

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND CLARIFICATION ACT OF 1999

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Private Activity Bond Clarification Act of 1999. This legislation, which will clarify existing law with respect to the use of tax exempt bonds, is needed to protect taxpayer dollars from being used to subsidize essentially private activities. The bill will also ensure a level playing field for other businesses which are excluded from, or do not seek, subsidies from the American taxpayer through tax-exempt bond financing.

As most of our colleagues know, interest on bonds issued by State and local governments is generally exempt from federal income tax. The federal tax exemption allows the bonds to carry lower interest rates, which in turn lowers the cost of borrowing. State and local governments are then better able to finance schools, roads, public transportation and other public infrastructure projects.

At the same time, federal tax law and regulations issued by the Treasury Department have been carefully tailored—as they should be—to ensure that this tax exemption is not abused for private gain. Tax-exempt bonds should not be used to give private individuals or businesses a preferential benefit at the expense of the American taxpayer.

For example, under current law, if facilities financed with State and local government bonds are used more than 10 percent of the time directly, or indirectly, in a trade or business by a private person or business, the IRS may consider the bonds “private activity bonds” and interest paid on them generally will not be excluded from a bondholder’s taxable income. For purposes of determining whether this 10 percent test is met, use of a financed facility is treated as a direct use of the proceeds, and any activity carried on by a private person is treated as a trade or business. When a financed facility is used by several private persons, use by all private entities is aggregated for purposes of determining whether the 10% private business use threshold is met.

For the most part, private business use of a facility is only deemed to occur if a private person, group, or business has a special legal entitlement to the use of the financed facility under an arrangement with the state or local government that issued the bonds. Typically, such an arrangement would involve the ownership or lease of the facility, or a management contract involving the facility, that grants priority rights in using the facility.

Although it appears that existing tax law, as interpreted by the Treasury regulations, may be adequate to assure that all businesses and members of the general public are treated fairly in matters involving the use of facilities constructed with tax-exempt bonds adoption of

the legislation I introduce today to codify key elements of the regulatory rules will help to ensure that this valuable—and costly—tax subsidy is not misused for the benefit of private individuals instead of the taxpayers. I emphasize that the bill leaves the ultimate determination as to whether the law has been violated in a specific case up to the IRS as it is under current law.

You see, Mr. Speaker, while tax-exempt bond financing is largely carried out in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in the tax law and regulations, as with just about any federal program in which a tax subsidy is involved, there are always those who are looking for ways to “push the envelope” to gain the benefit of a tax subsidy for their own private business purposes.

The impetus for this legislation was prompted by press reports of a proposal to build, with tax-exempt bonds, a massive new Convention Center in Las Vegas. However, my concern is not with that community per se, but rather with the potential implications for all American taxpayers, and the potential precedent which could be established, should financing of this facility go forth in the face of statutes and regulations which suggest it should be ineligible for tax-exempt treatment.

According to press reports, a group of private businesses referred to as the Consortium, is currently seeking to take advantage of tax-exempt bond financing to promote construction in Las Vegas of a new 1.3 million square foot convention center, which when completed, will be one of the largest such facilities in the country. It will be larger than the Astrodome, the George R. Brown Convention Center, the Dallas Convention Center and even the Javits Center in New York.

I understand that once ground is broken for this facility, the members of the Consortium who have worked with local authorities to develop this facility will be provided with preferential rights to lease the facility for the purpose of putting on money-making trade shows. These preferential rights will allow Consortium members to “lock up” more than 60 percent of the available rentable days for the new facility each year through 2009. Furthermore, from a business standpoint, the specific dates to be “locked up” by the Consortium are more valuable than those that will be left over for use by others. In effect, the benefits of the federal subsidy utilized in financing this facility are being largely transferred to the handful of businesses comprising this Consortium.

The situation in Las Vegas raises the possibility that the lack of a specific definition of “related parties” may lead bond issuing authorities and their counsel to mistakenly conclude that only those business users related by law (e.g., corporations and their wholly-owned subsidiaries) are to be treated as “related parties.” Such a narrow, legalistic interpretation could result in bonds being wrongfully issued in instances where, as in this case, a principal purpose for which the facility is being financed is for the use of a group of

private parties who are related in fact. Parties that are not related by law can nevertheless by agreement act in such concert that they should, and presumably would, be treated by the IRS as related parties.

Mr. Speaker, allow me at this point to reiterate that my concern here is not Las Vegas per se. However, I will point out that the new facility financed with the use of these federally tax-exempt bonds will both compete with convention facilities in Houston, and “lock in” to Las Vegas through 2009 these trade shows, effectively denying Houston and other communities the opportunity to attract these conventions to our region.

In any event, it should be obvious that Congress did not intend to provide carte blanche to private businesses to band together to facilitate construction of a tax-exempt financed facility—which would then be largely made available to those businesses for their own commercial purposes. The legislation I introduce today will protect the taxpayer’s interest in this regard by simply clarifying the definition of “related parties” already found in the Treasury regulations that implement the “private business use” limitations in the tax code.

My bill would enable the IRS, acting on a case-by-case basis, to determine that parties should be treated as “related parties” if they have at any time acted in concert to negotiate an arrangement to facilitate the financing of a property financed with tax-exempt bonds, and enter into preferential arrangements for the use of such property. The collective use of a facility by related parties would be aggregated when applying the 30 and 90 days safe harbors (and the 180 days general limitation) found in the IRS’ current regulations.

I will point out that local governments can of course continue to avoid any potential uncertainty about the rules on “related parties” by applying for an advance ruling by the IRS that the limitations on “related parties” do not apply to their particular proposals.

To protect the interests of the American taxpayer, and to assure a level playing field for private business, it is important that Congress act to clarify the rules governing tax-exempt bond financing so that potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in of tax-exempt bonds are not mistakenly issued—whether in Las Vegas or elsewhere. So as to put the public on notice, and to help prevent any bond from being issued based on a mistaken interpretation of the rules governing private activity bonds, the legislation would apply to bonds issued after July 1, 1999.

PROBLEMS IN PANAMA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform our colleagues and our great Nation of important, recent developments in Latin America.

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

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

As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, the country of Panama held its elections on May 2, 1999, which resulted in the selection of Panama's first female president, the Honorable Mireya Moscoso. President-elect Moscoso will be inaugurated into office this September 1st.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very positive development in Panama's progression to true democratic governance, for which the good people of that nation should be deeply congratulated. However, Mr. Speaker, the good news is overshadowed by the fact that the influence and policies of Panama's current president, Ernesto Perez Balladares, will likely continue for some time to control key government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I find it troubling that Mr. Balladares wields a shadowy influence over the Moscoso administration through his control of political appointees he has selected for critical positions in the government—appointees whose terms of office will continue long after Mr. Balladares has stepped down as Panama's President.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues should understand this is crucial because the recent election results are a positive sign that may significantly influence the future course of U.S.-Panamanian relations as Washington enters a critical time, the final transitional period for relinquishing control over the Panama Canal.

Mr. Speaker, President-elect Moscoso should be allowed to represent the will of the good people of Panama, unhindered by political handcuffs from prior administrations.

On that subject, Mr. Speaker, I recommend the following research memorandum which was authored by Dr. Brittmari Janson Perez, a Panamanian anthropologist who is a fellow at the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas.

Dr. Perez also holds a senior research fellowship at the prestigious Council of Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), which is based in Washington under the leadership of Director Larry Birns, a respected, longtime advocate for democracy and human rights in Latin America. The attached article represents an updated version of Dr. Perez' work, which originally appeared in COHA's biweekly publication, the Washington Report on the Hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to read this timely article which addresses the need to observe upcoming events in Panama to ensure that the Moscoso administration is able to constructively impact the direction in which Panama develops, despite strong and likely non-productive opposition from pro-Perez Balladares partisans.

PANAMA ELECTIONS DO NOT SEND A CLEAR SIGNAL

(By Dr. Brittmari Janson Pérez)

A few days before Panama's May 2 presidential elections, a cartoon in a local newspaper depicted President Ernesto Pérez Balladares squirming on a throne and moaning, "Nobody is looking at me." On election day, the man whose regime has been labeled a "civilian dictatorship," tried to steal the limelight by telling the French news agency AFP that he wanted to be president again. However, his ambitions were destined to be postponed for at least 10 years when Pérez Balladares' move amending the constitution which would allow him to immediately run again, was resoundingly defeated in a referendum last year.

Nevertheless, he will cast a long shadow on the administration of president-elect Mireya Moscoso, the victorious opposition candidate. Through his appointees, known for their eagerness to comply with his wishes, Pérez Balladares, on a de facto basis, will be able to control the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's office, the Electoral Tribunal and the Technical Judicial Police during the Moscoso administration. To make matters worse, thanks to millions of dollars supplied by his regime over the past five years to legislators of ruling Revolutionary Democratic (PRD) to spend in their respective districts, Pérez Balladares' party has retained its majority in the National Assembly.

PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION

The lame duck leader's ongoing influence within the government structure could bode no good for any hopes of the new leadership to blunt the costly neoliberal reforms he vigorously implemented while in power. As elsewhere in the hemisphere, economic globalization has tended to benefit foreign investors and the local elite, but does not appear to be arresting the impoverishment of the rural campesinos as well as the urban lower and middle sectors. For example, while non-traditional agricultural exports such as melons and watermelons was increasing, the market for local beef, potatoes, vegetables and other traditional products was shrinking due to cheap competitive imports. The power of labor unions was also being seriously undercut by restrictive reforms enacted by Pérez Balladares. His privatization of the state-run telephone company resulted in higher rates for the lower and middle urban sectors, which has caused an appreciable hardship on their lifestyle.

In the recent electoral campaign, expectations were raised that the worst effects of Pérez Balladares' policies could be remedied at the polls. All three presidential candidates—Moscoso as head of the Amulfista Party in the Union for Panama coalition; Martin Torrijos, the son of the late authoritarian ruler, who became the PRD candidate in the New Nation coalition after Pérez Balladares' referendum bid to allow him to run again had failed; and Alberto Vallarino, a banker who split from the Amulfista Party and formed the Opposition Action coalition with the support of the Christian Democrats—addressed economic issues from different perspectives, and made numerous promises aimed at ending the dreary status quo.

Already educators are warning Moscoso that if she now decides to implement policies that are harmful to the poor (who made up the bulk of her supporters), she can expect street protests once she is inaugurated. Yet, Moscoso's power to implement important economic pallatives is limited by overseas accords signed by Pérez Balladares with the international lending agencies. Also, prospective social investments by her administration likely have been jeopardized due to the legacy of profligate spending by Pérez Balladares in order to curry political favor. Her power to govern, even to maintain fundamental public order, will be restricted by his lingering influence over critical government institutions whose proper functioning could have made a difference.

DIVIDING UP THE SPOILS

Pérez Balladares' inaugural speech, which contained promises of austerity in public spending and transparency in government were given short shrift, eventually producing widespread mistrust of him among the citizenry, who nicknamed him "Pinocchio." He had resurrected Manuel Noriega's discredited political vehicle, the PRD, with the aid of some of the more notorious members of the

now Miami-jailed dictator's coterie. Upon taking office in 1994, Pérez Balladares pardoned hundreds of PRD members and military personnel who were facing charges of murder, torture, and embezzling state funds during the Noriega era. Some individuals were even appointed to his cabinet. He also made questionable appointments to the boards of independent government agencies, including the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) and the Administration of the Inter-oceanic Region (ARI), the last-named body using entrusted with the disposition of canal properties transferred to Panama as the U.S. relinquishes control over the facility.

Pérez Balladares is particularly vulnerable to accusations of malfeasance regarding the process used to dispose of former canal properties. Thanks to his party's legislative steamroller, he was able to change the ARI's charter, stripping the institution of its all-important independence. Increasing the ARI's board of directors to his personal satisfaction, Pérez Balladares ousted an ARI administrator known for his honesty and firm hand, and Nicolás Ardito Baletta, a highly controversial World Bank official who was "elected" president of Panama through a Noriega-orchestrated electoral fraud in 1984. In this way, he was able to obtain oversight of the transfer of the "treasure of Panama," the properties, installations and land adjacent to the Canal, whose value has been conservatively estimated at over \$4 billion by the U.S. ambassador to Panama.

Nevertheless, it is unlikely that he or his agents will be held accountable for their questionable actions involving numerous allegations of moral turpitude. On the contrary, the institutions and offices over which Pérez Balladares and his party will continue to exercise influence, likely will be used to harass the president-elect at every turn.

CHANGES TO BE PURSUED UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT

There is a widespread clamor in Panama to significantly alter or replace the 1972 Constitution imposed during the dictatorship of Gen. Torrijos, and amended under the aegis of the two military leaders who followed him, Generals Rubén D. Paredes and Manuel Noriega. Critics charge that it grants excessive powers to the executive branch at the expense of the legislature. Paradoxically, the PRD's predictably obstructionist legislative majority will oblige the president-elect to renege on her campaign promise to democratize Panama through giving more power to the national assembly. Observers note that if she does not make ample use of the range of powers with which the military dictatorships purposively endowed the executive branch, she will, in effect, be unable to govern the country.

President-elect Moscoso has outgrown the charges made against her of being a decorative figure who inherited a titular role in the party because of her late husband, Pres. Arnulfo Arias. This image along with other factors marred her prospects in the 1994 presidential campaign, which she lost to Pérez Balladares. Since then, she has made herself known throughout Panama by waging a tireless grassroots campaign, touring city and countryside to keep in touch with Panamanians of all stations. She proved her grit in intra-party squabbles when she snuffed out Alberto Vallarino's 1998 challenge her rule in her party's presidential primaries.

It is unfair to her and the Panamanian people that the country is almost doomed to remain a victim of the baleful and corrupt legacies of past dictatorships, and that Pérez Balladares and his PRD could jeopardize the administrative of the first woman president of Panama, who will also assume, in the name of her country, responsibilities of running the Panama Canal.

CELEBRATING THE RICH HISTORY
OF NORTHPORT, MICHIGAN**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to the small community of Northport, a unique and rustic village on the beautiful Leelanau Peninsula in northwestern Lower Michigan. This richly diverse community, which draws its heritage from Native Americans and many other cultures, is currently celebrating its 150th birthday with a schedule of festivities that will last more than a month.

The celebration began on June 11 with a reenactment of the event that would lead to the creation of the village, the 1849 landing of Rev. George and Arvilla Smith, accompanied by Chief Peter Wakazoo and more than 40 families, most of them Native American.

As local lore relates, the town experienced a population boom in the mid-1800s after Deacon Joseph Dame wrote to the New York Tribune, extolling the benefits of the area. By 1859, according to the Sesquicentennial brochure, "Northport was the largest community in northwest Michigan, with 400 residents, two wharfs, five general stores, three hotels, several saloons, a sawmill and the first organized school district in Leelanau County."

As part of the festivities, residents and visitors can take a walking tour of the community, viewing the homes of early settlers whose lives were intertwined with Northport's 15 decades of history. Typical of such homes is that of the Eli Bordeaux family, which was on its way to Frankfort, Mich., by boat in 1867 when a storm forced them to take shelter in the Northport Harbor. As the guide books relate, family members liked what they saw and decided to stay. Eli, a farmer, built the home, which remains today.

This story and this home, Mr. Speaker, are just a small part of the rich heritage of the community represented in this walking tour. Many other events, including an original drama, a powwow presented by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and an ongoing exhibit of community artifacts in a rehabilitated civic building are just part of the many weeks' activities.

When communities like Northport hold such celebrations, they certainly have in mind a goal of promoting the event to attract visitors, many of them perhaps visiting for the first time. Northport's events, however, are a true celebration for the residents themselves of a rich and unique heritage on a peninsula whose name means "delight of life." The name reflects not only the picturesque community and the surrounding area, but also the wonderfully moderated temperatures caused by the surrounding water. In fact, despite its location more than halfway to the North Pole, both tourism and fruit production are vital parts of the area's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in congratulating this special community in my district, the 1st Congressional District of Michigan, and in wishing its residents joy in their celebration and a future that continues rich in those intangibles that have created its wonderful quality of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIE LEE
GLASS**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly fine American—Mrs. Willie Lee Glass of Tyler, TX—who died May 2, 1999. In honor of her tireless efforts in the East Texas area, Mrs. Glass received many awards and accolades including, the People of Vision award and induction into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Glass was born August 24, 1910, in Nacogdoches, TX, to the late E.J. and Mary Campbell, both educators. She left Nacogdoches to attend Prairie View A&M and later received her master's degree from Iowa State. As a result of her strong family background in education, Willie returned to East Texas to serve as a homemaking consultant for the Texas Education Agency. She was also an active member of the Texas College Board of Trustees, the American Red Cross, the University of Texas at Tyler Foundation, and the Stephen F. Austin University Foundation. She was presented numerous tributes from the people of East Texas such as induction into the Nacogdoches Heritage Festival Hall of Fame and recognition as a Philanthropy Day Awards Outstanding Volunteer honoree.

Mrs. Glass was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. D.R. Glass, a 30-year president of Texas College. They were both members of the St. Paul CME Church. Willie's passion for education still runs deep even after her death, as a memorial scholarship has recently been established in her name at Texas College.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor and in respect for this truly outstanding American—Mrs. Willie Lee Glass.

HONORING BRUNDIDGE VFW POST
7055 FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE
TO VETERANS**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to spotlight public service efforts of a veterans organization in my Southeast Alabama congressional district which I feel are truly exemplary.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7055 in Brundidge, Alabama has volunteered its time, talents and resources to construct a fitting memorial on the grave site of a deceased veteran renowned in life for his generosity and selflessness.

When the members of VFW Post 7055 learned that the grave site of former veteran and Presidential "Point of Light," J.D. Williams, was largely ignored, they sprang into action.

To honor the late veteran who before had spent decades selflessly decorating the graves of other veterans, VFW Post 7055 placed new coping and chipped marble on his humble Pike County, Alabama grave site and topped it off with a permanent American flag pole.

Their future plans include adding a bronze plaque to honor the memory of this remarkable veteran who was known for decorating at his own expense literally thousands of Southeast Alabama veteran graves with flags and white wooden crosses.

The late J.D. Williams' selflessness earned him national recognition some ten years ago as one of President George Bush's "Points of Light." He passed away in July of 1994 and was buried in Union Hill Cemetery near Troy, Alabama.

According to a recent article in The Pike County News, "the Brundidge VFW Post has made it a perpetual organizational project to upgrade, beautify and maintain Mr. Williams' grave site."

I join the U.S. House of Representatives in commending the membership of the Brundidge, Alabama VFW Post 7055 for their generosity and patriotism.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF NACOGDOCHES COUNTY
ELECTED OFFICIALS**HON. JIM TURNER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of three extraordinary East Texans: Robert Spencer, Dorothy Tigner and Eddie Upshaw, all elected law officials in Nacogdoches County which I represent as part of Texas' Second Congressional District.

In an age where community action and politics are often, unfortunately, viewed with an indifferent or cynical eye, it is both uplifting and inspiring to encounter instances where public servants, through their professional efforts in and for the community, earn for themselves the gratitude and high regard of their fellow citizens. This is certainly true in the case of these three public officials who were recently awarded recognition by their peers and colleagues in the Commissioners' Court of Nacogdoches County.

County citizens are fortunate to have working on their behalf individuals such as Mr. Robert Spencer, who as the first African-American Justice of the Peace in Nacogdoches County, has played an integral role in educating the community's children on the dangers of drug use and school truancy. Prior to his election to this post, Mr. Spencer also served as a Deputy Sheriff in Nacogdoches County. His colleagues in the community have duly recognized his valuable work to establish and facilitate improved communication between the court system and law enforcement centers in the area.

Nacogdoches County organizations and boards truly have a friend in Dorothy Tigner, who was elected last year to serve as Justice of the Peace. As such she is the first woman to serve in this post. Prior to this, Ms. Tigner served for 5 years as the Administrative Court Assistant for the 145th Judicial District Court. In what must be limited free time, Dorothy Tigner plays an active role in the community, serving in several public service organizations including the Nacogdoches County Child Welfare Board and the Nacogdoches County Community Justice Counsel.

A graduate of the East Texas Police Academy, Mr. Eddie Upshaw plays an integral role

in the daily law enforcement activities of Nacogdoches County. Following 9 years spent with the Nacogdoches Police Department, Mr. Upshaw went on to work for the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Department. In 1992, voters made evident their support of his efforts by electing Eddie Upshaw to the post of County Constable. He is the first African-American to serve in this post and continues in his important work to reduce truancy in County schools. In addition, Mr. Upshaw's numerous articles regarding the civil aspect of law enforcement have been published in local newspapers.

I'm sure my Texas colleagues join me in paying tribute to these three individuals. Their past experience and continuing accomplishments in the public service realm are a credit to the community in which they serve, and we wish them well in the journey and challenges which surely lie on the path ahead.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, twenty-two years ago, the U.S. Congress voted to enact the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Since that time, the provisions of CRA have provided unparalleled economic opportunity in the poorest of our country's communities. In the inner-city neighborhoods of Cleveland, families are realizing the dream of homeownership, real estate markets are rising and small businesses are breathing new life into areas once redlined and hopeless. With the investments sparked by CRA, Cleveland has leveraged a higher quality of life in these neighborhoods and established a solid infrastructure to support economic growth throughout the area. It is estimated that CRA has resulted in investment commitments of \$3.1 billion for community development efforts in Cleveland. Nationally, CRA has spurred investments totaling more than one trillion dollars in cities and rural areas across the country. Today, I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to growth and stability in the underserved communities of America by protecting and strengthening CRA through the financial modernization legislation. In this time of great economic prosperity, it is our sacred trust to guarantee that hope and opportunity are extended to all Americans, in every community and in every neighborhood.

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1568, a bill to establish an office of Veterans Business Development within the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Speaker, our nation again finds itself in a position of being unable to meet the recruit-

ing goals of its armed services. To make matters worse, the military departments are also finding it difficult to retain service members in sufficient numbers to meet authorized manpower requirements to preserve our national defense.

The causes of these personnel shortages are many, but they fall into the general category of low pay, long hours, and too much time away from home. Many service members who do stay in the service long enough to be eligible for veterans benefits find it difficult to obtain meaningful employment when they get out of the service.

This bill will provide some help in this area. The legislation will direct the SBA and VA to work together to establish a program to assist veterans, including service-disabled veterans, through small business development centers. These centers would provide training and counseling to veterans concerning the formation, management, financing, marketing and operation of small business concerns, provide assistance and information regarding procurement opportunities with federal, state and local agencies, and compile a list of small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans which provide goods or services which could be procured by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent bill which addresses an immediate need, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

KINROSS TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL AND ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to residents of the Charter Township of Kinross, who are celebrating their centennial with a spirit of optimism. The celebration and the optimism of this northern Michigan community is especially inspiring, Mr. Speaker, because Kinross Township continues to struggle economically to recover from the Air Force decision to turn out the lights and turn the key on Kincheloe Air Force Base in September 1977. This military departure, which occurred far before the formal base closure program of the early 1990s, left a shell of an economy, a ghost of a community, and infrastructure and pollution problems that still must be dealt with today.

Kinross Township is working hard on its own recovery. The Centennial Ceremonies are an affirmation of that effort and a rededication to its fulfillment. The Centennial lets many township residents look back to their roots in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where their ancestors settled as lumbermen and farmers after the railroad opened up the territory.

Quilting has knit the community together for generations, and a special community quilt and a community blanket highlighting the area's history are among the Centennial activities.

The proximity of the Soo Locks guaranteed a U.S. military presence somewhere near Sault Ste. Marie to guard this vital facility. The locks were an essential link between the Great

Lakes of Superior and Huron in bringing Great Plains wheat and iron ore from Minnesota and northern Michigan to lower Midwest ports and steel mills. The airport at Kinross was designated in June 1941, eventually growing to become a Strategic Air Command base and serving as home to B-52H bombers and KC-135 tankers. The base was named Kincheloe for Air Force Capt. Ivan C. Kincheloe Jr., a Michigan native, Korean War ace, and test pilot killed in an accident over the Mojave Desert in 1956.

An impact study prepared by the Air Force at the time of the closing noted Kincheloe was a \$55 million per year operation, with a significant portion of that funding spent in the local area. The impact of the loss of this income on the businesses and permanent residents of this largely rural area can only be imagined.

I have worked closely with community officials in Kinross, Mr. Speaker. Unlike our most recent base closing, which have included environmental cleanup of military sites before their turnover to civilian ownership and operation, and which have included large infusions of economic aid, the recovery of Kinross has been to a large extent a bootstrap effort. We have had some joint successes, such as the designation of the former base as the nation's first rural site to be designated a "brownfield," and we have worked to obtain funding for the former airport, now Chippewa County International Airport.

It should be noted that, although Kinross already had its name in the 1880s and had a post office for a short time in 1898, it was not an established township until a Mr. Albert Curtis, a man with vision and foresight, went to the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors in Sault Ste. Marie with a request to create a township. His proposal rejected, Mr. Curtis caught a train for Lansing, where he caught the state legislature in session and made the same request. Successful in this effort, he returned to Kinross, where he was elected supervisor in the township's first election, April 3, 1899. Mr. Curtis was to hold that office on and off for 24 of the next 36 years, part of his remarkable record of service to his community.

I have confidence, Mr. Speaker, that the people of the Charter Township of Kinross will one day view the closing of the air base as merely another step, albeit a painful one at the time, in the unique history of this area. The recent development of extensive snowmobile trails, five Michigan Corrections Department facilities and thriving area businesses signal a resurgence.

Like the community quilts, the essential fabric of Kinross Township remains intact, and new elements continue to be woven into the area's rich history. Mr. Speaker, I invite my House colleagues to join me in wishing the best for the people of Kinross Township on the occasion of their centennial.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVIDA MOUNT EDWARDS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a truly fine American—Mrs. Davida Mount Edwards of Tyler,

Texas—who died on Sunday, May 16. Davida was a devoted wife and mother, and will be dearly missed by those she touched in the East Texas area.

Mrs. Edwards was born September 19, 1921, in Chico, Texas. Her family later moved to Houston where she graduated from Reagan High School, in 1939, and later taught home economics. She expanded her extensive work in education by teaching Adult Homemaking Education classes for the Houston Independent School District. She also worked with the Texas Education Agency as a homemaking supervisor, covering 14 counties throughout the great state of Texas.

Mrs. Edwards' loving and caring ways touched every aspect of her community. She was instrumental in forming the East Texas School of Nursing through her extensive travel within the East Texas area recruiting members to fill the first classes. She also assisted in the formation of the Robert Craig School of Nursing at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. In addition, Mrs. Edwards served in organizations such as the American Association of University Women, the Deborah Bible Club, Tyler Women's Forum, and was a 48 year member of First Baptist Church where she conducted Sunday School classes for many years. I always felt a kinship to Davida in that her husband, Welby, and I are longtime friends. We are both from Fate, Texas, and John Payne and I have kept in touch with the Edwards through the years.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor and respect for this truly great lady, Mrs. Davida Mount Edwards.

TRIBUTE TO MR. J.D. WILLIAMS, A
TRUE PATRIOT AND PRESI-
DENTIAL "POINT OF LIGHT"

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, as our nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, I would like to pay tribute to an American patriot who never forgot this country's veterans.

Mr. J.D. Williams' selfless attention to the memory of America's veterans was recently highlighted by The Pike County Citizen in Troy, Alabama.

As the newspaper noted: "Anyone who has lived in Pike County . . . no doubt saw the late Mr. Williams honoring the memory of military veterans by placing American flags and white crosses at grave sites of veterans in Pike and six surrounding counties. For decades, practically every day of the week, Mr. Williams would visit cemeteries, locate veterans' graves and, on behalf of his country, pay tribute to their service and sacrifice."

"Funds to purchase the thousands of flags Mr. Williams left at cemeteries came out of his own pocket. The thousands of wooden crosses he placed near grave markers were constructed and painted with his own hands. Not only did Mr. Williams leave flags and crosses at veterans' graves, he also would clean or repair any unkept grave site."

Mr. Williams, the article points out, paid no attention to the color of the deceased veteran or even if they had served in the Confederate Army; just so long as they were veterans.

It was this remarkable dedication to his fellow man and our nation that earned Mr. Williams national recognition as a "Point of Light" from President George Bush some ten years ago.

J.D. Williams passed away in July of 1994, but his self sacrifice is now being honored by the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7055 who have recently placed a permanent American pole on his grave.

At a time in this nation's history when many of our national veterans cemeteries are neglected by our own government, we need more people like J.D. Williams. This House owes him its thanks.

THE NATIONAL PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION'S DAN COOKE PIO AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 1995, I addressed the House to salute the achievements of the National Press Photographers Association on its 50th anniversary. I said, in part:

"Through their experience, they know of the necessity for a harmonious working relationship between the public safety and the journalistic communities so that accurate, even lifesaving information can be passed on very quickly to the waiting public. It is through this goal that they created the 'National Media Guide for Emergency & Disaster Incidents.'"

Our nation has continued to face earthquakes, floods, fires, tornadoes, and human tragedies over these past years. Emergency information continues to flow from the scene through media representatives to the public with life-saving instructions and information.

Now, two individuals and their Information Teams are being honored by the National Press Photographers Association. The NPPA Government/Media Relations Committee is pleased to announce the first recipients of the "NPPA Dan Cooke PIO Award of Excellence": Deputy Sheriff Steve Davis of the Jefferson County, Colorado, Sheriff's Department and Assistant Chief Jon Hansen of the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Fire Department.

Deputy Sheriff Davis is being honored for his work in keeping the public informed during the Columbine High School shootings in Colorado. Hansen is cited for his consistent dissemination of information over the years, most notably during the Oklahoma City Federal Office Building bombing and the recent tornadoes that killed and injured many people.

This award is named in memory of Lt. Dan Cooke, a Los Angeles Police Department Press Relations Officer for 22 years. He retired in 1988 after spending 35 years with the department. Cooke was the department's most frequent spokesman on major stories, from Presidential visits to infamous crimes that made headlines worldwide. In addition, he was a technical advisor on many movies and TV programs such as "Dagnet," "Badge 714," and "Adam 12." He became a personal friend to Jack Webb, and Cooke's Lieutenant's badge is the famous "714."

Dan Cooke's high standards are "the best a Press Information Officer can be", said Bob

Riha, Jr., a contract photographer with USA Today from Long Beach, California, and co-chair of the Government/Media Relations Committee.

Within minutes of the horrifying Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, live broadcasts were sent around the world from the scene. Moments later, information flowed to media representatives from Assistant Chief Jon Hansen and his Public Information Team to a worldwide audience for the next several weeks, 24 hours a day. President Clinton even thanked Chief Hansen for his information updates as Federal and State resources raced to the scene to render aid.

Recently, when tornadoes cut across Oklahoma, devastating communities in their path, Chief Hansen continued to provide emergency public information to his community, our nation, and the world, despite losing his own home to the tornadoes.

The Columbine High School shootings were perhaps the most gripping tragedy in our nation in the past several years. As emergency responders arrived at the scene, so did Deputy Sheriff Steve Davis. Once a Media Information Center was established, Deputy Davis and PIO Team members provided updates and information to media representatives as often as necessary to keep his community, our nation, and the world informed.

"Public Information Officers like Davis and Hansen have set new standards for levels of cooperation between the media and public safety providers," said co-chair David Handschuh, staff photographer with the New York Daily News. "The ultimate benefactor of this cooperation is the public, who stays updated and informed in times of crisis."

National Press Photographers Association President Linda Angelle said, "Media, police and fire personnel work in jobs that require them to deal with both traumatic and tragic situations. Davis and Hansen have been recognized for outstanding work in exceptional circumstances and will be presented the Cooke PIO Award of Excellence at our National Convention in Denver July 2, 1999."

Media representatives and Public Information Officers serve a vital role in keeping our communities and the nation informed in times of crisis. I hope that Congress and State Legislatures continue to work together to keep that free flow of information open to the public through media representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COLONEL M.B. ETHEREDGE

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a wonderful patriot and fellow Texan, Colonel M.B. Etheredge, who after more than 80 years of dedicated service to his community, to the State of Texas and to this entire Nation, will be honored by his friends and family members at the Family Faith Church in Huntsville, TX, on Sunday, July 4, 1999.

Born in Weldon, TX, Mr. Etheredge graduated from Huntsville High School in 1933. Four years later, he received a bachelor of

Arts Degree from Sam Houston Teacher's College, where he was an active member of the Student Council, Captain of the Track Team and President of his Senior Class.

Following graduation from Sam Houston, he taught in Sugar Land from 1937 to 1941 and then went on to serve as Brazoria County's Superintendent of Schools. In the summer of 1942, Mr. Etheredge enlisted in the United States Army and spent the next four years in Africa, Italy and France. Amazingly, but not surprising to those who knew him, he earned two battlefield promotions and was advanced in rank from second lieutenant to captain in only 6 days. For his dedication and commitment, he has been awarded three Silver Star medals for gallantry in action, two Bronze Star medals for heroism and two Purple Heart medals, making him one of the most decorated heroes of World War II. He was mustered out of the Army with the highest efficiency index of any officer in the Fourth Army Area and now carries the high honor of colonel (Retired) of the United States Army.

After world War II, Mr. Etheredge completed his Master of Arts Degree at Sam Houston Teachers College in 1947. He received a Peabody Scholarship and did postgraduate work at the University of Texas in Austin. Lieutenant Colonel Etheredge was elected to three terms in the Texas House of Representatives, where he served as Chairman of the Education Committee. He also served two terms as a board member of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, is a past President of the Huntsville Rotary Club, taught at Sam Houston State University as a Associate Professor of Education, and chartered the American Bank of Huntsville and the Lake Area Bank of Trinity, where he served as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Etheredge has made a positive impact on the lives of many Americans and personifies the definition of a true and loyal American who sets the standard for all citizens to live by. He is an outstanding example to his family and friends, and has been an asset to the many communities, states and nations that he has touched over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere gratitude and the utmost respect that I rise today to ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the selfless service of Colonel M.B. Etheredge and in saluting the honor and dedication of all American servicemen and women on July 4th, the birthday of our Nation.

HONORING CAPTAIN JUAN TUDELA SALAS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend a man who has dedicated over three decades of faithful service to the United States Coast Guard. Captain Juan Tudela Salas, the first Chamorro selected to attend and graduate from the United States Coast Guard Academy, is slated to retire at the end of this month.

For over thirty years, Captain Salas distinguished himself as one of Guam's top military service members. Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in General Naval Engineering from the Academy in 1968, he was award-

ed a Coast Guard scholarship that enabled him to earn a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the George Washington University.

In his three decades with the United States Coast Guard, Captain Salas amassed an extensive seagoing record. In addition, he demonstrated expertise in the field of recruiting and marketing. He was assigned to the USCGC *Basswood* from 1972 to 1974. Prior to being appointed Chief of the Military Recruiting Branch of the Twelfth Coast Guard District in San Francisco, Captain Salas served on the USCGC *Red Birch* from 1970 until 1972. In 1974, he was once again assigned to sea duty with the USCGC *Resolute*. From the *Resolute*, he moved on to Washington, D.C., in 1976, to serve as Chief of the Minority Recruiting Branch at the Coast Guard Headquarters. In 1981, he was out at sea once again with the USCGC *Ute*.

From 1983 until 1986, Captain Salas served as the Officer in Charge of the Interdiction Operations Intelligence Center for the Vice President's National Narcotics Border Interdiction system in Miami, Florida. In 1986, he assumed command of the USCGC *Lipan*. While commanding the *Lipan*, he successfully directed the interdiction of four vessels and the seizure of a total of over 20,000 lbs. of marijuana and 5,500 lbs. of cocaine.

Captain Salas was back to recruiting in 1989. He served his last assignment in this field as chief of Recruiting and Job entry Division at coast guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. As chief, he was responsible for the nation's Coast Guard recruiting programs, directing a nationwide force of 280 recruiters. He served in this capacity until 1992 when he assumed command of the Coast Guard Marianas Section and Marine Safety Office Guam. As commander, he has discharged his duties in such an exemplary manner that his Operations Center staff won the Controller of the Year Award for the entire coast guard in April, 1993. He is currently the Deputy Assistant Commandant for Coast Guard Civil Rights, assuming the position in 1996 after serving as Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Personnel Command.

Throughout his career, Captain Salas had been awarded 3 Meritorious Service Medals, 2 Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, in addition to numerous unit and operational awards. Outside of the military, he has served on different occasions as president of the Guam Society of America in Washington, D.C. He has also been appointed Honorary Ambassador-at-Large for the island by the governor of Guam.

Captain Salas is married to May Camacho Sanchez Salas, formerly from the village of Barrigada. They have four children. The eldest, LTJG Matthew Salas, followed in his father's footsteps by graduating from the Coast guard Academy in 1996.

Captain Salas' distinguished military career is a great source of pride for the people of Guam. I congratulate him on his outstanding achievements. Together with the people of Guam, I join his family in proudly celebrating his great accomplishments. I hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INDIA CELEBRATES NUKES AND DEMONSTRATES INTOLERANCE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, while our attention has been grabbed by Kosovo and China, the situation in India has dropped off our radar screen. While we weren't looking, India has been very busy.

The Indian election campaign began with the ruling party celebrating the anniversary of its nuclear weapons tests last year. These weapons were built out of India's development budget, as the people's health and education continue to decline and the population outside of the Brahmin caste lives in abject poverty.

Meanwhile, the Indian Defense Minister held a meeting looking to find ways to "stop the U.S.," which he called "vulgarly arrogant." Remember that we provide millions of dollars each year to help India pay its bills. How "vulgarly arrogant" of us! Other countries whose representatives attended this meeting included Serbia, China, Cuba, Russia, Libya, and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a country in which there is little respect for religious freedom. On May 20, the government placed the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Bhai Ranjit Singh, under house arrest. Since Christmas, there has been a wave of violence against Christians. A missionary has been burned to death along with his two young sons, nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, and Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools have been burned to the ground by allies of the Indian government.

As if all that weren't enough, we have received word that Indian intelligence officers interrogated a journalist named Sikhbir Singh Osan for 45 minutes. For him to have been grilled and harassed by police would have been bad enough, but he was harassed by intelligence officers after he returned from the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., where he covered the recent Sikh 300th anniversary marches and gave a speech on the persecution of Christians.

The government of India is intolerant and anti-American. They do not allow freedom of religion or, apparently, of the press. I am proud to have joined several of my colleagues of both parties in co-sponsoring a resolution that calls for a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the question of independence. Freedom is America's mission. By taking steps against the anti-American government of India, we can help promote and extend the blessings of liberty to another corner of the world. We must get started.

DESIGNATION OF EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am privileged to introduce legislation that would designate the Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail. This camino real, or

royal highway, forged the way for the early development of Texas into a Spanish colony, an independent Republic, and a state in the United States. As the first great highway into Texas, this camino real opened the door to trade and cultural exchange which continues to impact our lives today.

The State of Texas recognized the critical importance of these royal highways in 1929 when the state legislature designated portions of El Camino Real de los Tejas, later known as the Old San Antonio Road, as one of Texas historic trails. State Highway 21 marks the trail's pathway in many parts of the state as do state historical markers. Designation as a National Historic Trail would greatly enhance the resources available for trail preservation and public education of its unique and important history.

The National Park Service completed its feasibility study in July 1998 pursuant to PL 103-145. The study concluded that the proposed trail met all applicable criteria in the National Trails System Act (PL 90-543). Last Congress, the Senate passed similar legislation, the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 1998 (S. 2276). The House did not consider this bill nor a companion bill which I introduced in the House (HR 4724).

The bill I am introducing today contains a number of important changes from last year's version. In an effort to clarify the intent of the legislation and to respond to concerns raised during the bill's consideration last Congress, I have worked with the National Park Service to add language addressing the concerns of private property owners. The bill now states unambiguously that no land or interest in land can be acquired by the federal government without the willing consent of the owner, that the federal government has no authority to condemn or appropriate land for the trail, that the trail will not be established on the ground unless a private property owner voluntarily requests to participate, and that designating the trail does not confer any additional authority to apply other, non-trail federal laws. These provisions reflect my desire to assuage any concerns that a national historic trail in Texas would negatively impact private property owners. In fact, the experience of the other existing national historic trails suggests just the opposite—private property owners can and do benefit from participating in the trail program, but only if they want to do so.

The Camino Real de los Tejas as defined in this legislation collectively represents a series of roads and trails extending for more than 1,000 miles from Mexico City through Saltillo and Monclova in Mexico to Guerrero and Laredo along the Rio Grande, converging in San Antonio, the provincial capital of Texas from 1772 to 1821, and then heading north and east to Los Adeas, the earlier provincial capital of Texas from 1721 through 1772, now located in Louisiana. Beginning as Indian trails from the earliest days of human activity in the Americas, the trails developed under the Spanish as routes of exploration, missionary work and colonization. The earliest Spanish route stems back to the travels of Alonso de León in 1689 and Terán de los Ríos in 1691. During the next 150 years, explorers, traders, ranchers, armies and missionaries blazed a series of trails through South Texas to San Antonio and from San Antonio through East Texas and Louisiana. Immigration, from both

the east and south, traveled along this transportation system.

These trails gained different names over time. In South Texas, beginning at the Presidio del Rio Grande and ending in San Antonio, we find the Lower Presidio Road, or El Camino de en Medio; the Camino Pita; and the Upper Presidio Road. A separate Laredo Road linked Laredo to San Antonio and the Camino Real system. Two major arteries extended northeastward from San Antonio: the Camino de los Tejas along the Balcones Escarpment; and the Camino Arriba through the Post Oak Savannah. Both of these routes converged again in Nacogdoches, Texas.

All told, various portions of the Camino Real de los Tejas now in the United States extend for some 550 miles and together make up approximately 2,600 miles in combined length. They served as critical trade routes, post roads, cattle trails, and military highways and opened Texas to the world.

The Camino Real de los Tejas linked the Spanish in Mexico to their new outposts in East Texas in the late 17th and early 18th Centuries. These early settlements provided a Spanish presence to counter early French exploration of Texas. The Mission San Antonio de Valero, later known as the Alamo, was established along the Camino real route and later served as a focal point in the military battle for Texas independence. Critical supplies made their way to the American Colonies during the War of Independence via the Camino Real de los Tejas trail system. The Camino Real de los Tejas road system provided the main transportation route for Mexican and Texan armies during the Texas Revolution and continued to play a major role in future military actions.

Recognizing the significance of the Camino Real de los Tejas and its historical importance grounds us for the future and provides opportunities for today. Trail designation will help enhance tourism and economic development in the many cities and towns along the trail system. Local museums and historical sites will be given new opportunities for growth. The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, an important and beautiful network of missions in the San Antonio area, can provide a base of operations for trail activities. A number of public roads, state parks and national forests can provide public access to this important piece of our history. As we strive to boost international trade, develop our local communities, and enhance educational opportunities, we only have to look to El Camino Real de los Tejas for inspiration.

COMMEMORATING THE PECOS
RODEO

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Pecos, Texas, a community which hosts the world renowned rodeo every 4th of July week. Folks from all across Texas and other states flock to Pecos for this annual event.

In the mid 1800's in cow towns across the state of Texas, a new sport, the Rodeo was created. By 1883, a little town in West Texas,

Pecos, launched the first full fledged rodeo. This annual event occurs during the week of our celebration for independence, July 4th.

Tomorrow, July 1, 1999, the tradition continues as the annual Pecos Rodeo begins with several fun filled activities and events. The first Pecos rodeo was held near the town courthouse. What used to be the old rodeo grounds is now the Pecos Community Center, Civic Auditorium, and the Texas Highway Patrol. At one time the audience would use the bumpers and hoods of their Model "T's" and "A's" as position for viewing the Rodeo. The national western pastime, marks an era of dust, cow hide, and leather popping for the traditional cowboy who utilizes his talents and abilities to entertain all citizens of the western country.

The annual event for Pecos was actually the first "true" rodeo ever held, with full fledged advertising and an array of different prizes and contestants. During that time, Pecos was proud to have the most saloons in West Texas. As legend tells us, every saloon comes with rowdy cowboys. These cowboys would compete in the Pecos rodeo to prove their "excellence" by competing for the grand prize. The winning cowboy would have the ultimate bragging rights.

However, as time changes, so do the participating cowboys. The average cowboys now include college and high school students who compete on a regular basis. As the weekend events begin, we must remember that even though cowboys and horses are the main attraction for the rodeo, the true life and blood of this spectacular event are the volunteers and spectators who make this a true success for the Pecos community. The rodeo has definitely established extensive contributions to the quality of life in Pecos.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MARTIN
P. DOOLAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a fine American, Mr. Martin P. Doolan, recipient of the prestigious 1999 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Following a distinguished and highly-decorated military career, Mr. Doolan retired as captian in July of 1997, after 7 years active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard and 30 years of service in the reserves. His military career is augmented by an equally successful business career, which spans a quarter of a century of executive management of corporate turn-arounds with return to long-term profitability of numerous sizable corporations. Mr. Doolan's ability to salvage the equity value in these corporations has enabled their continual growth for both shareholders and the thousands of Americans employed within these firms.

Currently, he serves as President/CEO of Value City Department Stores and DSW Shoe Warehouse, a \$1.6 billion off-price retail department store and shoe chain. His accomplishments have been chronicled in nationally recognized publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Fortune, Business Week, and many others. Recently he was featured on "CEO Call" which airs on CNBC Live.

Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition Organization, Ellis Island Award Recipients embody exceptional humanitarian efforts and contributions to fellow Americans. Previous awardees have included six United States Presidents, Governors, community advocates, and members of both the Senate and House of Representatives. Along with Mr. Doolan, other 1999 Ellis Island Award recipients include: First Lady Hillary Clinton, Chief Justice William Rehnquist, and Senator John Glenn.

Mr. Doolan was joined at the awards ceremony by his lovely wife of 36 years, Grace Ann Doolan and his three daughters, Theresa Doolan, Jennifer Doolan Patty and Jeanne Doolan Cunningham. A former resident of Duncanville, TX, the Doolans currently reside in the quiet suburb of Heath, located on the outskirts of Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor and respect for this great American, Mr. Martin P. Doolan.

CELEBRATING THE UNIQUE HISTORY OF MASS CITY, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to the 100th birthday of Mass City, a small community in the western part of the Upper Peninsula in Michigan's 1st Congressional District. Although it is a small dot on the map, like many Midwest communities Mass City has its own rich and unique history. On this centennial occasion, I'd like to share a few highlights of that history with my House colleagues.

As a local writer noted, it was the great continental glaciers 10,000 years ago that gave final shape to the topography of northern Michigan, but it was geologic activity hundreds of millions of years earlier that planted in the area rich deposits of copper. This ore would sustain a long copper culture among the earliest settlers in the region, and it would serve as one of the powerful attractions for later European settlers.

Timber was the second attraction, and land for agriculture was the third, especially for many Finnish immigrants who settled in the area in the early 1900s.

Mass City was born in 1899 in this burst of economic activity, but today's guardians of local lore are left with the mystery of the community's name. Is it an abbreviation for "Massachusetts City," since five members of the board of directors of the Mass Consolidated Mining Company were from that state?

Maybe it was named for the Mass Mine, discovered by Noel Johnson, an early African-American settler in the area. The prevailing sentiment, however, is that the name comes from the mass copper in the surrounding hills. As late as the 1990s, chunks of native copper weighing more than a ton were found in the community's Caledonia Mine.

The boom days of mining are gone now, Mr. Speaker, and only a few farms are still active. Lumbering is still important to the regional economy, but it takes a back seat to what I believe is the region's greatest asset—its remarkable quality of life. A belief in the value of

hard work and the importance of family are reinforced by the beauty of the natural surroundings. This is the North Woods, where crisp, star-filled winter nights or summer breezes rustling the pines are gentle reminders of the Presence of the Almighty.

Mass City will hold its reunion and centennial celebration July 2–4. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the real celebration of this region will continue as long as there are men and women living there who continue to add to its history and treasure its heritage and values.

INTRODUCING THE SCHOOL AND LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the School and Library Construction Affordability Act to make high-quality construction and repairs less costly for our nation's communities, schools and citizens.

This measure would exempt public schools and libraries from the inflationary and costly effects of the federal Davis-Bacon prevailing wage laws.

I am offering this legislation specifically to address three issues.

First, 22 States have chosen not to impose state Davis-Bacon laws or have specifically exempted schools from coverage, so it is wise for us to make the federal laws to be more harmonious with state laws in this area.

Second, it is well-known that the AFL-CIO wants to use the President's school construction bond initiative as a vehicle to expand federal Davis-Bacon laws over a much larger number of local public schools than must abide by it today. At this time, the federal Davis-Bacon Act applies to public school construction in cases where the public school receives federal funds as general revenue. Impact Aid, for example, is such a general revenue program. By contrast, "categorical" programs like Title I, designated for a specific purpose, are not general revenue to a school, and do not trigger Davis-Bacon coverage of school construction and repair. Rather than to add to the immense federal regulatory burden on our schools, we need to work to reduce that burden so that they can focus their scarce resources on educating their children.

And third, Davis-Bacon increases construction cost 5–38 percent. Each year, the General Accounting Office makes note that eliminating the federal Davis-Bacon Act would save federal taxpayers billions of dollars. The federal Davis-Bacon Act is also well-known to be prone to extensive waste and abuse. With this legislation we will help ensure that each citizen's school bond dollar buys a dollar's worth of building and repairs.

The School and Library Construction Affordability Act allows schools and libraries to get more school buildings, and more school repairs, for their scarce taxpayer dollar. It respects the right of states and localities to establish their own labor practices, without imposing unnecessary regulations from Washington, D.C. It is neither pro-union or anti-union, for under this measure everyone will be able to compete fairly and equitably for school

and library construction and repair work. It may not be construed to diminish the high quality of construction and repairs that the purchasers of these services—our communities and our local taxpayers—always and rightfully insist upon. This bill is simply in the best interests of America's children.

This legislation is supported by the Associated Builders and Contractors, and the National School Boards Association. I have attached below the texts of their letters of support. In introducing this measure, I am joined by a dozen original cosponsors from across the country.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of our local schools and public libraries, in support of regulatory relief for our communities, and in support of our children by co-sponsoring the School and Library Construction Affordability Act, and moving to enact it.

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS,

Rosslyn, VA, June 15, 1999.

Hon. DUKE CUNNINGHAM,

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CUNNINGHAM: On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), and its more than 20,000 contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and related firms across the country, I would like to express our strong support for the "School and Library Construction Affordability Act." This is much needed legislation to exempt public schools and libraries from the inflationary and costly effects of the federal Davis-Bacon Act.

By eliminating Davis-Bacon requirements for school and library construction, Congress will help lift outdated burdens and federal restrictions and help improve local control and flexibility in leveraging education dollars. It will give local school districts the ability to spend resources where they will most effectively meet students' educational needs.

As you know, Davis-Bacon inflates the cost of construction anywhere from 5 to 38 percent, thus hurting those who fund, provide, and receive public education by forcing school districts to pay more to provide students with less. Davis-Bacon siphons tax dollars which could be better spent on real efforts to help education—such as additional school repairs, more facilities, books, computers, and other services that actually improve classroom learning and benefit school children.

Twenty-two states have recognized the waste associated with federal restrictions like Davis-Bacon and have chosen *not* to have similar state restrictions on schools. Ohio, for example, exempted school construction and repair from the state's "little Davis-Bacon Act" in 1997, and has since found preliminary savings have averaged 10 percent lower costs. Davis-Bacon serves as an "unfunded mandate" on those states, by forcing them to work under a Depression-era labor law that mandates inefficient practices and inflates construction costs.

Additionally, eliminating Davis-Bacon restrictions will help give local residents entry-level job and training opportunities on projects in their own neighborhood, by allowing contractors to hire "helpers," as they do for schools not hindered by Davis-Bacon. This will be an important step toward ensuring job opportunities for many low-skilled minorities, at-risk youth, and displaced workers to "earn while they learn" in their community.

ABC applauds your leadership in introducing the "School and Library Construction Affordability Act" to help improve use

of our nation's tax dollars and ensure real educational improvements.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER BOUCHER,

Director, Government Affairs.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION,

Alexandria, VA, June 14, 1999.

Hon. DUKE CUNNINGHAM,

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed legislation that would exempt schools and libraries from federal Davis-Bacon prevailing wage provisions. We strongly support the intent of your legislation to keep federal support for school and library construction free from the constraints of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements. The National School Boards Association, representing 95,000 school board members through its federation of 53 states and territories, believes that in both direct federal funding for school and library construction and indirect support through federal tax credits must be unencumbered by the inflationary factors associated with the Davis-Bacon law.

Throughout the United States public school students find themselves coping with

intolerable conditions in school facilities. Many students attend schools with overcrowded classrooms, obsolete equipment, classrooms not wired for current computing technology, and other structural obstacles that impact student safety and learning.

According to a 1996 General Accounting Office report, 38 percent of urban schools, 30 percent of suburban schools, and 30 percent of rural schools have at least one building that needs extensive repair or total replacement. More than one-third of all public school students attend classes in school buildings that need serious repair or replacement. The estimated costs of these repairs and replacements are \$112 billion.

Several proposals have been introduced, such as America's Better Classrooms Act of 1999 (H.R. 1760) by Congresswoman Nancy Johnson of Connecticut, to help local municipalities obtain funding to build desperately needed new schools and renovate outdated and unsafe classrooms. This legislation will provide tax credits for the interest of \$25 billion in new public bonds for school construction and renovation. NSBA believes that this and similar legislation begins to address the magnitude of the school construction crisis. However, we are concerned

that the inclusion of Davis-Bacon would severely undermine the real impact of such initiatives.

For instance, if Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements were explicitly applied to this tax provision, it would impact 38 states that either have no state prevailing wage laws, or have prevailing wage requirements substantially less intrusive than federal requirements. That means, for the most impoverished rural and inner-city school districts, construction and renovation costs would increase as much as 15 percent over current costs minimizing the assistance provided by the underlying tax credit.

In this light, we strongly support the intent of your proposed legislation to explicitly state that federal Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements will not be applied to school construction tax credits or direct funding for construction of schools and libraries.

We appreciate your support for our America's children.

Sincerely,

ANNE L. BRYANT,

Executive Director.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 1, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 13

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 729, to ensure that Congress and the public have the right to participate in the declaration of national monuments on federal land.

SD-366

JULY 14

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs
Energy and Natural Resources

To hold joint oversight hearings on the General Accounting Office report on

Interior Department's trust funds reform.

SH-216

JULY 15

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To resume hearings on S. 161, to provide for a transition to market-based rates for power sold by the Federal Power Marketing Administrations and the Tennessee Valley Authority; S. 282, to provide that no electric utility shall be required to enter into a new contract or obligation to purchase or to sell electricity or capacity under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; S. 516, to benefit consumers by promoting competition in the electric power industry; and S. 1047, to provide for a more competitive electric power industry.

SH-216

JULY 20

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nomination of F. Whitten Peters, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of the Air Force; and the nomination of Arthur L. Money, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

SR-222

JULY 21

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 985, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

SR-485

JULY 27

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 1052, to implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Estab-

lish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America.

SD-366

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 979, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide for further self-governance by Indian tribes.

SR-485

AUGUST 4

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 299, to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health; and S. 406, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to make permanent the demonstration program that allows for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors, and to expand the eligibility under such program to other tribes and tribal organizations; followed by a business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-485

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building