of what led to Mickey's death.

Mickey Mendoza was, in almost all respects, living the American dream. He was a bright and energetic student at Saddle Brook Middle School. He was active in sports, taking part in his school's wrestling team and playing soccer in a recreational league. In addition, after school, Mickey was attending confirmation classes at Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church in Garfield, New Jersey. His creativity, his energy, his thoughtfulness, and all this has been taken from us.

Father Paul Bochicchia, pastor of Mickey's church, after learning of his death, recounted that Mickey was especially protective of his little nine year old sister, Isabella. What better tribute than to remember Mickey as a fourteen year old boy who cared for his little sister. This tells us everything we need to know about who Mickey was and why his death has touched the lives of so many people.

Among the many messages of sympathy that the Mendoza family have received, I read one that I would like to share with my colleagues. This letter was written by Anthony Maneri, Mickey's classmate at Saddle Brook Middle School; "Mickey was a great pal. He always could make you laugh, even at sad times. He always knew the right things to say to make people laugh. He was a great friend and I am going to miss him. I will never forget him."

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A MODEL IN SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Prince George's County School System as one of our Nation's most innovative and successful school violence prevention programs. In the wake of the tragedies at Columbine and Conyers High School, it is important to highlight those schools which serve as a model for other school districts to follow.

As the 18th largest school district in the nation, the faculty and staff of the Prince George's County Public School system educates one of the most diverse student populations of any district in the Nation. This week, as we continue our dialogue and focus on solutions to making our schools a safer place to learn, perhaps we can look to many of the programs already in place in Prince George's County and across the State of Maryland.

Under the direction of retiring Superintendent Dr. Jerome Clark and Dr. Patricia Green, Chief, Divisional Administrator for Pupil Services, Prince George's County has implemented a regimen of programs including peer mediation, early intervention, and placement of probation specialists within schools.

The Peer Mediation program has been one of the most successful. By placing a peer mediation teacher on staff at each of the 20 high schools and 26 middle schools, students are learning now to intervene and peacefully resolve conflicts. The program has recently been instituted on the elementary school level where teachers and guidance counselors at more than 100 of the district's elementary schools are trained on the importance of creating a healthy learning environment.

Another program, called the "Justice in Cluster Program" has been so successful that the State of Maryland used the program as the model to create the statewide "Spotlight on Schools." By teaming up with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, each cluster of schools is able to provide two probation specialists who work with the local high school, middle school, and elementary schools to assist guidance counselors, peer mediation teachers, school psychologists, and administrators in working with troubled students and ensuring that they remain out of the juvenile justice system.

Early intervention programs are also proving to be successful. "Second Step," a program featured in a 1997 study by the University of Washington, teaches children to change attitudes which may lead to violent behavior. Through learning empathy, impulse control and anger management, students in kindergarten through grade six are learning how to react nonviolently to various situations. The program is currently in place in 67 elementary schools and the Prince George's County School System has been asked by the Maryland State Department of Education to become the regional training center so that other school districts can replicate this successful program.

These are just three of the many positive programs being implemented just beyond the

borders of our Nation's Capitol. With a number of successful federal programs in place like D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T., and the COPS program, we are in a position to provide a comprehensive plan for reducing school violence. I salute the Prince George's County Public School System for its dedication to safety and encourage my colleagues to look to this school system as one which may have solutions to the many problems facing our education system.

IN HONOR OF SAINT ALOYSIUS
PARISH ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Saint Aloysius Parish of Cleveland, Ohio on its 100th anniversary.

The church serves its parishioners and the communities of Glenville and South Collinwood through education, social services and the preservation of faith values. Two schools, St. Aloysius and St. Joseph's, offer education to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The schools are known for their excellence in academics and the strong sense of community between teachers, students and parents. St. Aloysius reaches out to community members of all faiths through its social services operations. The church runs a food distribution program that provides 700 to 800 bags of food to needy families in the area once a month. Working with nearby parishes and local food banks, the church also provides a hot meal program every Tuesday which serves up to 700 hot meals.

St. Aloysius was founded in 1898 by Rev. Msgr. Joseph Smith for the area's predominantly Irish-American population. As the population in the area changed, the pastors worked to improve racial relations in the area. Today, the parish serves the present African-American community.

In 1974, the parish merged with neighboring St. Agatha Church. The tight-knit parish community worships in the church known as "the Cathedral of Glenville" and prides itself on knowing all its members.

St. Aloysius has been celebrating its 100th anniversary since last summer. Parishioners have been commemorating their church's history by celebrating Mass, holding cultural events and creating a memories wall with photos of past and present members.

As a honorary committee member of the St. Aloysius parish I take great pride in commending the entire congregation on its century of serving the community through faith, education and outreach programs. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the St. Aloysius community many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES
PEAK WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the James Peak Wilderness

Act of 1999. This legislation will provide important protection and management for some striking mountain open space along Colorado's Continental Divide west of Denver. These lands, which include the 13,294-foot James Peak, are the heart of the largest unprotected roadless area on the northern Front Range.

The James Peak area that will be protected by my bill offers outstanding recreational opportunities for hiking, skiing, fishing, and backpacking, including the popular South Boulder Creek trail and along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. James Peak is one of the highest rated areas for biological diversity on the entire Arapaho National Forest, including unique habitat for wildlife, miles of riparian corridors, stands of old growth forests, and threatened and endangered species. The area includes a dozen spectacularly situated alpine lakes, including Forest Lakes, Arapaho Lakes, and Heart Lake. Many sensitive species such as wolverine, lynx, and pine marten only thrive in wilderness settings. Adding James Peak to the chain of protected lands (wilderness and National Park lands) from Berthoud Pass to the Wyoming State line will promote movement of these species and improve their chances for survival.

My bill will designate 22,000-acres of the James Peak roadless area as wilderness. This area will be added to the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993—the last major wilderness legislation passed for federal public lands in Colorado. Last year, my predecessor, Congressman David Skaggs, introduced a similar bill that would have protected 15,850-acres of the James Peak roadless area as wilderness. The increase in my bill is due to the inclusion of lands with Grand County that were excluded from the Skaggs bill. These acres were included to preserve the integrity of the James Peak area and protect important lands within this roadless area in Grand County. My bill also does not include 7 small wilderness additions that were in Skaggs' bill. I am evaluating these lands for a possible future bill.

My bill also includes provisions encouraging the Forest Service to acquire two in holdings within the proposed wilderness in Grand County. These lands are a section of State Land Board Land and a private mining claim. My bill will also address the need to provide facilities at the Alice Township and St. Mary's Glacier. This area is experiencing increasing use as a forest access point, and there is a need to supply adequate services for visitors in this area. My bill will also direct the Forest Service to remove an abandoned radio tower facility on Mt. Eva near James Peak.

As my bill will be an addition to the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, the James Peak Wilderness will be subject to the water provisions of that Act thus avoiding potential conflicts related to water. In addition, James Peak is a headwaters area, so there will be no conflicts with existing water rights.

As wilderness, the James Peak area also will be subject to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Under this Act, activities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, rafting, canoeing, cross-country skiing and scientific research are allowed. In addition, use of wheelchairs, treatment of diseases and insects, fire suppression activities and research and rescue activities will be allowed. Activities that would be excluded include motorized vehicle use, mining, timber harvesting, oil and gas

drilling, road building and the use of motorized and mechanized equipment. In addition, my bill has been drafted in such a way as to avoid conflicts and to address concerns that were expressed during the development of Representative Skaggs' bill. Specifically, my bill addresses the following issues:

Private Lands. My bill is drawn to avoid potential conflicts with private interests by excluding private lands and facilities.

Recreation: My bill does not include the Rollins Pass road between the James Peak roadless area and the existing Indian Peaks Wilderness Area to the north. This road is used for recreational access for mountain bikers and snowmobiles. In addition, areas along the proposed western boundary within Grand County have been excluded from my bill to address recreational access to area and trails used by mountain bikers and snowmobiles. These areas include the Jim Creek drainage and the area south of the Rollins Pass road on the Grand County side.

Search and Rescue. As already provided by the Wilderness Act, activities related to the health and safety of persons within the area will be allowed, including the need to use mechanized equipment to perform search and rescue activities.

Timer and minerals. About one-third of the area is timbered—or 8,300-acres—and one-third of this is old growth. Steep slopes and lack of road make the area's timber uneconomical to harvest. The area has low mineral potential.

Grazing. The area contains only one active grazing allotment with a yearly stocking level of 60 cows and calves. Under the Wilderness Act grazing can continue.

101ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, June 12, 1999, the Republic of the Philippines and Filipinos all over the world will commemorate the 101st anniversary of the proclamation of their independence from Spain.

Outside the group of ecstatic, enlightened and freedom-loving patriots from within the archipelago's more than 7,000 islands, very few people were even remotely aware of the implications of the summer day's events of June 12, 1898. A century later, we have come to recognize the significance of the proclamation read from a balcony in Kawit, Cavite, 101 years ago.

This manifesto, closely resembling the document our forefathers signed in 1776, has come to symbolize a people's aspiration, desire and capacity to stand their ground, take control and chart their own destiny. On June 12, 1898, the Filipino people boldly declared that the desire to be a free republic is not a uniquely Western concept. The day General Emilio Aguinaldo first unfurled the Filipino flag amidst the inspiring strains of the Philippine National Anthem signalled the birth of the first republic in Asia, an event witnessed by jubilant Filipinos and curious foreign observers alike. For the first time, a political system dedicated to the ideals of democracy and popular

representative government was instituted in a part of the world that, until that day, had automatically been associated with tyranny and despotism.

Although short-lived, this declaration is testament to a freedom-loving nation's devotion to the ideals of liberty and democracy. The events of June 12, 1898, rejected oppression and foreign domination. It has served as an inspiration to other peoples suffering from colonialism.

The people of Guam share deep cultural and historical ties with the Philippines. The island's population includes a large number of Filipino immigrants. Over the years, as in numerous other locales, they have integrated themselves with the island community and made themselves a vital force in the development and growth of Guam.

I am honored to join the Filipino people in the commemoration and celebration of their history. I extend my congratulations to them on the 101st anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation to revitalize low-income communities throughout our Nation. The bill would provide grant funding for the communities recently designated as Round II Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities and Strategic Planning Communities. In combination with various tax incentives, this direct funding will help stimulate job growth and economic revitalization in inner-city, rural, and Native American communities that have yet to benefit from our Nation's growing economy.

As the result of a bipartisan collaboration between myself and Jack Kemp in 1993, Congress created nine Empowerment Zones (6 urban/3 rural) and 94 Enterprise Communities (65 urban/29 rural), which provided several tax incentives for businesses to invest and locate in economically depressed inner-city and rural areas. OBRA 1993 also provided these same communities with approximately \$1 billion in direct Social Services Block Grant funds, which are being used to address particular barriers to increased employment and economic development, such as shortages in job training, child care, housing, and transportation. By 1997, the Round I EZs and ECs used their grant funds and tax incentives to create nearly 20,000 new jobs for people who previously had little or no economic opportunity.

A second round of 20 Empowerment Zones (EZs) was authorized by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to build on the success of the original 9 EZs. However, unlike the original EZs, Round II Zones have not yet been provided with Social Services Block Grant funding.

To provide Round II designations with the same advantages as the original EZs, the Empowerment Zone Enhancement Act would pro-

vide \$97 million over 9 years for each urban Empowerment Zone, and \$38 million over 9 years for each rural Empowerment Zone. In addition, the bill would provide one-time allocations for other needy rural and urban areas: \$3 million in FY 2000 for each of the 20 new Rural Enterprise Communities and \$3 million in FY 2000 for each of the 15 urban Strategic Planning Communities. Along with the tax incentives and bonding authority already approved by the last Congress, this new grant funding is expected to help create and retain about 90,000 new jobs and stimulate \$20.3 billion in private and public investment over the next ten years.

Mr. Speaker, the Empowerment Zone concept, which emphasizes business development and community renewal, is a clear success story. In my home town of Harlem, I have witnessed first hand the ability of Empowerment Zones to help renew investment and economic development. Other regions of the country are waiting for a similar economic revival. I therefore strongly urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to provide increased economic opportunity for more Americans.

EDITOR DAN WARNER RETIRES AFTER 44 YEARS IN THE NEWS BUSINESS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to one of the nation's finest newspaper editors, Dan Warner, who is retiring after 44 years in the news business and 27 years as Editor of The Eagle-Tribune, in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Under the leadership of publishers Irving E. Rogers Jr., who passed away last year, and Irving E. "Chip" Rogers III, who is steering the business into the new millennium, Dan has guided one of the last independent, local, family-owned newspapers in America through a period of unprecedented growth, change and success.

As editor and in his Sunday columns, Dan was always a tireless advocate for Eagle-Tribune readers, the community and the people and institutions of the Merrimack Valley. He believed in the intrinsic value of factual reporting and its ability to provoke and inspire readers to get more involved in their community. He created an ethic among reporters that their solemn duty to both readers and subjects was to cover the news fairly and aggressively and always to present the human dimension of a story. Dan also was a pioneer in the use of bright colors, bold graphics and innovative design to deliver the news in a more attractive and reader-friendly package. He leaves his successor, Steve Lambert, a publication that has been recognized as one of the best regional newspapers in the United States.

Under Dan Warner's stewardship, The Eagle-Tribune received the highest honor in journalism, the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for general news reporting for its probe of the Massachusetts prison furlough program. He also led the newspaper to be honored twice as a Pulitzer Prize finalist for exposing corruption in international hockey and telling the story of the tragic fire that nearly destroyed Malden Mills in

the heart of Lawrence's poorest neighborhood, and the heroic effort to rebuild the business. Dan also guided The Eagle-Tribune to 11 awards as New England Newspaper of the Year and scores of prizes for exemplary reporting, photography, commentary, design and public service.

Born and raised in Ohio, Dan adopted the Merrimack Valley as his home 30 years ago and displays the love and caring for the region of a native born citizen. He is a devoted friend and dedicated family man. Even when he disagrees with you, as I have experienced more than once, Dan always gives you a fair hearing to present your point of view.

Mr. Speaker, Dan Warner is a man who prodded leaders of government, industry and community to do better, and always remembered that the people he spoke for did not always have a voice in the corridors of power. On behalf of the people of the Merrimack Valley, I wish him a happy retirement with his wife, Janet, his two children and his beloved little dog, Rewrite.

TRIBUTE TO PALISADES PARK, NEW JERSEY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize the Borough of Palisades Park on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

During the last decade of the last century, the New Jersey State Legislature passed legislation which made it possible for any community to organize itself into a Borough. The residents living in the area that would become Palisades Park took advantage of this opportunity and filed the requisite papers with the court in Hackensack. In 1899, the Borough of Palisades Park was created.

Over the past 100 years, Palisades Park has grown into a vital part of Bergen County and the State of New Jersey. While its tree-lined streets evoke memories of a simpler time in our nation's history, the hustle and bustle of its main thoroughfares make it clear that Palisades Park has grown into a modern and thriving community.

Over the course of the past one hundred years, Palisades Park has grown into one of New Jersey's most vibrant towns. It has developed into a vital economic force and can boast of being called home by a rich mosaic of cultures. The countless gifts and special talents of its residents have helped make it a terrific place to live and raise a family.

The many individuals whose tireless efforts and contributions have imbued Palisades Park with its unique spirit of community should be commended for giving her sons and daughters a rich legacy from which to learn. Palisades Park's future is bright and I anticipate hearing news of its newest successes and triumphs in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to come and visit Palisades Park to experience the Borough's beauty firsthand.

HOYER-GREENWOOD BILL RESTRICTING LATE-TERM ABORTIONS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, abortion is one of the most difficult and divisive issues facing the public today. Like most Americans, I would prefer that there were no abortions. Also, like most Americans, I believe the decision is one that is for the woman and family involved, not the Government.

However, I oppose late-term abortions, except for the most serious and compelling of reasons. I am specifically and adamantly opposed to what some refer to as "abortion-on-demand"—after the time of viability. For that reason, I and others have introduced the "Late Term Abortion Restriction Act of 1999."

The specific intent of this legislation is to adopt as Federal policy, a prohibition on post-viability, late-term abortions. Critics of this legislation point out that there are exceptions. They are correct. We believe that in the event that the mother's life is in danger or where the continuation of the pregnancy will pose a threat of serious, adverse health consequences to the woman, then and only then can this prohibition on late-term abortions be overcome.

I introduced this legislation in both the 104th and the 105th Congress. I did so then because I am opposed to abortions being performed after the viability of a fetus, except for the most serious of health risks if the pregnancy is continued.

This prohibition is similar to restrictions on late-term abortions in 41 of our States, including my own State of Maryland. Those States believed that it was appropriate policy to prohibit late-term abortions "on demand." We share that view.

Those who oppose abortion under almost all circumstances at any time during the course of pregnancy have criticized this legislation as meaningless. They do so because they believe that some doctors will contrive reasons to justify a late-term abortion. I do not doubt that may happen. But if it does, it will be illegal under this act and subject the doctor to the penalties set forth in the bill and to such professional sanctions as are imposed by the appropriate medical societies and regulatory bodies.

This legislation is much broader than the partial-birth abortion bills introduced by others in the 104th and 105th Congress. Those bills and the Partial Birth Abortion Act of 1999 recently introduced in the Senate had and continue to have at their purpose, the elimination of a particular procedure to effect an abortion at any time during the course of the pregnancy.

To that extent it is inaccurate and misleading to define it as many proponents and press reports have, as a prohibition on late-term abortions. It is both much narrower and, at the same time, broader than that. It is my belief that its terms would not prohibit the performance of a single abortion. They would simply be performed by a different procedure.

Congressman JIM GREENWOOD and I are introducing this legislation today with 14 other bipartisan original cosponsors. This bill, in

contrast to the partial birth abortion bills, would prohibit all late-term post-viability abortions by whatever method or procedure that would be employed. While there are exceptions to this general prohibition, we believe that our bill will, in fact, prohibit all post-viability, late-term abortions that are not the result of a serious cause.

This legislation establishes a clear Federal policy against late-term abortions. We would hope that the Judiciary Committee would hold an early hearing on this legislation and bring it to the floor so that the Federal Government could adopt this sensible prohibition, which is similar to that adopted by over 80 percent of the States. They did so because their legislatures wanted to make it clear that late-term abortions were, in almost all circumstances, against public policy and against the law.

We should do the same.

IN HONOR OF FATHER McNULTY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father McNulty's 25th Anniversary of his Ordination as a Priest.

Father McNulty was born in October of 1948. He attended Borromeo High School, Borromeo College, Wickliffe and St. Mary's Seminary. Throughout the last 25 years Father McNulty has dedicated himself to helping others in his community. He has been involved in a number of different assignments in the greater Cleveland area. He is currently the pastor at SS. Philip and James in Cleveland as well as the Chaplain for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and is the Deputy National Chaplain for the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

His work has proven time and time again to be a tremendous help to the community and is a very well known and respected priest in the Cleveland area. Through his dedicated efforts the community has grown together. His work should be recognized as having a very influential and positive effect on the people in the greater Cleveland area.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Father McNulty's 25 years of service to the greater Cleveland community.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to a recipient of the distinguished 1998-1999 White House Fellowship Program—Lieutenant Commander Mark Montgomery of Sunapee, New Hampshire.

Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in academics, public service, and leadership. It is the nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership

development. Each year, there are 500-800 applicants nationwide for 11 to 19 fellowships. Past distinguished U.S. Navy White House Fellow alumni have gone on to become exceptional military leaders and I have no doubt Commander Montgomery will be successful in his future endeavors.

This award is well-earned by an individual who carries himself with great professionalism and distinction in the finest traditions of our country's military history. Lieutenant Commander Montgomery was most recently Executive Officer of the destroyer U.S.S. *Elliot*. He was one of only a handful of liberal arts majors to complete the naval nuclear power program. Lieutenant Commander Montgomery has completed two overseas deployments on the nuclear powered cruiser U.S.S. *Bainbridge*. He also led a team of thirty *Bainbridge* sailors to provide disaster relief on the island of St. Croix after Hurricane Hugo. He later was assigned as Operations Officer of U.S.S. *Leftwich* and then to the reactor department of the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt*, where he was deployed to Bosnia during air strikes. Commander Montgomery will be Commissioning Commanding Officer of U.S.S. *McCampbell*. In addition to his military service, Commander Montgomery is involved with the Big Brother organization.

Commander Montgomery's distinguished military career made him a perfect candidate for his current White House Fellowship assignment with the National Security Council. In this capacity, he manages the operation for the Critical Infrastructure Coordination Group, which is responsible for implementing presidential decision directives on critical national infrastructures. He also coordinates the inter-agency development of a National Infrastructure Assurance Plan, which formulates the Administration's efforts to protect our government and private sector infrastructures from terrorist attack. Commander Montgomery was a member of the U.S. delegation that traveled to the United Arab Emirates on a mission regarding security cooperation. Other responsibilities include working on the Counter-Terrorism Security Group and coordinating NSC policy on international Y2K issues.

The people of this nation can feel secure in the knowledge that individuals like Commander Montgomery are working for them. For his efforts, and in recognition of the well-deserved honor of serving as a White House Fellow, I am privileged to commend and pay tribute to Commander Montgomery.

HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Healthcare facilities must comply with certain conditions in order to participate in the Medicare program. The Health Care Financing Administration relies on accrediting organizations to certify that healthcare facilities provide quality services to Medicare beneficiaries. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is one such organization. A facility that receives JCAHO accreditation automatically meets the Medicare Conditions of Participation.

I believe that there is a serious conflict of interest between the mission of accrediting agencies and their internal governance. Currently, the majority of members of these governing boards are representatives of the very industries that the agency accredits. While the accrediting agencies are likely to object and claim that the members of their governing boards are beyond reproach, I remain skeptical and wish to establish several basic checks and balances.

Because accrediting agencies have a prominent role in certifying Medicare facilities, I believe that we have a vested interest to ensure that the accrediting process is as rigorous and quality-oriented as possible. Doing so will help ensure that all citizens may expect high-quality, safe, and effective medical treatment at any medical facility they use.

Others share my skepticism. A July 1996 report from the Public Citizen Health Research Group charged that the JCAHO is "a captive of the industry whose quality of service it purports to measure" and "fails to recognize the often conflicting interests of hospitals and the public".

In my home state of California, 29 JCAHO-approved hospitals had higher-than-expected death rates for heart attack patients. In some cases the rate was as high as 30–40% compared to a state-wide average of approximately 14%. What is particularly troubling is the fact that two of these hospitals received JCAHO's highest rating.

In an analysis of New York hospitals, the non-profit Public Advocate presents strong evidence that hospitals circumvent JCAHO's annual announced survey visits—simply by hiring extra staff to make operations look smoother than they really are. In too many cases, the report finds that JCAHO's accreditation scores mask the truth—some accredited hospitals do not meet basic standards of care. For example, 15 accredited hospitals showed problems ranging from substantial delays in treatment of emergency room patients to outdated and broken equipment to overcrowded, understaffed clinics and unsanitary conditions.

Given the critical role of health care facilities to our society, we must ensure that these facilities and the agencies that certify them are held publicly accountable. For this reason, I am introducing a bill that requires all Medicare-accrediting organizations to hold public meetings and to ensure that half of the governing board consists of members of the public.

The intent of the bill I am introducing today is to ensure the accountability of accrediting boards—to guarantee that the public voice is represented in the organizations responsible for the safety and quality in Medicare's healthcare facilities. With these checks and balances we can assure all patients that they will receive high quality treatment in all Medicare-approved facilities.

This bill has two simple provisions. First it requires that half of the members of an accrediting agency be members of the public who have been approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. These individuals are specifically prohibited from having a direct financial interest in the health care organizations that the agency certifies. Second, the legislation would require all meetings of the governing board be open to the public.

Medicare and health care organizations operate in the public trust. Our tax dollars fund

all Medicare benefits delivered by health care organizations as well as countless other medical benefits and programs. Therefore, the accreditation and certification of hospitals and other health care organizations must represent the interests of the public.

HUGO AND LAMAR AGRICULTURE FORUMS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last month during the April district work period, I had the opportunity to hear from many of my constituents regarding the economic challenge in agriculture. Specifically, on April 7, 1999, I held two agriculture forums, one in Hugo, Colorado, and one in Lamar, Colorado, to discuss some of the challenges facing agricultural producers. The purpose of these forums was to allow individuals and organizations to provide advice and suggestions about the problems currently facing today's farmers and ranchers. We heard from a number of experts who made presentations and fielded questions at the well-attended events.

For example, at the earlier meeting in Hugo, we heard from Mr. Freeman Lester, President of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA). He mentioned country-of-origin labeling, packer concentration, the European ban on hormone enhanced beef, estate taxes, wilderness legislation, and reform of the Endangered Species Act as his main areas of interest and concern. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I hereby include the "Colorado Cattlemen's Association Key Issues for the 106th Congress" in the record.

Taxes.—CCA supports the repeal of the death tax and reductions in capital gains taxes. Death taxes are extremely punitive with onerously high rates, and are the leading cause of the breakup of thousands of family-run ranches, farms and businesses. Congress' Joint Economic Committee has concluded that death taxes generate costs to taxpayers, the economy and the environment that far exceed any potential benefits arguably produced.

Country-of-Origin Labeling.—CCA supports efforts to let consumers know the origin of the beef they purchase. Consumer surveys have consistently shown that the majority of consumers support country-of-origin labeling for meat. Imported beef is labeled by country-of-origin, either on the product or on shipping containers, when it enters the U.S. to facilitate inspection. However, these labels are lost during further processing. Country-of-origin labeling will provide a "brand-like" mechanism for the beef industry. Currently most beef is marketed as unbranded generic "beef" regardless of where it is produced. Other countries require U.S. beef to be labeled by country-of-origin. Japan has required all meat imports be labeled by country-of-origin effective July 1, 1997 and Europe will likely require labeling comparable to that required for domestic product, once access to the European market is achieved.

Price Reporting.—CCA supports mandatory price reporting by any U.S. packer controlling more than 5 percent of the live cattle market. CCA also supports price reporting on boxed beef and imports. It is vital to keep the playing field level especially given that

four major packers slaughter 80 percent of the fed cattle and market approximately 85 percent of the boxed beef. Openly assessable up-to-date information and market transparency are necessary to keep the highly concentrated processor sector from having insider or privileged information that could give packers a significant advantage over sellers or others in the beef trade. Secretary Glickman has publicly indicated that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) would welcome authorization to implement mandatory price reporting.

Water Quality.—CCA believes that water quality regulations address site-specific as well as species-specific needs and are based on sound science, taking into account current cattle industry environmental and economic practices that have been successful for generations.

Property Rights.—CCA supports passage of a law to require, at minimum, the federal government to prepare a takings implication assessment (TIA) prior to taking an agency action. Such TIA should: define the point at which a reduction in the value of the affected property, due to a regulation, constitutes a compensable taking; set clear takings guidelines, and provide a mechanism for landowners to avoid lengthy and costly litigation.

Also on hand was Mr. Brad Anderson, Executive Director of the Colorado Livestock Association (CLA). Mr. Anderson expressed his disappointment with the lack of fairness in implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Specifically, he felt our government should do more to expose Canada's subsidies and that we needed to do a better job of opening more markets around the world for Americans agricultural products.

He also mentioned his concern with Amendment 14, a recently passed state ballot initiative, he said would "put hog producers out of business." Amendment 14 sets the air particle ratio, an odor measurement, for hog farms at 2–1, a standard which is virtually impossible to meet. The air particle ratio for industry is 7–1, leading him to believe that agriculture is being unfairly targeted.

Mr. Anderson also mentioned the shortage of workers and the need to eliminate the sales tax on agricultural products, which was recently accomplished at the state level at the end of this year's session of the General Assembly in Colorado.

The panel also included Mr. Greg King of the Lincoln County Farm Service Agency (FSA). Mr. King mentioned his frustration with the Freedom to Farm Act passed by Congress in 1996. He felt it would not work as originally designed, unless our government was willing to open more markets for trade. "We are currently shut out of 108 markets because of embargoes," he said.

In addition, Mr. King also spoke of the need to reform the Endangered Species Act. He specifically mentioned the possibility of devastating impacts to the agricultural industry should the proposed listing of the mountain plover and the black-tailed prairie dog move forward. The irony is that the Natural Resource Conservation Service under (USDA) has worked with farmers and ranchers for years to develop "environmentally friendly" ranching and farming practices. Now, however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has stepped in and said farmers and ranchers need to manage their land for these species, the mountain plover and the black-tailed prairie dog. If this were to occur,

ranchers would be forced to manage at least a portion of their land in a way which could include overgrazing and other practices harmful to the environment.

Mr. Ron Clark, Secretary-Treasurer of the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers, was another member of the panel. Mr. Clark observed wheat prices are very low. Low wheat prices combined with two above average wheat crops in the last two years have caused an extreme hardship for wheat farmers. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I will include for the RECORD Mr. Clark's remarks:

Thank you Congressman Schaffer for the opportunity to provide comments at this Ag. Forum. My name is Ron Clark and I am a wheat producer from Matheson, Colorado, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers.

Wheat prices are at their lowest level in eight years as a result of two above average U.S. wheat crops and ending stocks of wheat significantly above historic levels. Because of this difficult situation, the National Association of Wheat Growers has developed a 1999 Wheat Action Plan which I would like to highlight for you.

First, let me discuss the domestic part of the plan. We need a safety net. This can be accomplished by the following legislative action: lifting loan caps and reauthorizing '99 market loss payment; advancing year 2000 agricultural marketing transition act payments; and reforming crop insurance to develop affordable alternatives that will protect against crop and revenue losses.

Now, let me discuss the export part of the plan. We recommend the following legislative action to move more U.S. wheat into export markets.

Request that the administration immediately approve Niki Trading Company's request to buy \$500 million of U.S. agricultural products for Iran, including two million metric tons (or 73.5 mil. bu.) of wheat.

Seek an end to trade sanctions that currently preclude U.S. wheat from 11 to 15 percent of the world wheat market.

Fund existing export programs to the full extent authorized in the 1996 Farm Bill.

Fund discretionary export programs like PL-480 Title I and the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program at Fiscal Year 1999 program levels or greater.

Fund the Market Access Program at the Fiscal Year 1999 level.

Fund the Export Enhancement Program at the Farm Bill authorized level of \$579 million and strongly urge the Secretary of Agriculture to use it.

Approve trade negotiating authority (or fast track) immediately.

Approve the United States Agricultural Trade Act of 1999 (S. 101), to promote trade in U.S. agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products and to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

Approve the Food and Medicine Sanctions Relief Act of 1999 (S. 327), to exempt agricultural products, medicines, and medical products from U.S. sanctions.

The Colorado wheat industry sincerely appreciates your leadership and support that you have shown as a member of the House Agriculture Committee. We look forward to hosting the annual wheat tour for you again this year on June 5. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you.

Another member of the panel was Mr. Carl Stogsdill of Lincoln County, representing the Farm Bureau. Mr. Stogsdill spoke of his concerns relating to the Endangered Species Act and its impacts on farmers and ranchers. Fol-

lowing are the Farm Bureau's "Priorities For the 106th Congress:"

Food Quality Protection Act.—Farm Bureau has declared the proper implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act as its top priority. Farm Bureau will work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), land grant universities and local officials to get the act implemented as Congress originally intended.

Budget and Tax Reform.—Farm Bureau will continue to work for the elimination of the "Death Tax" and reduction of the capital gains tax. Other issues include: Farmer and Rancher Risk Management accounts, the balanced budget amendment, elimination of the Alternative Minimum Tax for agriculture, income averaging, unemployment tax exemption and Individual Retirement Accounts for farmers.

Environmental Issues.—Farm Bureau will continue to push for private property rights protection and elimination of disincentives in regard to endangered species, clean water, clean air and wetlands.

Trade.—Farm Bureau will be heavily involved in gaining "Fast Track" authority for the administration and eliminating existing trade barriers. Also, Farm Bureau hopes to be active in this year's round of the World Trade Organization's discussions.

Regulatory Reform.—Farm Bureau will attempt to pass legislation requiring standardized risk assessments and cost/benefit analysis on all proposed regulations. There will also be a push for a reform of the Department of Labor's H-2A program.

Mr. Mark James of the Lincoln County Stockmen also served on the panel and expressed his concern with aspects of the Endangered Species Act. Mr. James thought it was silly black-tailed prairie dogs would be added to the Endangered Species List. "Prairie dogs? Get reasonable," he said. Mr. James' comments were echoed by many of those in attendance.

Later that evening, at the forum held in Lamar, Mr. John Schweizer, District Representative for the Colorado Farm Bureau, spoke about issues facing farmers in the southeastern portion of the state. Mr. Schweizer cited his hope there would be continued tax relief for farmers such as complete elimination of the "death tax." He was quick to point out, however, that even though times are tough, "(farmers) are not looking for hand-outs." In fact, he expressed support for the 1996 Farm Bill which was supposed to remove government from the farm. Unfortunately, according to Mr. Schweizer, "rather than cut the cord, the government tightened the noose."

Mr. Schweizer also said the Administration and Congress needed to do more to open markets abroad. One way in which this could be accomplished, he felt, would be to fully fund and utilize the Export Enhancement Program. He also questioned the effectiveness of shutting American farmers out of world markets by using political sanctions against other countries.

Chad Hart of the Prowers County Farm Service Agency also offered his perspective. His main concern was the administration of the disaster assistance program which is running way behind. Cuts in funding have adversely impacted their ability to do their job in that the speed of response to emergencies has been greatly reduced. They are forced to do much more with far fewer employees.

Another member of the panel was Mr. Bob Arambel of the Northeast Prowers County

Conservation District. He runs a farm north-east of Holly, Colorado, and has had concerns regarding water quality on the lower Arkansas River. Although they have received some money to increase their compliance with water quality statutes, he was concerned reauthorization of the Clean Water Act may have adverse impacts on farming and ranching in the region if standards cannot be met right away. Mr. Arambel also had concerns about the direction of the Endangered Species Act.

Mr. Vernon Sharp, President-elect of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, mentioned taxes as his issue of greatest importance. He felt estate taxes and capital gains taxes were big problems, that they were punitive in nature and punished people for making good business decisions. He also felt the government should provide some sort of income tax relief in the near future. "This year I spent \$900.00 to have someone do my taxes to find out I have no income," he said.

Mr. Sharp went on to say property rights were also a very important issue and the federal government should fully compensate landowners when impeding their ability to use their land as they see fit. He cited the Endangered Species Act as a major threat to farmers and ranchers and their ability to manage their land.

Also on the panel was Mr. Jim Geist, Executive Director of the Colorado Corn Growers Association. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I refer the House to the remarks of Mr. Geist.

On behalf of Colorado's corn farmers, I appreciate the opportunity to express corn's policies and positions on issues that will have direct and indirect effects on the state's corn industry.

Demand for corn grows when our customers are satisfied. To increase demand and customer satisfaction, the United States must become a dependable supplier of commodities. Some of the issues that can assure U.S. corn and its products full access to world trade markets include the following: sanction reform; Fast Track authority; support of IMF funding and trade negotiations, including the specific objective of mutual acceptance of genetically enhanced agricultural products; continued leadership in the World Trade Organization; and Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations.

Corn producers continue to strive for a fair deal from the government. They are looking for market-driven farm programs, minimal consistent regulations, federal tax policy reform and sufficient financial and credit program so that this country can maintain its food security.

Improving our national transportation infrastructure in order to maintain a competitive advantage is becoming a high priority for grain producers nationwide. Upgrading rivers, locks and dam systems, improving the nation's railroad system and maintaining adequate highway funds for states will enable grain producers to move commodities to domestic and international customers when needed.

We support an active research and education commitment by all segments of the corn industry and government. Research and commercialization of corn products adds to the value of corn. Investing in technological advancements, working with the marketplace, and educating and communicating with consumers about the value of corn in their daily lives will enable our nation to have a stronger rural economy and greater national economic strength.

Leaving our world in better shape than when we found it has been a top priority in agriculture for generations. In using Best

Management Practices (BMP) to build soil through conservation programs, BMP implementation to improve water quality, and utilizing the best crop protection practices available, corn producers are truly planting a crop that can help clean up the environment, from both a water and air quality standpoint. The growing concern within agriculture is the small, vocal, hard-line environmental groups trying to impose regulations on production agriculture that are uneconomical, unproven and that could have the effect of driving our nation's food production capabilities off our shores.

Agricultural producers in Colorado are struggling with poor economic conditions in the marketplace due to burdensome supplies—supplies that could be sold in international markets—and environmental regulations that will choke off sustainable food production capabilities. Much has to be done in short order to protect one of our nation's most valuable resources—America's farmers and ranchers.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express to you just some of the issues and concerns that Colorado corn producers will be focusing on in the near future.

Our last panelist of the evening was Ms. Elena Metro, State Executive Director of the Colorado Pork Producers Council. Her thoughts focused on the state initiative, earlier alluded to, Amendment 14. Ms. Metro's presentation included this statement which I ask to be included in the RECORD:

The Colorado pork industry has been singled out by individuals and groups to be "controlled" by harsh rules and regulations. Amendment 14 here in Colorado is the result. The Colorado Pork Producers Council on behalf of the pork industry in Colorado asks that if rules and regulations are written and become law, whether on a state or national level, that these rules be based on "sound science," be fair and equitable, and not "socially engineered."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking all of the participants for their input. Former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, Mr. Carl "Bev" Bledsoe moderated the forum in Hugo. Ms. Sparky Turner moderated the forum in Lamar. Both did an outstanding job and helped draw many helpful thoughts and comments from all speakers.

It's obvious after hearing from my constituents that more needs to be done to expand trade with foreign countries. We need to bring some sanity to the Endangered Species Act, and we need to use sound science when making decisions about regulations which will affect a very important segment of our population—the farmer.

REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1401, the bill to authorize our all-important national defense programs and in support of the en bloc amendment which includes language that addresses a crisis in our veterans community.

Throughout their lives, the men and women of our armed services make great sacrifices in the service of our country. Yet, many families requesting honor guards at the burials of vet-

erans are being told "NO"—that we do not have the resources to honor those who have served so nobly. As Americans, the very least we can do is make sure that our veterans are given a proper burial when they die.

My amendment strengthens the current language in the bill by requiring, not just permitting, the Secretary of Defense to provide necessary materials, equipment, and training to support non-governmental organizations—namely our VFW, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and other veterans groups—in providing honor guard services.

Mr. Speaker, the newest of our National Cemeteries, Saratoga National Cemetery, will be opening in the heart of my district this July and will conduct funerals every thirty minutes for the next several years. Our active duty and reserve servicemen and women cannot keep up. Mr. Speaker—this is unacceptable!

Everyone who served in the armed forces gave something. Some who served gave everything. And we have a responsibility to give back!

Our veterans are eager to fill this void on a volunteer basis, but they do not possess the resources to do so. The committee bill will give private individuals the tools necessary to provide honor guard services, thereby reducing the demand on active duty servicemen or reservists.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and reaffirm our commitment to our veterans.

IN HONOR OF DR. DAVID KIRCHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in tribute to Dr. David Kircher, Superintendent of Fairview Park Schools in Rocky River, Ohio. As he celebrates his retirement, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his outstanding service and leadership in the Fairview Park Schools.

Dr. Kircher has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of the Fairview Park Schools. For the past 30 years, Dr. Kircher has served as an important figure for the Fairview Park School district. He has held several positions throughout his tenure, but none as important as Superintendent of Fairview Park Schools, a position from which he will be retiring as of August 1, 1999.

As the fifth superintendent in the history of the Fairview Park Schools, Dr. Kircher worked his way up from an Earth Space Science teacher to Superintendent in 1996. Throughout his career he has been recognized for his hard work and dedication in the Fairview Park Schools. Many students and staff members are not only inspired by his motivation and hard work, but also appreciate the fact that he has helped create excellent schools. That is why in 1998 he was nominated for the National Superintendent of the year. The following year he received a resolution from the city of Fairview Park recognizing his 30 years of dedicated service to the Fairview Park Schools.

Education has always been Dr. Kircher first priority. He earned a Ph.D. in educational administration at Kent State University. His wisdom and educational background helped him

become one of the most influential superintendents in Fairview Park Schools.

Although his work puts extraordinary demands on his time, Dr. David Kircher has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family, especially his lovely wife, Maryann.

I ask that and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. David Kircher for his lifetime dedication, service, and leadership in Fairview Park Schools. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the significant contribution he has made. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Dr. David Kircher.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing three bills which reflect my long-time interest in helping the economy and the people of Puerto Rico. Rather than spending taxpayer money on government programs, these bills will provide tax incentives for the private sector to help the economy of Puerto Rico.

In 1996, Congress phased out Section 936 over my objections. As a result, the economic incentives for U.S. companies to do business in Puerto Rico have dwindled, negatively impacting the economy. In an effort to reverse that trend, the Government of Puerto Rico reduced their tax burden by 19 percent in recent years. However, they need more help. We in Congress can play an important role in that effort by putting in place long-term tax incentives to spur private sector growth on the Island.

The first bill, the Puerto Rico Economic Activity Credit Improvement Act of 1999, will modify and extend the existing economic credit, which is due to expire at the end of 2005. My bill will build upon the replacement for Section 936, Section 30A, by extending the wage tax credit until the economy in Puerto Rico meets certain economic objectives designed to bring the Island up to a level more on par with the mainland. The credit will also be available to new companies locating in Puerto Rico. Companies already in Puerto Rico and utilizing the existing income credit will be given a one-time option to switch over to the wage credit before the termination date of the income credit.

The second bill will make the research and development (R&D) tax credit available to companies operating in Puerto Rico. The R&D credit has never been accessible in Puerto Rico, but, until the demise of Section 936, the lack of an R&D credit was of little tax consequence to companies operating on the Island. My bill will provide this small, but important, tax credit for Puerto Rico and the other U.S. possessions as a matter of fairness.

The third bill will repeal the limitation of the rum tax cover over. Under current law, a tax is collected on rum entering the U.S. mainland from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A portion of this tax is returned (covered over) to the governments of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Because of a dispute in 1984, the cover over was limited to \$10.50 of the total \$13.50 per gallon tax. My bill will restore

the cover over to the full amount. In particular, the government of the Virgin Islands desperately needs the revenue from the full cover over as they are currently in critical economic straits.

In addition to restoring the cover over, this bill will also provide funding for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. The Fund has been very successful in preserving the natural resources of the Island for the people of Puerto Rico. In conjunction with the Governor of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Department of the Interior, we developed a plan to direct 50 cents of the per gallon rum tax to the Trust Fund for 5 years. This funding would allow the Trust to finish building their endowment in order to fund their operations in perpetuity.

I want to thank my colleagues who have lent their support in different ways to these proposals: CHARLIE RANGEL, CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ, JERRY WELLER, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, NANCY JOHNSON, PHIL ENGLISH, J.D. HAYWORTH and MARK FOLEY. I urge the rest of my colleagues to support us in these efforts.

HONORING TOLEDO METAL
SPINNING COMPANY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Toledo Metal Spinning Company (TMS), a business in my district recently honored as one of only six recipients of the Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative Award. This award, given to companies who have overcome both internal and external struggles throughout their organization, was extended to TMS in recognition of their exceptional ability to cope and rebuild virtually their entire business after a fire ravaged their operation.

TMS Vice Presidents Eric and Craig Frankhauser are to be commended for their efforts to restore their corporation. After a disastrous fire that destroyed much of the plant in February 1998, the two brothers worked tirelessly to fulfill customer orders and remain in production mode. Remarkably, five days after the fire, the company was back online and serving its customers with the same level of professionalism and courtesy as before the tragedy. Clients turn to TMS for a wide range of products including parts for missiles, passenger jets, and military aircraft, as well as stainless steel, cone-shaped hoppers used for yogurt purposes from releasing fruit into yogurt to processing pills.

As the Frankhausers rebuilt their facility their innovation and ingenuity led the way. Forced to rebuild not only their physical building but also their business structure, the Frankhausers revamped their entire production operation. They redesigned the company's production system, stressing flexibility of machinery and workers. The two owners realized both the importance of giving their employees more responsibility and the success that results as workers interact with each other.

Despite the terrible fire, their improved operation successfully kept sales at 83 percent of 1997 levels. The Frankhausers and all of those employed at TMS have created a family business by which all companies should fol-

low. TMS will be paid a tribute this week as it receives the Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative Award, which is co-sponsored in part by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, I rise to congratulate TMS, the Frankhausers, and the many employees for their outstanding success and innovation as they stood in the face of disaster. The TMS example is certainly a business model to be followed as we enter the next millennium.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the RECORD reflect that an error occurred with regard to my vote on Mr. GOSS's amendment which prohibits DOD funding to maintain a permanent U.S. military presence in Haiti beyond December 31, 1999. On June 9, I was recorded as voting "nay" on rollcall No. 183 when in fact I voted "aye" on the amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTEN-
NIAL OF CAYUGA COUNTY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 200th Anniversary of Cayuga County, located in my home district in upstate New York. It has a proud and distinguished history.

Cayuga County was established by the State Legislature as the 28th designated county in New York State. Many of the first settlers were veterans of the Revolutionary War, such as Colonel John Hardenbergh, whose settlement grew to become the City of Auburn. Auburn eventually became the largest community in the State west of Utica in the early years, as it served as a junction of the major turnpikes traveled by the westward settlers.

Many prominent political and historical figures who helped to shape our nation were citizens of Cayuga County, including Millard Fillmore, the 13th President of the United States; William H. Seward, the Governor of New York State from 1838-1842, a United States Senator from 1849-1861, and the Secretary of State for Presidents Lincoln and Johnson; Enos Throop, who served as a representative in Congress from 1814-1816, the Lieutenant Governor, and later as Governor of New York State; John Tabor, the last Republican full Appropriations Committee Chairman from New York State from 1952-54, and abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Additionally, inventions that have invaluable contributed to our way of life and which stem from Cayuga County include harvesters, carriage axles, threshing machines, adding machines, and motion picture sound.

Today, Auburn is the industrial center of Cayuga County with the production of shoes, carpets, rope, railroad locomotives, air conditioners, and electronic components. Cayuga

County has three state parks, encourages higher education through Wells College and Cayuga County Community College, and is home to the Cayuga Museum of History and Art and the Schweinfurth Art Center.

The Cayuga County Legislature recently held its May monthly meeting at Wells College in Aurora, the city where the county's first government meeting took place on May 28, 1799. A Harriet Tubman pilgrimage and a Red Cross barbecue were held during the Memorial Day weekend to commemorate the bicentennial, and upcoming anniversary events this summer include the Southern Cayuga Garden Club Tour, The Wall that Heals Vietnam Memorial at Emerson Park, and a Civil War sampler at the Morgan Opera House.

In the words of the county legislature, Cayuga County's quiescent, yet noble history, its diversified resources and its scenic beauty reveal that the region remains as impressive and promising today as it undoubtedly appeared to the entrepreneurial settlers 200 years ago.

It is my distinct honor to represent the descendants and subsequent residents of this outstanding community.

IN HONOR OF THE NINTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF CROATIAN STATE-
HOOD DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, as a Croatian-American, to join my fellow brothers and sisters in honor of the ninth anniversary of Croatian Statehood Day.

Nine years ago Croatia took a monumental step towards democracy and independence, fulfilling the life-long dream of many, by declaring statehood. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Communism's grip over Eastern Europe began to crumble, and by the late 1980's democratic movements developed in many countries. In Croatia, a progressive movement was started with the goal to form an alternative to the Communist Party which had been in power since 1945.

In April of 1990 elections were held in which the Communist Party was defeated in a landslide, and representatives from many new political parties were elected to the Parliament. The first meeting of this new democratically elected Parliament was on May 30, 1990. This occasion is a reason for Croatians all over the world to celebrate their country's historic movement towards independence and democracy.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me, and my Croatian brothers and sisters, in celebrating Croatia's Statehood and congratulating them on nine years of independence.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR.
STANLEY WISSMAN

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, many members of the community in my district were saddened

at the recent untimely death of Dr. Stanley Wissman of Fort Wayne.

Dr. Wissman made many valuable contributions to the Northeast Indiana medical community and was particularly known for his kindness to his patients and their families. I would like to extend my condolences to his family and to include in the RECORD a recent editorial from the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette discussing his life and work.

[The Journal Gazette, Thursday, May 27, 1999]

WISSMAN SET EXAMPLES BOTH UNIQUE AND UNIVERSAL

Death—especially unexpected death—has a perverse ability to highlight a life, to bring its finest qualities to the surface and leave them shining in the memories of friends and loved ones.

In so doing, it honors those traits in us all.

Stanley Wissman's sudden death is having that affect at Parkview Hospital this week. The beloved neurologist and patient champion was only 52 when he died Monday, and the shock is still rippling across the hospital and the regional medical community.

In a time of national anguish about values and character, Wissman demonstrated why people still have hope for our cantankerous species.

The resume is only part of the story. Yes, Wissman was an avid medical researcher. Yes, he was a visionary administrator for the hospital's rehabilitation unit. And, yes, he was an enthusiastic educator; he and his wife, Mary Ann, worked together on a program called "Brain Attack" to teach medical workers and the public that damage from strokes can be reduced by quick response.

But it is Stanley Wissman's easy approachability—his warm humaneness—that his colleagues recall so sadly.

Rebutting all the stereotypes of aloof and busy physicians in the era of managed care, he is remembered as a gentleman who found time to really listen to patients—as well as to co-workers on any step of the hospital hierarchy.

Being brilliant and accomplished and acclaimed are all quite wonderful—and rare. In the end, however, anyone can be like Stanley Wissman. All it takes is a little kindness.

Stanley D. Wissman, M.D., 52, died Monday at Parkview Hospital. Born in Fort Wayne, he was a doctor with Fort Wayne Neurological Center since 1976. He was also a medical director of the rehabilitation unit and chairman of the neurology subcommittee at Parkview Hospital and associate clinical professor of Neurology at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Surviving are his wife, Mary Ann; two daughters, Jennifer Rosenkranz of Reno, Nev., and Alicia Jordan of Nashville, Tenn.; a son, Stephen of Nashville; a stepdaughter, Andrea Tone of Fort Wayne; a stepson, Alex Tone of Fort Wayne; his mother, Ruth L. Wissman of Fort Wayne; two brothers, William W. of Indianapolis and Gary L. of Fort Wayne; a sister, Karen Lewis of Fort Wayne; and a grandchild. Services at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 4916 Trier Road, with calling an hour before services. Calling also from 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at D.O. McComb & sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road. Burial in Catholic Cemetery. Memorials to Bishop Dwenger High School Tuition Assistance or Ryan Kanning Muscular Dystrophy Fund.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ESOP PROMOTION ACT OF 1999

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to introduce legislation to promote more employee ownership in America. I believe this is a modest proposal which can be deemed technical and clarifying in many respects. Entitled the "ESOP Promotion Act of 1999," this bill builds on legislation I introduced in the 102nd, 103rd, 104th and 105th Congresses with bipartisan support. Nearly 100 sitting members of this House have co-sponsored this legislation over the years and, if former members are included, the number is over 200.

Mr. Speaker, let me point out that the last Congress aided the creation of employee ownership through Employee Stock Ownership Plans (or ESOPs) by enabling a Subchapter S corporation to sponsor an ESOP. This provision was added to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-34) by Senator JOHN BREAUX in the Senate Finance Committee and has been part of my ESOP bills since 1990. The effort to have these small businesses offer employee ownership to their employees started in 1987. Many private sector groups, representing both professionals and businesses, have supported permitting Subchapter S corporations to sponsor ESOP's. I am grateful to my colleagues for their support of this important change in the code.

I encourage my colleagues in the 106th Congress to stand up for employee ownership and enhance the positive record for one of the most encouraging economic trends in America today—ownership by employees of stock in the companies where they work through an ESOP. As many of my colleagues know, I came to Congress first and foremost with a small business background, having created an ESOP plan for the company I founded over 40 years ago. The ESOP provides a method for current owners of stock to sell, at fair market value, their stock to a trust that holds the stock for eventual distribution to employees upon their death, disability or retirement. I believe the employee ownership which we promoted at my company will continue to be a valuable retirement asset for our employees and their families for years to come.

I believe that employee ownership, properly managed, creates a win-win situation for all involved. America and our economic system benefit as we increase competitiveness through employee ownership and provide more opportunity for ownership for those who, frankly, would not have much of a chance to acquire stock ownership otherwise. Since 1989, the House has shown strong support for ESOP's, and I think it is important to confirm this support in the 106th Congress.

Allow me to explain each section of my bill: Section 1: Names the bill "The ESOP Promotion Act of 1999."

Section 2: Current law permits a corporate deduction for dividends paid on ESOP stock that are passed through to the employees in cash or used to pay the ESOP stock acquisition debt [Internal Revenue Code Section 404(k)]. Section 2 would amend Section 404(k) to permit the deduction if the employ-

ees participating in the ESOP are allowed, as their choice, to have the dividend reinvested in more employer stock. In fact, current ESOP and 401(k) sponsors can nearly accomplish the same result under current law with a convoluted system that requires an IRS letter ruling.

Why is this simplification? Because under very complex chain of events which the IRS has approved in a series of letter rulings, the employee can have "constructive receipt" of the cash dividend, and then "constructively" take the dividend money back to the payroll office and reinvest it. Since the employee has received the dividend in cash, the deduction is allowed, although in reality it was reinvested. This legislation says cut to the chase. Where the employee has made clear a desire for the dividends to be reinvested, why have an expensive, confusing system that the IRS has to review after the ESOP sponsor spends dollars on designing the new system? The ESOP sponsor can put these resources to more productive use, and the employees can put their dividends to use in further bolstering their retirement savings with this change.

Section 3: From 1984 until 1989, an estate with share of certain closely-held corporation could transfer stock in the corporation to the corporation's ESOP, and the ESOP would assume the estate tax liability on the value of the transferred stock [former Internal Revenue Code Section 2210]. Unfortunately, the Tax Act of 1989 repealed this law which was an effective way to create more employee ownership. The proposed legislation would restore this incentive for stock to be transferred to an ESOP. No estate tax is being avoided here, it is just shifted from the estate to an American, closely-held corporation that has employee ownership through an ESOP.

Section 4: This section would current what I believe is an anomaly in the current law. Internal Revenue Code Section 1042 provides that if a seller of closely-held stock reinvests his/her proceeds from the sale in the equities of a U.S. operating corporation, the gain on the sale to the ESOP is deferred until the replacement property is disposed of, if and only if the ESOP holds at least 30% of the outstanding shares of the corporation when the sale of stock to the ESOP is completed. This provision of current law plays a major role in the creation of over 50% of the ESOP companies in America. Current law benefits owners, founders, and outside investors of closely-held companies, but it does not permit holders of stock in a closely-held corporation who acquired the stock as a condition of employment, from a plan other than an ERISA plan, to sell that stock to an ESOP and receive a deferral of the tax on the gain. Section 4 would end the different treatment for shares acquired from a compensation arrangement as a condition of employment compared to stock acquired otherwise.

Section 4 would expand the list of permissible reinvestment to U.S. mutual funds that represent U.S. operating corporation securities. This change would apply to an owner-founder or outside investor, as well as an individual who acquired the stock as a condition of employment.

Section 4 also would correct another technical anomaly in current law. As presently written, Section 1042 provides that any holder of 25% or more of any class of stock in a company cannot participate in an ESOP established with stock acquired in a Section 1042

transaction. My bill would change the measure so that the 25% would be measured by the voting power of the stock, or the value of the stock in terms of total corporate value. This kind of measure is used in other sections of the code.

Section 5: Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit limited distributions from ESOPs, without incurring a 10-percent penalty on early withdrawals, for high education expenses and first-time home purchases. The limitations relate to how much can be distributed and a requirement that the person have at least five years of participation before making the request for the distribution. The early withdrawal provision would be discretionary with the plan sponsor.

I urge those of my colleagues who want to encourage employee ownership in America to join me by cosponsoring the "ESOP Promotion Act of 1999" and working hard to include these provisions in the tax bill that will soon be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES HARRISON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine young man who resided in the 1st Congressional District of Arkansas and was taken from this world last week, James Harrison from Paragould. A bass-baritone, James was a singer at Ouachita Baptist University, and was returning on Flight 1420 from a choir tour in Germany and Austria.

Although James was only 21, he certainly lived a wonderful life. He was a responsible, trustworthy person. His love and concern for others very likely could have cost him his life.

Along with his contributions to the Ouachita Singers, James was the music minister at First Baptist Church of Royal. His friends say he could look at any piece music and sing it. He played the guitar and saxophone and was in charge of setting up before concerts at Ouachita. "Arv" as he was called, for his middle name Arvin, was a patient, level-headed young man who devoted his life to Christ.

I ask that all Americans join us as we pray for the families and friends of the passengers and crew members who perished in the crash, that they might gain some measure of solace and understanding about their profound and very public loss.

IN HONOR OF KEVIN SHANAHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kevin Shanahan, one of the founders of Irish Dancing in the Cleveland area.

Kevin Shanahan came to the Cleveland area from his home in Dublin, Ireland in 1953. The thriving Irish community in Cleveland welcomed his expertise in Irish Dancing. And because of Shanahan's efforts, Irish Dancing has transformed over the years into a popular and creative expression of Irish culture.

Under the auspices of the West Side Irish America Club, Mr. Shanahan organized the first Cleveland Feis in 1957. Through his beginning efforts and the Club's hard work, the Cleveland Feis has become a premier Irish event. Even today, it is a festival to which everyone in the Irish community looks forward each year.

While Mr. Shanahan has returned to Dublin, to live in the house where he was born, his legacy lives on in the Cleveland area. The students he taught during his time in Cleveland continue to carry on the Irish Dance traditions they learned from the master.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring a man who has kept traditional Irish Dancing alive in the Cleveland area, Mr. Kevin Shanahan.

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 143RD INFANTRY REGIMENT

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding members of the 143rd Infantry Regiment and to recognize the proud tradition of that body upon their annual Regimental reunion. I would especially like to recognize the war veterans of the regiment, including one who has been with the group since World War I.

This unique regiment has a strong and deep connection with the Waco community, which is in my Texas Congressional District. Throughout its long history, it has been made up primarily of Central Texans. The Regiment began as a Militia Company in 1873 and has seen many different designations and missions throughout its history. These have included service in the Spanish American War, World War I, and World War II. In World War II the 143rd distinguished itself as a truly outstanding military unit by becoming one of the first American detachments to land in Europe and then later one of the first to enter Rome.

After World War II, the Regiment helped Waco recover from a devastating tornado, working around the clock in rescue and patrol operations. In the 1960's the Regiment was reorganized into an Airborne Unit and exists today as an active National Guard unit.

The superb all volunteer paratroopers of the unit are among America's best, and today they continue the proud tradition of the 143rd Infantry.

I ask Members to join me and offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to an outstanding American Regiment—the 143rd Infantry.

TRIBUTE TO PRESLEY SAM, KENNETH TAKEUCHI, BARBARA TANIGUCHI, IZUMI TANIGUCHI, CAMILLE WING, GERYOUNG YANG

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Presley Sam, Kenneth

Takeuchi, Barbara Taniguchi, Izumi Taniguchi, Camille Wing and Geryoung Yang, for being selected the 1999 Portraits of Success program Honorees by KSEE 24 and Companies that Care. In celebration of Asian-American Heritage Month for May, these six leaders were honored for their unique contributions to the betterment of their community.

Presley Sam, a refugee from Cambodia, came to Fresno knowing no one. Through the offices of the Lao Family of Fresno, he became a Community worker and was later hired by the Police Department in Elkhorn Juvenile Boot Camp Facility. Presley serves as an executive member of the Board of Directors for the Cambodian Buddhist Society of Fresno.

Kenneth Takeuchi worked for 32 years for the Fresno County Parks Department. He is a member of the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, the Shinzen Garden Committee and the Fresno Buddhist Church. Mr. Takeuchi is a marathon and ultra-marathon runner and race organizer. Over the past 16 years, he has directed runs for many fund raisers for organizations such as United Cerebral Palsy, the American Heart Association and Special Olympics.

Barbara Taniguchi has been a member of the Japanese American Citizens League since 1955. Very involved in her community, Barbara has served on the Fresno Unified School District Desegregation Task Force, the Central California Nikkei Foundation and on several library boards.

Izumi Taniguchi, Professor Emeritus of Economics at California State University Fresno since 1993, has been a board member of the Central California Nikkei Foundation since its inception. He has held many offices in the Japanese American Citizens League at the local, state and national levels and is active in numerous other community organizations.

Camille Wing has served on the Board of Hanford's Taoist Temple Preservation Society since 1979 and has become a valuable resource on the history of early Chinese immigrants in Hanford. She is also active in serving Kings County Library, the Hanford Visitors Agency and community recycling efforts.

Geryoung Yang maintains a successful Fresno dental practice. He established a California State University, Fresno Hmong Student Association and has been active in the Sky Watch Project. Mr. Yang's goal is to be a mentor and role model for Hmong young people.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the KSEE 24 Companies that Care 1999 Asian American Portraits of Success honorees. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these honorees many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO GARY GLOVER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Arkansan, a man who served his community as a minister of youth and music, and who was a devoted father and husband, Mr. Gary Glover.

Mr. Glover spent much of his life as a dedicated church member, sharing his faith and

conviction in God with others. He received his ministry license in 1988 after attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and served Levy Baptist Church in North Little Rock at this time. Before settling in Arkansas, Mr. Glover served as director of housing and Christian training at Happy Hill Farm Academy and Home in Granbury, Texas. Here he supervised Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students. After Mr. Glover came to Arkansas he served as youth minister at Sylvan Hills First Baptist Church in North Little Rock.

Clearly, Mr. Glover was a caring and giving man. Even after his passing, Mr. Glover continues to give through the donation of his organs. His family, including his wife, Becky, and his three sons, Drew, Daniel, and D.J., decided Mr. Glover would have wanted to continue helping others and felt this donation is something he would have wanted.

Gary Glover was a man of great influence and inspiration for many. He was a strong voice for the Christian community in Arkansas and elsewhere. May we attempt to live our lives as generously as he.

HONORING TAIWAN'S ASSISTANCE
TO KOSOVO

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to learn that NATO and Yugoslavia have reached an agreement and the Kosovars can finally return to their homeland. Yet there is more good news on the way. Dr. Lee Teng-hui, President of the Republic of China on Taiwan just announced that Taiwan will provide the Kosovar refugees with \$300 million in aid. This aid includes food and medical care that are urgently required, as well as job training and rehabilitation programs to promote the reconstruction of Kosovo in the long run. We welcome such generosity from the Republic of China, and applaud its contribution to peace and stability in the international community.

Under the dynamic leadership of President Lee Teng-hui, the Republic of China has become a prosperous, full-fledged democracy, and it has demonstrated on numerous occasions its willingness to help the needy. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to President Lee and the people of the Republic of China for their generosity to the Kosovar refugees and contributions to the international community.

HONORING JOSE ORLANDO MEJIA,
MD

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jose Orlando Mejia, the Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and the Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center, and Assistant Professor in the Department of

Medicine at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn.

Board certified in three specialties—Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine—Dr. Mejia is an expert in asthma, emphysema, smoking-related illness, and diseases of the lungs, respiratory system and heart.

Graduated from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo School of Medicine in the Dominican Republic, he has received advanced training through a Pulmonary Medicine Fellowship at the Long Island College Hospital, and a Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine Montefiore Hospital.

For nearly twenty years, Dr. Mejia has dedicated his work to caring for the people of our communities. He has taken a holistic approach to care-giving—not only working to heal the patient, but care for the community as well. He is a keen diagnostician and excellent communicator—speaking to patients in both English and Spanish. As such, he can provide a unique type of care—providing a level of comfort and support emotionally while healing people physically.

Dr. Mejia's special interest in asthma is particularly important to the communities I represent in New York's 12th Congressional District, where air pollution is an enormous problem. Due to the traffic and waste-transfer sites that are located throughout Brooklyn, asthma and other respiratory problems are particularly high—especially among children. Dr. Mejia's work addresses these problems in a direct and critical way.

Many times people who make valuable contributions to our communities go unrecognized. I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Mejia for the work he has done, the people he has helped, and the strength he has given to our communities. Because of his work the 12th Congressional District is a better place, and I thank him and wish him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY GARLAND

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Beverly Garland, who is being honored as 1999 NoHo Citizen of the Year at the 7th Annual NoHo Theatre & Arts Festival. Through the years Ms. Garland has played an invaluable role in helping NoHo emerge as a thriving center of music, dance and theater in what had been a declining section of North Hollywood. As a successful businesswoman and actress, Ms. Garland is the perfect representative for NoHo. The Festival could not have made a more appropriate choice for its citizen of the year.

Much of the world knows Beverly Garland for her role as Fred MacMurray's wife in the long-running television series "My Three Sons," and as Kate Jackson's mother in "The Scarecrow and Mrs. King." That was then. Today she continues to lead a very busy life as a television actress. Her recent movies for TV include "Finding the Way Home" with George C. Scott and "The World's Oldest Living Bridesmaid," with Donna Mills. She has

also appeared as a guest star on "Friends," "Ellen" and "Diagnosis Murder," and recently became "engaged" to Grandpa Charles on the popular weekly series "7th Heaven."

With more than 200 television and film roles to her credit, it comes as no surprise that Ms. Garland has received a star in her name on the famous Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Those of us who live in the east San Fernando Valley also know Ms. Garland for her business skills and civic involvement. She and her family own and operate Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn on Vineland Avenue in North Hollywood, a 258-room hotel that recently teamed with Holiday Inn Worldwide. The hotel is not only popular with visitors to the area, but is a central location for community meetings, chamber of commerce events and other important local activities.

Ms. Garland has not at all been hesitant to use her skills as a public speaker to promote the area. She holds the position of Honorary Mayor of North Hollywood and lends her presence at many public functions. She has also served on the California Tourism Corporation Board of Directors and is a member of the Greater Los Angeles Visitors and Convention Bureau.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Beverly Garland, whose devotion to her community, commitment to the arts and dedication to her craft are an inspiration to us all. She has contributed greatly to the rise of NoHo and its emergence as one of the "hot spots" of Los Angeles.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT TAYLOR
AND THE FRESNO CHAPTER OF
THE MONTEREY BAY JAGUARS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Taylor, coach of the Fresno chapter of the Monterey Bay Jaguars, for his outstanding achievements and dedication to the youth of his community. The Monterey Bay Jaguars is a track and field club for children ages six and up.

Taylor, a Fresno parole officer, devotes his time twice a week, between February and July, to his "star athletes." He started with about 15 athletes from Bethune Elementary school in Fresno, where he was a tutor. The chapter now has more than 40 athletes from Fresno County. Taylor recruited co-workers and parents to help him run the growing program. Despite what some may think, this is not an "inner-city" group of kids. "We have a mixture," Taylor says. "Most of these kids are on the honor roll. Some of those kids down there have some money. But I don't want it to be like they're the rich kids. These kids are talented."

Indeed they are. Most of Taylor's kids had not participated until this year, but have won a combined 700 awards at the state and national levels since February. Taylor's secret to this success is a regimen of discipline and mental stability. Taylor designed a program that teaches the children the fundamental aspects of the sport and puts them through a college level workout twice per week. Taylor says he believes all of his athletes can compete in college and beyond and boasts about

their speed. "I've got a gold mine here," Taylor says. "They're the all-star team."

Mr. Speaker, I rise, with great pleasure, to recognize Robert Taylor and his team of "all-stars." It is evident by the dedication of both coaches and athletes that there is a mutual respect, and genuine concern for the positive development of the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno chapter of the Monterey Bay Jaguars for many more years of continued success.

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE
DECREASES OPPORTUNITIES FOR
OUR NATION'S YOUTH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend Bruce Bartlett's "Minimum Wage Hikes Help Politicians, Not the Poor", which recently appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, to all of my colleagues. Mr. Bartlett's article provides an excellent overview of the evidence that an increase in the federally-mandated minimum wage reduces teenage employment. Since those shut out of entry-level work are unlikely to obtain higher-paying jobs in the future, an increase in the minimum wage reduces employment opportunities for millions of Americans. This point was also highlighted by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan in testimony before the Senate in January when he pointed out that "All the evidence that I've seen suggests that the people who are the most needy of getting on the lower rungs of the ladder of our income scales, develop skills, getting the training, are unable to earn the minimum wage. As a consequence, they cannot get started. And I think we have to be very careful about thinking that we can somehow raise standards of living by mandating an increase in the minimum wage rate." I hope all of my colleagues will carefully consider how increasing the minimum wage decreases opportunities for our nation's youth and refrain from reducing economic opportunity for those at the bottom of the economic ladder by raising the minimum wage.

Bruce Bartlett is senior fellow at the NCPA. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy in the Treasury Department from 1988 to 1993, and Senior Policy Analyst at the White House from 1987 to 1988. He is an expert commentator on taxes and economic policy, the author of two books and, a syndicated columnist. His articles have appeared in many papers including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He regularly appears on national television and radio programs.

MINIMUM WAGE HIKE HELPS POLITICIANS, NOT
THE POOR

(By Bruce Bartlett)

It now appears likely that the Republican Congress will soon raise the minimum wage for the second time in three years. In 1996 the minimum increased to the present \$5.15 an hour from \$4.25; the increase now being considered would bring the figure up to \$6.15 by 2002. This is bad news, for as many as 436,000 jobs may disappear as a result of the increase.

During the last debate, two arguments were advanced in favor of raising the minimum wage. The first claimed that the min-

imum wage had fallen sharply in real (inflation-adjusted) terms since the previous increase in 1991. But with inflation having all but vanished in the 19 months since the last increase, this argument does not hold true today.

The second argument, based almost exclusively on a 1995 study by economists David Card and Alan Krueger, was that raising the minimum wage actually reduced unemployment. Since then, however, virtually every study done on the subject has confirmed longstanding research showing that raising the minimum wage invariably has a negative impact on employment, particularly among teenagers and minorities.

The federal minimum wage was first enacted in 1938, but applied only to the small minority of workers who were engaged in interstate commerce. The first data we have on teenage unemployment are from 1948. From then until a significant expansion of the minimum wage in 1956, teenage unemployment was quite low by today's standards and was actually lower for blacks than whites. Between 1948 and 1955 unemployment averaged 11.3% for black teenage males and 11.6% for whites.

Beginning in 1956, when the minimum wage rose from 75 cents to \$1, unemployment rates between the two groups began to diverge. By 1960, the unemployment rate for black teenage males was up to 22.7%, while the white rate stood at 14.6%.

Despite such evidence, supporters continued to push for ever higher and more inclusive minimum-wage rates, which were raised almost yearly between 1961 and 1981. At each point the unemployment rate for black teenagers tended to ratchet higher. By 1981, the unemployment rate for black teenage males averaged 40.7%—four times its early 1950s level, when the minimum wage was much lower and its coverage less extensive. That year, the federally-mandated Minimum Wage Study Commission concluded that each 10% rise in the minimum wage reduces teenage employment by between 1% and 3%.

Subsequent research, based on the effects of the previous two minimum-wage increases, continues to confirm this estimate. A study of the 1990-91 increases, which raised the rate by 27%, found that it reduced overall teenage employment by 7.3% and black teenage employment by 10%. Similarly, a study of the 1996 increases found a decline in employment of between 2% and 6% for each 10% increase in the minimum wage.

In a study published by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, economist Kenneth Couch translated these percentages into raw numbers. At the low end of the range, at least 90,000 teenage jobs were lost in 1996 and another 63,000 jobs lost in 1997. At the higher end, job losses may have equaled 268,000 in 1996 and 189,000 in 1997. He estimates that a \$1 rise in the minimum wage will further reduce teenage employment by between 145,000 and 436,000 jobs.

The fact is that the vast bulk of economic research demonstrates that the minimum wage has extremely harmful effects on the very people it is designed to aid—the poor:

The minimum wage unambiguously reduces employment. The September 1998 issue of the *Journal of Economic Literature*, an official publication of the American Economic Association, contains a survey of labor economists on the employment effects of the minimum wage. When asked to estimate the impact of raising the minimum wage, the average effect was estimated at minus 0.21%, meaning that a 10% rise in the minimum wage will reduce overall youth employment by 2.1%. This puts to rest any notion that economists have changed their view that in general higher minimum wages reduce employment.

Increases in the minimum wage have a disproportionate impact on teenagers and the poor. The minus 2.1% figure cited above is an overall impact. For those currently earning less than the new minimum wage, the impact is much greater. For example, prior to the 1996 increase, 74.4% of workers between the ages of 16 and 24 already earned more than \$5.15, and 4.3% were legally exempt from the minimum wage law. Thus the employment losses were concentrated among the 21.3% of workers making the minimum wage or slightly more. When one attributes total employment losses entirely to this group, it turns out that the employment loss figure is minus 1%, according to economists David Neumark, Mark Schweitzer and William Wascher. This means a 10% rise in the minimum wage reduces employment among this group by 10%.

Increases in the minimum wage add almost nothing to the incomes of poor families. There are two reasons for this. First, employment losses reduce the incomes of some workers more than the higher minimum wage increases the incomes of others. Second, the vast bulk of those affected by the minimum wage, especially teenagers, live in families that are not poor. Thus a study by economists Richard Burkhauser and Martha Harrison found that 80% of the net benefits of the last minimum-wage increase went to families well above the poverty level; almost half went to those with incomes more than three times the poverty level. (The poverty level is about \$17,000 for a family of four.)

The minimum wage reduces education and training and increases long-term unemployment for low-skilled adults. Messrs. Neumark and Wascher found that higher minimum wages cause employers to reduce on-the-job training. They also found that higher minimum wages encourage more teenagers to drop out of school, lured into the labor force by wages that to them seem high. These teenagers often displace low-skilled adults, who frequently become semipermanently unemployed. Lacking skills and education, these teenagers pay a price for the minimum wage in the form of lower incomes over their entire lifetimes.

A raise in the minimum wage has always been an easy sell in Washington. But whatever the political realities may be, it's still a bad idea.

VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY IS A LOCAL SPONSOR OF THE 12TH ANNUAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my thanks to Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey, for being a local sponsor of the 12th annual National Cancer Survivors Day. This event helps those stricken with this tragic disease find hope, and emphasizes the progress medical science has made in fighting cancer. The organizers possess the understanding and sensitivity that help support the patients and families faced with this challenge.

This event, dedicated to curing and surviving cancer, has very poignant relevance to my own family. We 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. This is why a commemoration of National Cancer Survivors Day serves such a meaningful purpose for all who, like our family, have faced the trauma of this disease.

This year, National Cancer Survivors Day will be celebrated for the 10th time at Valley Hospital. About 200 people are expected to attend the ceremony, including leading oncologists and patients who have faced cancer and survived to tell their stories.

But Valley Hospital's involvement in fighting cancer goes far beyond speeches or ceremonies. Valley is a regional leader in the oncology field, treating more cancer patients than all other hospitals in Bergen and Passaic counties combined. A full range of oncology services are available, including a special program in pediatric oncology and endoscopic ultrasound technology. Valley's affiliation with Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and the Southwest Oncology Group offer patients access to the newest treatment protocols. The radiation oncology service is the busiest in the state and the center offers free annual screenings for skin, prostate, breast and oral cancer. The oncology center goes beyond medical treatment, offering weekly support groups for patients, a comprehensive calendar of educational programs and extensive home care programs that aid not just cancer patients but their families as well.

A distinguishing characteristic of Valley's cancer programs is the availability and quality of radiation seed implant therapy for prostate cancer. Valley has attracted patients from around the world as the result of its unique prostate implant program, pioneered by urologist Howard Sandler, M.D., and radiation oncologist David Greenblatt, M.D. Physicians from across the country have come to Valley to learn brachytherapy from Drs. Sandler and Greenblatt and Dr. Michael Wesson, also a radiation oncologist.

During our lifetime, we have seen cancer go from a virtual death sentence to a disease that is often treatable, survivable and preventable. The overall survival rate for all forms of cancer—including the worst varieties—now stands at 60 percent. The survival rate for some of the better-understood cancers, such as breast cancer, is 81 percent. And if all Americans participated in screenings that could catch cancer at its early stages, experts estimate that 95 percent of cancer patients would survive. Since 1990, cancer death rates have been dropping an average 0.6 percent per year, according to the National Cancer Institute.

Despite these advances, more than 1.2 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed this year and more than half a million people are expected to die—about 1,500 each day. Cancer is the second-leading cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease, and one of every four deaths is from cancer.

Sadly, many of these deaths occur even though they are preventable. Tobacco and alcohol related cancer account for nearly half of all cancer cases and are completely avoidable simply by not smoking and drinking only in moderation. Many skin cancers are caused by excessive exposure to sunlight and can be prevented by the simple use of suntan lotion and reduced exposure. Screening is available for many forms of cancer, including breast,

colon, rectum, cervix, prostate, testis, oral and skin. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of detecting cancer as early as possible—early treatment can mean the difference between life and death.

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.

ROC TO DONATE \$300 MILLION TO
HELP KOSOVAR REFUGEES

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 7, 1999, after chairing a meeting concerning the Kosovo crisis, President Lee Teng-hui announced that the Republic of China will donate \$300 million to help Kosovar refugees rebuild their homes. I would like to applaud the ROC for playing an active role in the "world arena" and working together to maintain world peace. Humanitarian aid to Kosovar refugees is a common goal for all countries. In recognition of their honorable deed I am submitting President Lee Teng-hui's statement regarding assistance to Kosovar refugees.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT REGARDING
ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVAR REFUGEES

The huge numbers of Kosovar casualties and refugees from the Kosovo area resulting from the NATO-Yugoslavia conflict in the Balkans have captured close world-wide attention. From the very outset, the government of the ROC has been deeply concerned and we are carefully monitoring the situation's development.

We in the Republic of China were pleased to learn last week that Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the peace plan for the Kosovo crisis proposed by the Group of Eight countries, for which specific peace agreements are being worked out.

The Republic of China wholeheartedly looks forward to the dawning of peace on the Balkans. For more than two months, we have been concerned about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees who were forced to flee to other countries, particularly from the vantage point of our emphasis on protecting human rights. We thereby organized a Republic of China aid mission to Kosovo. Carrying essential relief items, the mission made a special trip to the refugee camps in Macedonia to lend a helping hand.

Today, as we anticipate a critical moment of forth-coming peace, I hereby make the following statement to the international community on behalf of all the nationals of the Republic of China:

As a member of the world community committed to protecting and promoting human rights, the Republic of China would like to develop further the spirit of humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction. We will provide \$300 million. The aid will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food shelters, medical care, and education, etc. for the Kosovar refugees, living in exile in neighboring countries.

2. Short-term accommodations for some of the refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of

job training in order for them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.

3. Furthermore, support the rehabilitation of Kosovo area in coordination with international long-term recovery programs when the peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful Kosovo homes.

A TRIBUTE TO ODUNDE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Odunde, Philadelphia's oldest and largest community-based festival, on the occasion of its 24th anniversary. The word Odunde originates from the Yoruba people of Nigeria, West Africa, and means Happy New Year. The festival is a recreation of traditional West African cultural festivals that celebrate the coming of another year through music, dance and prayer. Held in one of South Philadelphia's historically significant African American neighborhoods, Odunde attracts over 300,000 people annually and it has gained the reputation of being one of the largest African American street festivals in the United States.

Known for its authentic African marketplace with vendors selling a variety of artifacts, African clothing, educational materials and African, Caribbean and African American food, Odunde represents a tremendous economic opportunity for entrepreneurs.

Odunde is a vital cultural and educational experience that has become an important part of the Philadelphia experience. Odunde celebrates the rich cultural legacy of Africans of the diaspora and the experience enriches us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, in light of my absence on Thursday, June 10, 1999, I wish to announce my position on the following amendments to the record: the Buyer to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 185)—Yes; the Traficant to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 186)—Yes; the Souder to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 187)—No; the Skelton to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 188)—Yes; the Shays to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 189)—No; the Weldon to H.R. 1401 (rollcall vote No. 190)—Yes.

And last, I announce my strong support for final passage of H.R. 1401, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 to 2001, and for other purposes.

VIRGINIA BEACH PROCLAMATION
OF RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN DAY

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, the City of Virginia Beach recently issued the following proclamation honoring Rabbi Israel Zoberman, the founding Rabbi of Beth Chaverim, the Reform Jewish Congregation of Virginia Beach:

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman was honored at a special reception on April 23, 1999 at Beth Chaverim; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman is the founding Rabbi of Beth Chaverim, the Reform Jewish Congregation of Virginia Beach; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman has been in the ministry for twenty-five years and was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree from his alma mater, the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati Campus; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman is the first rabbi to serve as chairman of the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater. He is a contributing editor to the Jewish Spectator. He is also the past president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Virginia Beach Clergy Association; and

Whereas Beth Chaverim was the only Jewish congregation in the world to meet regularly in a Catholic Church; the Church of the Ascension in Virginia Beach and a close bond was established between the two organizations; and

Whereas Rabbi Zoberman has been a force for good as his ministry has touched not only the citizens of Hampton Roads, but many others throughout the world;

Now, Therefore, I, Meyera E. Oberndorf, Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, do hereby proclaim April 23, 1999 Rabbi Israel Zoberman Day in Virginia Beach, and call upon all citizens to recognize his many contributions to the city.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to be affixed this Twenty-third day of April, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Nine. Meyera E. Oberndorf

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOHN R. HARVEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM HIS OFFICE AS CHIEF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, ATLANTIC JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ON MAY 31, 1999

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, quite simply, what separates civilized countries from countries which know only official corruption, abuse of power, and economic misery is the rule of law.

Without respect for the rule of law, countries with stunning natural resource wealth, extraordinary human capital, and even formidable military might are nothing more than failed models.

The Soviet Union, and now Russia, possessed all of these attributes.

And yet the Soviet Union was never more than a declining power and a model from

which its citizens tried to flee by the thousands.

It was never one to which millions yearned to come to, and realize new and exciting possibilities.

Although the Soviet Union is an extreme case, too little regard for the rule of law is the norm, and it characterizes regimes on every continent.

America however, has always been different.

Historians have spoken of American Exceptionalism since the days of Alexis de Tocqueville over 150 years ago, and one of the most important ingredients in this belief about our special, even God-given role in the world is our regard for the rule of law.

Judge John Harvey, who retired from the bench as Chief Superior Court Judge of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit on May 31st of this year, is a man whose entire professional life inspires faith in the rule of law.

A man of probity and regard for honor, Judge Harvey brought to his life's work a quiet determination and unceasing commitment to do right.

We Americans believe in the basic framework of our rule of law as embodied in the Constitution, a document which has stood the test of time.

Despite the steady erosion in the freedoms guaranteed in this document over the past several decades, we still revere the Constitution as a reflection of what we believe in as a people, what the relationship between the ruled and rulers should be, and what is right and good about the most successful experiment in democracy the world has ever seen.

But the Constitution is not enough.

A piece of paper can never alone ensure respect for the rule of law.

It cannot protect us from encroachments on our freedom.

And it can never forfend the inevitable tendency of rulers to abuse their power.

For the rule of law to triumph, honest men and a virtuous people must insist that it triumph, and they must step forward and demand that threats to our freedom be vanquished.

The Constitution provides us with the road map; but honest judges, dedicated police officers, lawyers with integrity, and ethical federal administrators, are the ones who must make the rule of law a reality, a system to which all citizens can appeal, and from which all citizens can receive justice.

If even the least among us is denied justice under our system of laws, faith in our rule of law is undermined, and our freedoms are no longer safe.

Absent people who are committed to the rule of law, citizens will not have faith that their grievances will be addressed, or that the law-abiding will be protected from those who wish to do us harm.

Judge Harvey possesses the kind of even temperament and fair-minded approach to every case that send a signal to plaintiffs and defendants alike that in this case, in this court, before this judge, the law will be upheld and every attempt will be made for the truth to triumph.

Judge Harvey was a popular judge who was respected for his sharp legal mind and judicious demeanor.

But he was esteemed and admired even more for his reverence for the law and for his integrity.

His early success in his life as a distinguished jurist—becoming superior court judge at the age of 38—did nothing to lessen his commitment to his youthful ideals of serving as an honest lawyer in a noble profession.

Indeed, his achievement merely spurred him to take his responsibilities even more seriously and with even greater care.

Judge Harvey always wanted to be a lawyer.

Some lawyers engender respect for the rule of law; others bring our system of laws into disrepute and cause people to lose faith in the very government we elect to serve us.

Judge Harvey always dreamed of becoming a lawyer in the first category, a lawyer who will make the system work the way it is supposed to.

America will cease to be a country where the rule of law is respected without people like Judge John Harvey.

Rising before the sun and leaving the office after colleagues decades his junior, Judge Harvey adhered to work habits and ethical that touched the lives of countless individuals who are responsible for making sure that our Constitution is more than a piece of paper of an inspired origin.

His profession, his task, is to make sure that the system works and to create in the citizenry a regard for the rule of law that is all too rare in most countries of the world.

In that task, his efforts were singularly successful, and his departure from the bench is a great loss to us all.

But the example he set for others remains, and his impact will long outlive his tenure as a sitting judge.

Judge Harvey makes me proud to be an American, and it is my great honor to pay tribute to him today.

Judge Harvey, thank you for your outstanding service to the United States of America; we will miss you.

CONFLICT IN KASHMIR

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of concerns for the increased tensions in the Kashmir region of India. From the accounts that I've seen, it is my understanding that the current fighting near Kargil, Kashmir, is the most dangerous escalation since the Indo-Pak war of 1971. The current crisis apparently began when a heavily armed, and considerably large force comprised of Islamic terrorists and Pakistani regulars, including some of Osama bin Laden's followers, crossed the "Line of Control" into India, occupying Indian military positions that had been temporarily abandoned for the winter season. Indian security forces took prompt action to remove these infiltrators and defend Indian territory. Units of the Pakistani Army quickly joined the fighting, providing the infiltrators with heavy artillery fire as well as firing at Indian aircraft and helicopters striking the infiltrators' positions.

There should be no doubt that this operation could not have taken place without the direct support from, and authorization of, the highest levels of government in Islamabad. The

Islamist terrorists involved, including supporters of bin Laden's, have received specialized training and equipment in camps in Pakistan since the Fall of 1998. The infiltrating force itself—a composite grouping of Pakistani regulars and Islamist terrorists (Kashmiris, Pakistanis, Afghans and Arabs) is reportedly operating in close cooperation with the local units of the Pakistani Armed Forces. There should be little doubt that these forces conduct a war-by-proxy on behalf of Pakistan.

No less troubling are the recent claims by Pakistani officials that the fighting in the Kargil area is actually taking place on Pakistani territory. The essence of this claim is challenging the validity of the Line of Control (LOC) as defined by the Simla Accords of 1972. One cannot hope to reduce tension and build mutual trust—commonly regulated in international treaties and agreements—when one of the protagonists unilaterally challenges the validity of well established bilateral and international agreements.

Thus, these recent developments are particularly troubling given the agreement between India and Pakistan earlier this year, the Lahore Declaration, that sought to promote regional stability and security, and most importantly peace, in South Asia. However, the actions of these terrorists are precisely what those concerned about India and the security of the region have raised as being a potential problem.

It is certainly in the United States' best interest to ensure stability in this region. India is important to our national security in an increasingly dangerous area. India and the United States share common bonds in fighting terrorism. We also share growing concerns with China, too. India is justified in taking action to remove these terrorists from within its borders. If these infiltrators are allowed in with no action to expel them, it will only embolden others to take their place.

I am hopeful that discussions scheduled for this weekend between India's Prime Minister Vajpayee and Pakistan's Prime Minister Sharif will resolve this issue. In any event, the U.S. should support the peaceful resolution to this conflict.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Sanchez-Morella-Lowey amendment. American women have a constitutionally protected right to choose. We must protect this right.

The Sanchez-Morella-Lowey amendment would reverse the ban on privately funded abortion services at U.S. military bases overseas. This amendment would provide service-

women and military wives who live on American overseas military bases, the same access to health care as their United States based colleagues. The women we station overseas are already making great sacrifices for their country by leaving behind their family, friends, and community. We should not deny them their constitutional rights nor access to reproductive services.

This amendment would not expend Federal funds for abortion services. This amendment would not require health care professionals who oppose abortion to provide this medical service owing to their moral principle or as a matter of conscience. This amendment would return this policy to where it previously stood for many years under both Republican and Democratic administrations. The Department of Defense supports this amendment. Simply put, this amendment would allow women stationed overseas to use their own funds at overseas military hospitals to exercise their constitutional right to obtain abortion services. Current policy forces women who seek reproductive services to wait until they return to America or to seek out illegal and unsafe procedures near where they are stationed. Therefore current policy often jeopardizes their health and lives.

While I certainly respect my colleagues' views on the question of abortion, the fact is that women do have a right to choose that option, in consultation with their family, their doctors, and their God, and we should not make that decision more dangerous for them.

In the interest of making abortions safe when necessary, I urge my colleagues to vote to support the Sanchez-Morella-Lowey amendment. By allowing the Department of Defense to move ahead on this, we will ensure the safety of the American women we have stationed overseas. We have a responsibility to do this.

ANDREW TOWNE, LeGRAND SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF
PITTSFORD, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Andrew Towne, winner of the 1999 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Andrew is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Andrew Towne is an exceptional student at Pittsford High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Andrew's involvement in football, basketball and track began his freshman year and continued through his freshman year and continued through his senior year. He excelled both academically and athletically as Captain of the Quiz Bowl and

Basketball Team. Outside of school, Andrew participated in several volunteer activities to improve the community.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Andrew Towne for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE GLENWOOD
SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE
TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL
AWARD

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glenwood School of Springfield, Massachusetts. The Glenwood School was recently included as one of 88 schools nationally awarded the Title I Distinguished School Award. This award recognizes schools operating in high-poverty attendance areas that have been successful in raising the level of achievement of their students. This award is a tribute to the collective efforts of the dedicated educators, parents, administrators, and most of all the students. The backbone of the operation is the principal of the school, Mr. Daniel J. Warwick. He worked in conjunction with United Cooperative Bank, the PTO, and volunteers to ensure that the students would be given the best opportunity to achieve such an academic turnaround.

All parties involved displayed mutual hard work to earn this recognition as an exemplary school nationwide. The steps taken at Glenwood School will help to lessen the gap of achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged students. The hard work that all the members of the Glenwood School community portrayed will help to show that all children can learn to high standards.

This community has also shown a set of priorities that other schools with high concentrations of children in poverty can abide by. These priorities included an emphasis on challenging academic content and performance centers, a teaching/learning environment characterized by curricula aligned to standards and an assessment system, and a commitment to ongoing professional development, family, and community involvement.

The Glenwood School has successfully overcome socioeconomic problems (82% poverty level) to achieve academic excellence. It has shown all children that they have the opportunity to learn and realize their true potential. By incorporating the entire student body and community the Glenwood School has overcome the odds. Their recent success should be commended. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such a hard working school in my district. Glenwood School's inaugural success has sparked a desire to continue moving forward. This sole reason perhaps more so than any other, deserves our respect and congratulations.

HONORING TAIWAN FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE REFUGEES OF KOSOVO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan's continuing commitment to peace and stability in the Balkan region. Classified by China as a renegade province with no right to diplomatic recognition, Taiwan is excluded from the United Nations and deprived of relations with many nations. Despite this diplomatic embargo, Taiwan unveiled this past Monday, June 7, a \$300 million aid package to assist the more than 782,000 ethnic Albanians who have been forced to leave as a result of Slobodan Milosevic's genocidal campaign.

This aid package will include emergency supplies for Kosovar refugees and contributions to long-term reconstruction efforts by the international community in Kosovo once a peace plan is accepted and implemented. In addition, it also offers to arrange for Kosovar refugees to receive short-term technical training in Taiwan.

I urge my colleagues to recognize Taiwan's sincerity and commitment to join the international drive to help the Kosovar refugees.

DR. HAROLD P. FURTH: A SCIENTIFIC LEADER AND A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harold P. Furth who has been appointed an Emeritus Professor of Princeton University, effective July 1st.

Dr. Furth, who served for 10 years as the director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, has been a world leader in our nation's effort to recreate on earth the fusion process that powers the stars. As Dr. Furth has long understood, fusion can provide an abundant, safe, and environmentally attractive energy source to meet America's long term needs.

Dr. Furth conceived of the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR), the world's most successful fusion experiment, and oversaw its design and scientific program. TFTR achieved all of its research objectives, including the production of world-record amounts of fusion power in 1994. Discoveries made on TFTR increased substantially the basic understanding of fusion. These results are providing the insights necessary for the success of advanced fusion experiments now underway.

Beyond his renowned scientific prowess, I have for years admired his adept leadership in the science community. During the last year in which Dr. Furth was the Director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, I was privileged to serve as the Assistant Director. As a scientific director, he established the right symbiotic relationship between theory and experiment. Dr. Furth's knowledge of all aspects of the field of fusion science and plasma phys-

ics and his erudite manner have made him a truly outstanding leader of the fusion community.

As a Congressman now, I deeply appreciate his ability to lead both in the details of a major scientific program and his ability to provide direction for the field as a whole. His shrewd judgment allows him to be an effective steward of our nation's resources. He continues to show extraordinary ability to gauge all aspects of the fusion program, scientific, political, and economic, and to see the proper direction of the program.

We will continue to rely on the outstanding contributions of Americans such as Harold Furth as the foundation for our national security and economic well-being in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the United States-Flag Merchant Marine Revitalization Act of 1999. This bipartisan legislative initiative, which I am introducing along with Congressman Herger of California, Congressman Jefferson of Louisiana, and Congressman Abercrombie of Hawaii, is critically important to the modernization and growth of the United States maritime industry, our nation's fourth arm of defense.

History has repeatedly proven—and Congress has repeatedly affirmed—that the United States needs a strong, active, competitive and militarily-useful United States-flag commercial maritime industry to protect and strengthen our nation's economic and military security. In times of war or other emergency, as vividly demonstrated during the Persian Gulf War, United States-flag commercial vessels and their United States citizen crews respond quickly, effectively and efficiently to our nation's call, providing the sealift sustainment capability necessary to support America's armed forces overseas.

In 1992, General Colin Powell, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the graduating class of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point that:

Since I became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have come to appreciate firsthand why our merchant marine has long been called the nation's fourth arm of defense . . . The war in the Persian Gulf is over but the merchant marine's contribution to our nation continues. In war, merchant seamen have long served with valor and distinction by carrying critical supplies and equipment to our troops in far away lands. In peacetime, the merchant marine has another vital role-contributing to our economic security by linking us to our trading partners around the world and providing the foundation for our ocean commerce.

I am convinced that the best way to ensure that our nation continues to have the militarily-useful commercial vessels and trained and loyal United States citizen crews we need to support our interests around the world is to enact those programs and policies that will better enable our maritime industry to flourish in peacetime. I am equally convinced that one

important way to do so is to provide a tax environment for our maritime industry which more closely reflects the favorable tax treatment other maritime nations provide to their own merchant fleets. The legislation my colleagues and I are introducing today will in fact strengthen the competitiveness of United States-flag vessel operations by providing a greater opportunity for American vessel owners to accumulate the private capital necessary to build modern, efficient and economical commercial vessels in American shipyards.

This bill amends the existing merchant marine Capital Construction Fund (CCF) program contained in section 607 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1970 and section 7518 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The existing program allows an American citizen to deposit the earnings from various United States built, United States-flag vessel operations into a tax-deferred Capital Construction Fund to be used exclusively in conjunction with an approved United States shipbuilding program. The deferred tax is recouped by the Treasury through reduced depreciation because the tax basis of vessels built with CCF monies is reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

In order to better reflect the significant tax-related disadvantages American vessel owners face as compared to their foreign competition, and to continue to ensure our nation has the most militarily useful and economically viable domestic maritime industry, this legislation would amend the existing CCF program to expand the type of earnings eligible to be deposited into a CCF and the purposes for which a qualified withdrawal can be made. Significantly, these amendments do not in any fashion alter or weaken the existing requirement that vessels built with CCF monies must be built in the United States and operate under the laws of the United States with United States citizens crews.

Specially, this legislation amends the CCF program to:

Allow earnings from United States-flag foreign built vessels to be deposited into a CCF in order to increase the amount of capital available to build vessels in an American shipyard;

Allow CCF monies to be withdrawn to build, in an American shipyard, a vessel for operation under the United States-flag in the oceangoing domestic trades in order to further enhance the modernization and growth of this important segment of the maritime industry;

Allow CCF monies to be withdrawn to acquire United States-built containers or trailers for use on a United States-flag vessel in order to better ensure that cargo moves on American vessels in a safe and efficient fashion;

Allow CCF monies to be withdrawn in conjunction with the lease of a United States-built vessel, trailer or container in order to better reflect the realities of current ship financing arrangements;

Allow a vessel owner to deposit into a CCF the duty arising from foreign ship repairs to ensure that the duty is used to the benefit of United States shipyards; and

Remove the CCF as an alternative minimum tax adjustment item so that the full intended benefits of the program—the accumulation of private capital for the construction of commercial vessels in United States shipyards—are realized.

The United States-Flag Merchant Marine Revitalization Act of 1999 is critically important

to the modernization and growth of the United States-flag merchant marine and should be supported and enacted. It will generate significant commercial vessel construction in United States shipyards and help American flag vessel operators compete more equally with their foreign flag vessel counterparts.

HONORING CHRISTINA WRIGHT,
LeGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP
WINNER OF MARSHALL, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Christina Wright, winner of the 1999 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Christina is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Christina Wright is an exceptional student at Marshall High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Christina has received numerous awards for her involvement in Debate and the Performing Arts. Outside of school, she has served the community through many church activities and the United Way.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Christina Wright for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

CONSUMER TELEMARKEETING FI-
NANCIAL PRIVACY PROTECTION
ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to restrict the sharing of credit card account numbers and other confidential information for purposes of telemarketing to consumers. My legislation responds to widespread negative-option telemarketing schemes that were brought dramatically to the public's attention this week in a speech by the Comptroller of the Currency and in a major lawsuit announced yesterday by the Minnesota Attorney General. I am pleased to join in sponsoring this legislation with my colleague from Minnesota, BRUCE VENTO, the Ranking Member of the Financial Services Subcommittee, and my Banking Committee colleagues BARNEY FRANK, PAUL KANJORSKI, KEN BENTSEN and JAY INSLEE.

While negative option telemarketing schemes appear to have been in operation for several years, their significance and breadth only recently came to light in news stories and state Attorneys General investigations. They remained hidden largely because most consumers don't realize they have been victimized and, for those who do, many assume the problem is a random mistake. Most consumers find it hard to believe that their bank or credit card company would systematically sell their private account numbers to questionable marketing operations. This is not the way banking has traditionally been conducted.

Consumers should have confidence that their credit card and bank account numbers will not be sold to the highest bidder. They should not feel they have to scrutinize their credit card statements for unauthorized charges. And they should not have to fear that every sign of interest or request for information in a telemarketing call will lead to automatic charges on their credit cards. This is unfair to consumers and potentially damaging to our banking system.

These telemarketing schemes operate in the following manner. A bank will enter into an agreement with an unaffiliated firm that provides telemarketing services to companies offering a variety of discount, subscription, service or product sampling memberships. The bank provides extensive confidential personal and financial information about its customers in return for a fee and commissions on sales made by the telemarketing firm. The information goes far beyond the names and addresses of customers, including specific account numbers, account balances, credit card purchases and credit scoring information. This information enables the marketer to profile the bank's customers and offer "trial memberships" that are targeted to each customer's interests, income and buying habits.

What makes the whole thing work is the fact that the telemarketer already has access to the consumer's credit card account. If the consumer indicates any interest in a "trial" membership, or even in receiving additional materials, their credit card account is automatically charged for the membership without the customer ever disclosing their account number or even knowing that they have authorized the charge. In many instances, the customer never notices the charge, or only sees it when it automatically converts into a continuing series of monthly membership or product charges. The consumer then has to take actions to stop the charges (hence the term "negative option") and attempts to have the charges refunded to their account.

According to state officials, consumers typically have considerable difficulty obtaining refunds for these charges, or even getting their bank to remove continuing charges from their account. Many have had to contact their State Attorney General before the bank or telemarketer would refund the charges.

While the Comptroller of the Currency this week identified this practice as an example of banking practices "that are seamy, if not downright unfair and deceptive", they do not appear to violate any federal law or regulation. The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) currently exempts from regulation any information that a bank derives from its routine transactions and experience with customers. This permits a bank to provide credit related information to credit bureaus without itself being

regulated as a credit bureau. Until recently, banks did not routinely share confidential customers information out of concern for maintaining customer confidence. Clearly, this has changed. The other applicable federal statute, the federal Telemarketing Act and the FTC's Telemarketing Rule, also provide only limited protection since telemarketers are required only to show some taped expression of interest or consent before charging a consumer for a membership or service. However, few consumers understand that agreeing to a "trial" offer will lead to automatic and repeated charges to their credit card account.

Banking regulators also have been limited in their ability to respond to this problem as a result of amendments made to the Fair Credit Reporting Act in 1996 that restrict regulatory agencies from conducting bank examinations for FCRA compliance except in response to specific complaints. Even then, the statute limits the regulator's ability to monitor compliance only to regularly scheduled bank examinations. Authority to interpret FCRA to address such practices also is limited to the Federal Reserve Board, which often does not have direct regulatory contact with most of the institutions involved.

The absence of federal regulation has permitted bank involvement in negative option telemarketing to become far more widespread than first assumed. The action brought yesterday by the Minnesota Attorney General cited several bank subsidiaries of US Bancorp. Newspaper articles have described identical operations involving other national telemarketing firms and a number of major national banks and retailers. Documents filed with the SEC last year by the telemarketing company cited in the Minnesota action claimed that the company had "over 50 credit card issuers" as clients, "including 17 of the top 25 issuers of bank credit cards, three of the top five issuers of oil company credit cards and three of the top five issuers of retail company credit cards."

Comptroller Hawke was entirely correct in citing this as a widespread problem that raises potential safety and soundness concerns for the banking system and also as an example of "practices that cry out for government scrutiny."

The bill I am introducing today would address this problem from several perspectives. First, it amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to limit the current exemption for sharing of confidential transaction and experience information about customers. Under the bill, information can be shared for purposes of telemarketing only if (1) the information to be shared does not include any account numbers for credit cards or other deposit or transaction accounts and (2) the bank provides clear and conspicuous disclosure to the consumer of the type of information it seeks to share with a telemarketer and provides the consumer with an opportunity to direct that the information not be shared.

Second, the bill addresses the limitations on current regulatory enforcement by removing the 1996 limitations on the ability of bank regulators to undertake examinations and enforcement actions to assure FCRA compliance. It broadens FCRA rulemaking authority to provide for joint rulemaking by the OCC, OTS and FDIC as well as the Federal Reserve. And it extends rulemaking authority for the National Credit Union Administration for

purposes of compliance by federal credit unions.

Mr. Speaker, my bill does not attempt to take on the entire issue of financial privacy. It is narrowly targeted to address only the problem of sharing information for purposes of telemarketing. However, it offers meaningful privacy protections that are urgently needed by consumers and which Congress can, and should, enact into law at the earliest opportunity.

I urge the Congress to adopt this important and needed legislation.

The text of the bill follows:

H.R.—

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Consumer Telemarketing Financial Privacy Protection Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON THE SHARING OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF TELEMARKETING TO CONSUMERS.

Section 603(d)(2)(A)(i) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a(d)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end thereof the following:

“, and any communication of that information by the person making the report to any other person for the purpose of telemarketing to the consumer, if—

“(aa) it is clearly and conspicuously disclosed to the consumer the information that may be communicated to such persons and the consumer is given the opportunity, before the time that the information is initially communicated, to direct that such information not be communicated among such persons; and

“(bb) the information to be communicated does not include an account number or other form of access for a credit card, deposit or transaction account of the consumer for use in connection with any telemarketing to the consumer”.

SEC. 3. ENHANCEMENT OF FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

Section 621 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681s) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking everything following the end of the second sentence; and

(2) by striking subsection “(e)” and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(e) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

“(1) The Federal banking agencies referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) shall jointly prescribe such regulations as necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act with respect to any persons identified under paragraph (1) and (2) of subsection (b), or to the holding companies and affiliates of such persons.

“(2) The Administrator of the National Credit Union Administration shall prescribe such regulations as necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act with respect to any persons identified under paragraph (3) of subsection (b).”.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

The Federal banking agencies referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), not later than the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall issue joint regulations in final form to implement the amendments made by this Act. The Administrator of the National Credit Union Administration, not later than the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, shall issue regulations in final form to implement the amendments made by this Act with respect to any Federal credit union.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2119—“THE YOUNG AMERICAN WORKERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS ACT”

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced comprehensive domestic child labor reform legislation—H.R. 2119, “The Young American Workers’ Bill of Rights Act.” I am delighted to report that this legislation has been cosponsored by 57 other Members of the Congress, including my distinguished fellow Californian, Congressman TOM CAMPBELL of San Jose, and our distinguished colleague, Congressman JOHN PORTER of Illinois, who is Co-Chairman with me of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

It is a shocking fact, Mr. Speaker, that the occupational injury rate for children and teens in this country is more than twice as high as it is for adults. A young person is killed on the job in this country every five days. A young worker is injured on the job every 40 seconds. These deaths and these injuries to our nation’s children are totally unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, as America prepares to enter the 21st Century, we must ensure that our children work under safe conditions. We must ensure that the work available to them does not limit their educational opportunities, but helps them achieve healthy and productive lives. The Young American Workers’ Bill of Rights will help to make certain that job opportunities available to our young people are safer and do not interfere with their education.

Unfortunately, the exploitation of child labor in our country is not a thing of the past. It is a national problem that continues to jeopardize the health, education, and lives of many of our nation’s children and teenagers. In farm fields and in fast-food restaurants all over this country, employers are breaking the law by hiring under-age children. Many of these youth put in long, hard hours and often work under dangerous conditions. Our legislation seeks to eliminate the all-too-common exploitation of children—working long hours late into the night while school is in session, and working under hazardous conditions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2119—The “Young American Workers’ Bill of Rights Act”—addresses two major aspects of child labor: the deaths and serious injuries suffered by our young workers and the negative impact which working excessive hours during school can have on a child’s education.

The legislation establishes new, tougher penalties for willful violations of child labor laws that result in the death or serious bodily injury to a child. Not only does the bill increase fines and prison sentences for such willful violation of our laws, but it will assure that the names of child labor law violators are publicized. Nothing will deter corporate giants more than negative publicity, and bad press is one of the few effective sanctions that are available to us.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation also increases protection for children under the age of 14 who are migrant or seasonal workers in agriculture. Current labor laws allow children—even those under 10 years of age—to be employed in agriculture. Farm worker children can work unlimited hours before and after

school, and they are not even eligible for overtime pay. At the age of 14, or even earlier, children working in agriculture can use knives and machetes, operate dangerous machinery, and be exposed to toxic pesticides. In no other industry are children so exploited as they are in agriculture.

H.R. 2119 also requires better record keeping and reporting of child labor violations, prohibits minors from operating or cleaning certain types of unsafe equipment, and prohibits children from working in certain particularly hazardous occupations.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation will reduce the problem of children working long hours when school is in session, and it strengthens existing limitations on the number of hours children under 18 years of age can work on school days. The bill would eliminate all youth labor before school, and after-school work would be limited to 15 or 20 hours per week, depending on the age of the child. This is important, Mr. Speaker, because the more hours children work during the school year, the more likely they are to take easier courses, and the more likely they are to do poorly in their studies. Studies have shown that children who work long hours also tend to use more alcohol and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, too many teenagers are working long hours at the very time that they should be focusing on their education. It is important for children to learn the value of work, but education, not minimum-wage jobs, are the key to these young people’s future. Our legislation is an important step in focusing attention back upon education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors of this legislation. The future of our nation depends upon the strength of our young people. It is important that we assure a safe place to work and that we be certain that work not interfere with education.

HONORING MEGAN ROONEY,
LeGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP
WINNER OF CONCORD, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Megan Rooney, winner of the 1999 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation’s future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Megan is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Megan Rooney is an exceptional student at Concord High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Megan’s involvement in student government and school activities began her freshman year and continued through her senior year. She served as President of the student body and Vice-President of S.A.D.D. Megan excelled athletically as well on the basketball and softball teams.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Megan Rooney for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SHOULD PURCHASE FREE
WEIGHT STRENGTH TRAINING
EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURED IN
THE UNITED STATES, NOT COM-
MUNIST CHINA

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, the United States has long been the leader in manufacturing. Our ingenuity and efficiency drove our economy from a largely agrarian society to the bustling industrial powerhouse that it is today. However, over the years, many foreign countries with government controlled economies have steadily cut into our markets because their subsidized products clearly have an economic advantage in our open markets.

While I applaud efforts of the United States government to level the playing field by controlling the flood of subsidized imports, I cannot condone the actions by our government that facilitate the continued import of these cheap products. I encountered these troubles during the 103rd Congress when I shepherded legislation through the Congress requiring the U.S. Coast Guard to purchase buoy chain manufactured in the United States because an overabundance of their purchases relied on foreign sources. Today, a similar problem is occurring when the Department of Defense purchases free weight strength training equipment.

Despite having quality, domestically manufactured products available to provide our troops, various installations of the United States Armed Services are purchasing free weight strength training equipment manufactured in foreign countries, predominantly in the Peoples Republic of China. As a result, many of our troops are training with equipment that not only is manufactured by a Communist government that has worked to undermine the national security of the United States, but also may be manufactured with slave labor.

These cheap, lower-grade Chinese products are imported by American fitness companies and sold to our government under domestic labels at the expense of our domestic manufacturers. Consequently, American producers have suffered.

Buy American legislation was enacted to protect our domestic labor market by providing a preference for American goods in government purchases. This Act is critical to protecting the market share of our domestic producers from foreign government-subsidized manufacturers. However, the Buy American Act is not always obeyed.

According to an audit conducted last year by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, an astonishing 59 percent of the

contracts procuring military clothing and related items did not include the appropriate clause to implement the Buy American Act. This troubles me because many of our domestic producers are the ones that suffer.

Despite this audit and the subsequent instruction by the Defense Department to its procurement officials that the Buy American Act must be adhered to, to date, at least five defense installations provide predominantly foreign made free weight products for their personnel to weight train. Unfortunately, I believe this may signify a trend in purchases of foreign manufactured free weights under the Department of Defense.

For this reason, I tried offering an amendment that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from procuring free weight equipment used by our troops for strength training and conditioning if those weights were not domestically manufactured. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee did not rule this amendment in order.

As a result, I offered a second amendment that would require the Inspector General to further investigate the Defense Department's compliance with purchases of the Buy American Act for free weight strength training equipment. However, I think it is important to note that while this approach could successfully highlight the problem, it would only delay the process, thereby, further punishing our domestic producers.

No one can argue that the physical fitness of our troops is vital. It is well known in the Pentagon that when you're physically fit, you're also mentally prepared for any conflict. It is the cornerstone of readiness. In fact, a recent survey of nearly 1,000 Marine Corps Times, cited fitness as the number one program offered under the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

In addition, the importance of using free weights to train our military cannot be understated. The Marine Corps Times article further demonstrated the need for free weights by explaining that access to free weights was the number one requested activity by deployed units and the second most popular request by units about to be deployed; second only to E-mail access. Clearly, the demand for free weights is present.

However, the fact that some of our troops use Chinese manufactured weights when a higher quality domestic product is available, I find remarkable.

Although the Department of Defense may have taken steps to curb Buy American Act procurement abuses in the aftermath of the Inspector General's report on clothing procurement, I am concerned that widespread abuses of foreign free weight procurements may continue unless Congress acts to end this practice.

I believe Congress needs to protect our domestic interests by ensuring that U.S. manufacturers are insulated from cheap imports being sold to the United States government, and that our troops train with a high quality product manufactured in the United States, not Communist China. Accordingly, it is my intention to prohibit our military from spending U.S. tax dollars on free weight strength training products that are produced by a Communist government that has little respect for our national security and human rights.

RETURN UNSPENT
CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FUNDS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce important, bipartisan legislation to require Congressional office funds be returned directly to the Department of the Treasury at the end of the year to help pay down the national debt. I offer this legislation with Representatives Fred Upton, Dave Camp and 52 original cosponsors.

At this time, Congress is making tough decisions about federal spending as we debate the appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2000. We are working hard to keep the overall spending levels within the caps implemented by the Balanced Budget Amendment, which I cosponsored and voted for in 1996. We are making difficult choices and sacrifices, and it is appropriate for Members of Congress to lead by example.

That is why I have introduced this legislation to show American taxpayers that Congress is tightening its own belt by returning money allocated to Members for official expenses, staff salaries and mail funds. I have introduced this bill in each of the past three Congresses and the language of my legislation has been attached to each Legislative Branch Appropriations bill dating back to fiscal year 1996.

This year, I have modified my legislation. Since both the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget have forecast budget surpluses for the current fiscal year, my bill no longer requires Congressional office savings to be redesignated for deficit reduction. Instead, the bill requires unexpended funds contained in the Members' Representational Allowance (MRA) account—formerly known as the official expenses, clerk hire and franking accounts—to be applied toward reducing the federal debt. In the event that the United States returns to a budget deficit, the legislation specifically requires the Treasury to apply any remaining Congressional office funds to deficit reduction.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my colleagues have shared my concerns and frustrations that money saved by Members of Congress was not applied to deficit reduction or reducing the federal debt before my legislation was enacted. Rather, funds were simply "re-programmed" for other budget items, thereby defeating the frugal intentions of many Members. The unspent funds would remain available for reprogramming for the following three years, including the year for which those funds were appropriated. At the end of the three years, unspent money immediately reverted from the House account to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

My legislation would ensure that taxpayers truly benefit from savings accrued by Members, who in turn would receive the credit they deserve for not spending their entire office allowance. Since I have served in Congress, I have saved more than one million dollars. There are many Members who have worked just as hard not to spend as much as they were entitled to spend based on their official allocation.

In fact, an analysis of Congressional spending conducted by the National Taxpayers

Union indicated that Members have spent an average of 89.1 percent of their allowances since 1995. Since the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill for FY 2000 contains \$413.5 million for the MRA account, the potential savings could amount to tens of millions of dollars. These are significant savings, and they should be used to help pay down the national debt. This debt currently exceeds \$5.5 trillion, and interest of the debt remains the second largest expenditure in the entire federal budget. This amount is being paid in full by the American taxpayers every year.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation clearly demonstrates that Congress is leading from the top down and is working hard to find ways to lower the national debt. I am pleased that this legislation was adopted as part of the FY 2000 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. I am hopeful that the bill I introduce today will make this practice a permanent law. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I urge its approval by the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO VALLEY VIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SPEAKERS

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the achievements of two outstanding young students from my congressional district in Southern California. April Fields and Jamie Gordon from Valley View High School in the City of Ontario have been selected as student speakers for the last graduating class of this century and deserve to be recognized for this laudable achievement.

I am proud of all of my Inland Empire region's graduating students in the Class of 1999, as they represent some of the best and brightest of future generations. I am especially proud, however, of those students, such as April and Jamie, who have risen above adversity and overcome challenges and obstacles that may have threatened to hinder their path to success. I am very proud to represent such fine young students.

Education is the most important foundation we can have for life, and April and Jamie have realized that potential. They have already accomplished a great deal and stand to reap even more success as the years go by. My best wishes to them and hopes for a bright and prosperous future.

HONORING JOSHUA GILLETTE,
LeGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP
WINNER OF MICHIGAN CENTER,
MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the

outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Joshua Gillette, winner of the 1999 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Joshua is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Joshua Gillette is an exceptional student at Michigan Center High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Joshua's involvement in football, basketball and track began his freshman year and continued through his senior year. He excelled both academically and athletically as President of the Student Council and Captain of the Football and Track Teams. Outside of school, Joshua participated in several volunteer activities to improve the community.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Joshua Gillette for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

TIMBER TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which corrects an inequity in the Internal Revenue Code which affects the sale of certain assets.

Under current law, landowners that are occasional sellers of timber are often classified by the Internal Revenue Service as "dealers." As a result, the seller is forced to choose between a "lump sum" payment method or a pay-as-cut contract which often results in an under-realization of the fair value of the contract. While electing the pay-as-cut contract option provides access to capital gains treatment, the seller must comply with special rules in Section 631(b) of the Internal Revenue code. The provisions of Sec. 631(b) require these sellers to "retain an economic interest" in their timber until it is harvested. Under the retained economic interest requirement, the seller bears all the risk and is only paid for timber that is harvested, regardless of whether the terms of the contract are violated. Additionally, since the buyer pays for only the timber that is removed or "scaled" there is an incentive to waste poor quality timber, to under scale the timber, or to remove the timber without scaling.

The legislation I have introduced will provide greater consistency by removing the exclusive

"retained economic interest" requirement in IRC Section 631(b). This change has been supported or suggested by a number of groups for tax simplification purposes, including the Internal Revenue Service. I urge my colleagues to join in this tax simplification effort and strongly urge its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 186, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

HONORING KRISTA CARPENTER,
LeGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP
FINALIST OF HUDSON, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I call this resolution to your attention.

Whereas, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Krista Carpenter, a recipient of the 1999 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This Scholarship is awarded to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

Whereas, in being named as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Krista Carpenter is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, depth of intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Whereas, Krista Carpenter is an exceptional student at Hudson High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Krista has excelled both athletically and academically, being involved in three varsity sports teams, while being a member of the National Honor Society. Outside of school activities, she has been active in her church, as well as receiving special honors for her involvement in 4-H.

Be it resolved, That as a member of Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to join with your many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations as a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors