

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, during the Independence Day district work period, this Member had the opportunity to continue his series of town hall meetings in his congressional district in Nebraska. At these meetings, and at my earlier listening sessions, two main topics have been vigorously addressed by constituents. The first of these is the desperate conditions that farmers are now facing in this country, which this Member addressed Monday on the House floor. Another issue that was also discussed at these town hall meetings was the very inadequate level of veterans medical care funding available today. Veterans in my state understandably are *not* satisfied with the current situation, and it is clear that the Federal Government is not meeting its responsibility to the health care needs of our military veterans.

Over the last several years, Congress has provided a slight increase in funding each year for veterans health care. However, the level of funding in the past and present has been far from the amount needed for these vital health programs. The simple fact is that the Federal Government must provide greater funding for veterans health care. We have a bulge in World War II veterans in need of more health care services at this time. The number of veterans treated in VA facilities in the year 2000 is projected to rise by more than 30 percent compared to 1997. Funding must be substantially increased to keep up with this demand. However, the President's budget request for veterans medical care funding is less than 2 percent above what it was in 1997. In fact, over the past few years, the President's budget request has always been less than what Congress actually appropriated for these important health programs.

The fiscal year 2000 Budget Resolution contained a 1.7 billion dollar increase for veterans health care. This Member strongly encourages the Appropriations Committee to support this increase in funding, and would support an even greater amount to insure that at least minimally acceptable veterans' health needs of all eligible veterans are met. This Member would also like to send a message to the Administration, encouraging them to stop ignoring the essential health care services veterans deserve, and to propose and support the greater funding levels needed to adequately serve our veterans.

The inadequacy of VA health care funds in this Member's home state of Nebraska is accentuated by a Clinton Administration funding formula called the Veterans Equity Resource Allocation, or VERA. Its results are anything but equitable to veterans in Nebraska. The VERA system was created and implemented in April of 1997 in an ill-advised attempt to more equally allocate VA health care re-

sources among different regions of the country.

However, this system is not equitable. Funds are allocated among the 22 VA regions strictly on a veteran per-capita basis, which means that the Sunbelt regions where veterans are retiring have far more resources to provide the necessary base of service. Sparsely populated states, like Nebraska in the Northern Great Plains, have a smaller and shrinking veterans population. These lower-population states simply do not have the numbers to receive adequate funding under this system in order to provide for even the minimum services and facilities required. No matter what state a veteran lives in, he or she is entitled to an acceptable level of health service. This level is not being met in Nebraska under VERA. This Member calls on the Clinton Administration to take off their blinders and address this problem with an adjusted formula. This Member will also continue to actively oppose VERA, and will work to restore more funding for VA facilities in Nebraska.

Veterans fought to protect our freedom and way of life. As they served our nation in a time of need, the Federal Government must remember them in their time of need. Therefore, the needs of these veterans, especially health benefits, must be met to the fullest extent possible. The people of the U.S. owe a tremendous debt to our veterans. We should keep the promises made to them.

COLORADO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1060

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the Colorado House recently adopted H.R. 1000, the "Aviation Investment and Reform Act." This measure is of great interest to my constituents and the entire state of Colorado. Indeed the Colorado General Assembly has called upon the Members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation to support H.R. 1000.

It was upon the recommendation of the Colorado Legislature, and for the reasons stated in Colorado's House Joint Resolution 99-1060, that I was persuaded to cast my vote, on behalf of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, in favor of H.R. 1000.

I furthermore commend Colorado's position on the matter to Members of the House, and hereby submit for the RECORD, the full text of Colorado H. J. R. 99-1060.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1060

Whereas, Safe, timely, and adequate intrastate air service is essential to the citizens of Colorado; and

Whereas, The 1998 Colorado General Assembly Interim Committee on Intrastate Air Service reviewed and studied the need to improve the safety and adequacy of intrastate air service in Colorado; and

Whereas, There exists a federal "Airport and Airway Trust Fund", created by section

9502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to assist airports and airport air service throughout the United States, including many of the intrastate air service needs in Colorado; and

Whereas, The federal "Airport and Airway Trust Fund" is not being used for its intended purposes and historically has been used to mask past federal budget deficits; and

Whereas, United States Representative Bud Shuster (R-PA), has introduced H.R. 1000, the "Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century", which includes "Title IX—Truth in Budgeting", that requires that the federal "Airport and Airway Trust Fund" be used for its intended purposes; now, therefore, be it.

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein: That the members of the Sixty-second General Assembly call upon Colorado's Congressional Delegation to support H.R. 1000, the "Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century", and specifically "Title IX—Truth in Budgeting", and, upon its passage, to work to provide funds to improve the safety, timeliness, and adequacy of intrastate air service throughout Colorado; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to each member of Colorado's Congressional Delegation.

MARK D. ROLNIK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mark D. Rolnik was born on January 1, 1954. He grew up in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, and attended the Bronx High School of Science.

Thereafter he attended the University of Buffalo, where he graduated in 1976. He then attended Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, of Yeshiva University, and received his law degree in 1979.

After three years of working for the law firm of Lester Schwartz & Dwyer, Esq. Mark opened his own office on Lower Broadway in Manhattan, and began practicing personal injury law. He has been engaged in this practice since 1982, and continues to practice personal injury to date.

In addition to his law practice, he is on the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Kings Basketball Team, a professional basketball team that plays in Brooklyn, New York. This is the first professional sports team to play in Brooklyn since the Dodgers left Ebbets Field in 1958.

He is also on the Board of Directors of the Reality Chek Foundation, a Brooklyn charity dedicated to providing learning experiences to inner city youths.

He and his wife Adria have two children, Elizabeth, age 13, and Alexandra, age 11. They currently reside in Short Hills, New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Rolnik for his contributions to supporting programs for inner city youth.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE BROWNIE
BAKER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Perkins and The Brownie Baker for winning the Small Business of the Year Award in 1999. The Brownie Baker bakes and sells a variety of brownies, muffins, and cookies on a wholesale basis, primarily to the convenience store industry.

The Brownie Baker started as a family business with Marion Peterson and her sister, Susie Spotts. Dennis Perkins, then the Director of Business Development for Pepsi-Cola, bought the business on August 1, 1990.

The company has expanded its markets and the financial reports reflect this. Accounts are concentrated in California, but expand nationwide. Perkins has done an excellent job operating the company as evidenced by its growth. Sales were 1.8 million as of June 30, 1994. They have more than doubled since that time to 3.9 million as of June 30, 1998.

Perkins reorganized the means of distribution, increased product size, developed new products, changed the labels, bought a larger bakery, and bought out a competitor called Carol's Cookies. This acquisition has increased sales nearly 50 percent, growing the company from five to 48 employees. During 1998, Perkins installed a completely automated muffin line, and also many new technologically advanced money and time savers for the company.

Nearly a third of those employed at the bakery are Southeast Asian refugees placed there through the CalWORKS program.

The Brownie Baker will be diversifying its line by adding Mexican pastries.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Brownie Baker for its accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dennis Perkins and The Brownie Baker many more years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW WILLIAM
ADKISSON FOR HIS PROMOTION
TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Matthew William Adkisson, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition, the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Matthew William

Adkisson will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Matthew on this respected accomplishment.

HONORING THE 54TH INFANTRY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and remember the contributions of the 54th Massachusetts regiment. On July 18, 1863, 136 years ago this week, the 54th Infantry, which consisted exclusively of African American soldiers, led a gallant assault on Fort Wagner where they valiantly fought and sacrificed their lives for our country.

Despite the controversy and discrimination directed towards them, the heroic 54th failed to retreat. Feeling the need to prove themselves capable soldiers, they fought harder and accepted fiercer challenges than the average soldier. Fighting for the preservation of the Union and against the enslavement of human beings, the 54th Infantry also succeeded in paving the way for African Americans to serve in the military and be commissioned as officers—an almost insurmountable feat!

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud today to honor the memory of these soldiers, and recognize their accomplishments during the Civil War and to the future direction of our Nation. These men gave selflessly of themselves in our Nation's most brutal war for the right to be recognized as civilized men. They defended our Nation's freedoms without prejudice or apprehension, and I salute them.

IN MEMORY OF M.L. ANSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Marion Leslie (M.L.) Anson, 77, of Higginsville, Missouri.

Mr. Anson was born December 23, 1921, in Higginsville and lived most of his lifetime in the Higginsville area. He was a 1940 graduate of Higginsville High School and also a graduate of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. He was a member and past president of Phi Delta Theta, a social fraternity. Mr. Anson served with the United States Navy in the Pacific Theatre during world War II with the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade.

Mr. Anson was active in the community. He was a former member of the Higginsville Board of Aldermen, the Higginsville Board of Education, and a founding member of the Higginsville Country Club, where he served as a member of the Board of Directors. He was a past member of the Lion's Club and was active in the Boy Scouts, serving in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He was a member of the Higginsville American Legion Post #223 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6270. Mr. Anson was a sponsor of the Save our Strays

program in Lafayette County. He was also a member of Central Christian Church in Higginsville, where he served as a deacon and was a longtime member of the church choir.

Mr. Anson was the secretary-treasurer and co-owner with his son, Joseph, of Anson Implement, Inc., a John Deere Dealership in Higginsville. He was a former co-owner of the Smith-Anson Implement Company in Odessa, until the early 1950s, when he joined the Higginsville business with his father, Leslie Anson, and his brother-in-law, James O. Smith.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Anson was a fine American and a true friend. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife, Mary Lou; his son, Joseph; his three daughters, Maris, Jennifer, and Marion; his sister, Jean; seven grandchildren, and two step-great-grandchildren.

ON MILITARY OPERATIONS IN
VIEQUES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of residents in my district, who as Americans of Puerto Rican descent care deeply about what is happening to their many friends and relatives on the island of Vieques.

One week ago, while on a visit to Puerto Rico, I visited Vieques, at which time I met with Vieques's Mayor Manuela Santiago at a town meeting she hosted, and attended a briefing by Rear Admiral Kevin Moran, Commander, Navy Region Southeast.

On my flight to Vieques I observed an island that is naturally gifted and beautiful, with some of the most marvelous beaches in the Western Hemisphere. Its people love their island, are hardworking and industrious, as is evidenced by the fishermen I met. But Vieques' natural beauty is scarred and its tremendous economic potential is blocked by the presence and activities of the U.S. Navy.

Let me say from the outset that I do not doubt the Navy's claim that the type of training the Navy conducts as Vieques is vital to its defense mission. It certainly is. What I strongly disagree with is the Navy's position that there is nowhere else in the entire hemisphere where such training could take place. If God had not gifted us with Vieques, or if, God forbid, Vieques was subsumed by an earthquake, would the Navy tell us that it would be impossible for them to perform their defense mission for the United States? I think not.

Might it be an inconvenience? Yes. Might it take some time? Yes. Might it cost money? Yes. But to take the firm position that the nation's defense rests solely on Vieques is simply not credible or acceptable.

So why should the Navy permanently cease all live and inert ammunition exercises and, therefore, ultimately leave the island and return it to the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico? I think the answers can be found in the voices of the people of Vieques I met and in the sights I observed.

From Mayor Santiago's presentation, one would conclude the Navy has in their actions

been insensitive to the economic development needs of the island. This insensitivity has real, tragic, human consequences. Over 70% of the residents are below the poverty line, a rate 14% above the rest of Puerto Rico, and unemployment is exceedingly high.

Carlos Ventura, a leader in the fishing community, vividly describes the very significant damage that the Navy's restrictions, operations, amphibious landings, mine sweeping, and live ammunition explosions have caused in the loss of fish, coral reef, and the destruction of natural fishing habitats—all of which has caused the deterioration of the fishing industry. For all these reasons, when you visit Vieques and talk of the Navy, you will hear voices of despair and distrust.

The risk of developing cancer is greater in Vieques than in any other municipality in Puerto Rico. The infant mortality rate is among the highest of any municipality. So when Dr. Luis Rivera Castano speaks of the presence of explosive components like RDX and Tetryl in the potable water reserves of Vieques, or of chemical compounds in the actual charges of the projectiles themselves, his reasoned voice is one of concern and alarm.

Then there were the passionate voices of the Alliance of Vieques Women, and of Alba Encarnacion, a school teacher, who spoke eloquently of their sleepless nights and of their anxiety and fear for their security, peace, and health. The voices of these mothers are the voices of Vieques children.

From that town meeting, I went on a Navy helicopter to a briefing at the observation post where security guard David Sarnes Rodriguez was killed and four others injured. That briefing focused on the need the Navy has to perform such training, but it did little to convince me that the devastating sights I saw of the leveling of hills and coconut plantations, and the blasting off the face of the Earth of lagoons and cays, was not an environmental injustice. Nor was I convinced of the fairness and balance of the Navy, with its constant denial of virtually all of the concerns and complaints voiced by the citizens of Vieques.

The lack of any real adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding of October 11, 1983, and the Navy's original denial of having fired 268 rounds of uranium depleted bullets, added to all of the previously mentioned denials, clearly gives the Navy a major credibility problem with the people of Vieques, the people of Puerto Rico, and I would add a growing number of Members of Congress, including myself.

While the report issued by the Navy yesterday continues to reaffirm its position, its recommendations begin to show that there is clearly some culpability and responsibility that even the Navy must admit.

The 9,311 American citizens who call Vieques home—squeezed between the ammunition warehousing area and the firing range area—have suffered harmful and detrimental effects on the quality of their lives, creating an economic and social condition which rates below the rest of Puerto Rico's population.

If this were anywhere else, we would be talking about environmental racism.

The incidents listed in the Government of Puerto Rico's Special Commission report from 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999, are all indicators of a greater tragedy waiting to happen.

I can tell you as a seven-year member of the International Relations' Western Hemi-

sphere subcommittee that Caribbean and Latin American countries are watching and talking about how we act in response to the abuses of the people in Vieques. We cannot be examples of democracy and human rights abroad unless we observe them at home.

This is not a question of ill will toward the people of the United States. The people of Puerto Rico love America. They love it so much that thousands of their sons and daughters have worn the uniform of the U.S., served it voluntarily, and given their lives for its values since the first Puerto Rican battalion was created in 1900. We need to value them as U.S. citizens.

Living in Vieques should not take an act of courage. These 9,311 American citizens are entitled to go to their jobs and schools, attend church, and be able to achieve health and economic security, just like other American citizens can.

In conclusion, I believe we should demilitarize the island, decontaminate it, and devolve it so that its citizens can develop its economic potential, and achieve in Vieques the peace and security they deserve as American citizens.

ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE AMIA BOMBING IN ARGENTINA
THE TERRORISTS BEHIND
THIS VICIOUS ATTACK HAVE
STILL NOT BEEN FOUND

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, five years ago this coming Sunday—on July 18, 1994—the Buenos Aires headquarters of the Asociacion Mutual Israelita Argentina (Argentine Jewish Mutual Association), known by its Spanish acronym AMIA, was bombed and destroyed by terrorists. In that vicious and cowardly attack against the Jewish community of Argentina, 86 individuals were killed and over 200 others were injured, many seriously. The victims included Argentinian Jews, but the majority were Argentinian citizens of other religious and ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement officials have conducted an investigation into this horrendous act of terrorism, but five years after that event progress has been very limited. Five men, including four former police officers, have been arrested in connection with the bombing, and they are expected to go on trial "soon." These individuals, however, are believed to be participants, but not the real perpetrators behind this heinous act. United States intelligence and criminal investigators believe that the Iranian government was behind the attack. Little information has been made public about the results of the effort to identify and arrest the real criminals who carried out this attack, and progress on the investigation has been painfully slow.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this was not the only, or even first such incident in Argentina. On March 17, 1992, just two years before the AMIA bombing, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and a nearby school and other buildings were destroyed in a car bomb blast in which 29 innocent children, women and men lost their lives, and another 252 innocent bystand-

ers were injured. These victims included employees of the Israeli embassy and their families, children from a Roman Catholic primary school, women and men in a nearby Roman Catholic church shelter, a Roman Catholic priest, and a number of others.

These unsolved crimes are a serious and sinister effort to intimidate the Jewish population of Argentina, as well as Jewish communities around the world, Mr. Speaker. The Argentine Jewish community numbers over 300,000 and is the largest Jewish community in Latin America. During the periods of military rule it was subject to severe anti-Semitism, and the community feels particularly vulnerable to assault from external radical Islamic groups and from indigenous far right extremists in Argentina.

Mr. Speaker, on this unfortunate fifth anniversary of the AMIA bombing I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this senseless act of terrorism. I also invite my colleagues to join me in denouncing this bigoted anti-Semitic action, and in urging the Argentine government to move more vigorously and with greater purpose to solve this tragic case. I also invite my colleagues to join me in extending our support and encouragement to the Jewish Community of Argentine. The American people support your struggle against racism and anti-Semitism, and we commend you for your commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES LEONARD
FARMER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today, to pay tribute to and to celebrate the life and legacy of James Leonard Farmer who passed away on Friday, July 9, 1999, at the age of 79. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and regards to Brother Farmer's family and extended community.

James Leonard Farmer served our nation as the founder and national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) established in 1942. CORE is the third oldest and one of the "Big Four" civil rights organizations in America. A strong advocate and civil rights leader, Jim Farmer transformed America by fighting racial prejudice in the 1960's and continuously throughout his lifetime. As the founder of CORE, Mr. Farmer paved the way for the later civil rights movement by organizing the first "Sit-ins" and "Freedom Rides" throughout the South.

A devoted Christian, Jim Farmer had a strong and unwavering commitment to the cause of Christ. He always recognized the importance of overcoming social injustice, which stood as his life-long pursuit. His dedication to justice earned him national recognition as he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to join with all Americans in recognizing the achievements and life of James Leonard Farmer. I am truly honored to pay tribute to Farmer's distinguished life and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PASSAGE OF COLORADO HOUSE
JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1046

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the state of Colorado has requested Congress reform its "Superfund" law to address the needs of businesses. Our position on this important matter has been established by the Colorado General Assembly though the passage of Colorado House Joint Resolution 99-1046.

This measure was authored and sponsored by State Representative Jack Taylor and State Senator Dave Wattenberg. I hereby submit Colorado's Resolution for the RECORD and urge its consideration by my colleagues in formulating useful solutions to federal superfund laws.

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1046

By Representatives Taylor, Alexander, Fairbank, Hefley, Hoppe, Johnson, Kaufman, Kester, King, Larson, McKay, Miller, Nunez, Paschall, Spradley, Stengel, Webster, Young; also Senators Wattenberg, Blickensderfer, Chlouber, Epps, Evans, Hillman, Owen, Powers.

CONCERNING A REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF THE FEDERAL "SUPERFUND" LAW TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF BUSINESSES.

Whereas, the General Assembly commends the intent underlying the federal Superfund law, namely, the desire to protect human health and the environment first while deferring until later the assessment of blame and the collection of costs from persons found to be liable; and

Whereas, The Superfund law generally serves this intent in cases where causation is clear; and

Whereas, The Superfund law has proven not to serve as well in other cases; and

Whereas, Specifically, the Superfund liability system leads to excessive litigation for businesses, uncertainties in responsibility that hamper access to capital, unwarranted delays in the resolution of liability, and lack of responsiveness to the particular needs of business enterprises; and

Whereas, Such problems are most vexing in the case of speciality oil change service stations, general automobile service stations, and other businesses that generate used oil in their daily activities and centrally collect and recycle used oil that would otherwise be disposed of by uncertain means and eventually become dispersed in the environment; and

Whereas, A businesses of this kind that contracts with an oil collection and recycling firm certified by the Environmental Protection Agency should be able to depend on such certification and continue to operate in good faith, without fear of future liability; and

Whereas, Nevertheless, the current Superfund law does not offer even this basic level of protection to a business that makes every effort to be environmentally responsible; and

Whereas, Businesses are committed to environmental protection, but have serious concerns with the current Superfund program; and

Whereas, Reforming the Superfund program to address the needs of businesses would contribute to their continued viability and to the economic health of the state as a whole; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second General Assembly of

the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby request the Congress of the United States to make the following changes to the Superfund law:

1. Eliminate third-party litigation and instead adopt a streamlined expedited, and informal process to quickly allocate responsibility among all parties potentially liable for cleanup of a Superfund site.

2. For businesses that accept their responsibility as allocated under the streamlined process, or that did not have the legal right to control the site during periods when contamination occurred, provide immunity from further liability.

3. Include, as part of the streamlined process, a means for determining and declaring minimis liability for contamination at a site within 180 days. If the 180-day period is exceeded by more than 120 days, relieve business de minimis parties of all liability unless the delay is outside the control of the Environmental Protection Agency.

4. Make the ability to pay an explicit, required criterion for allocation of financial responsibility to a business, taking into account the business's overall financial condition and its ability to raise revenue.

Be it further resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation and to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

RUSSELL GEORGE,
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives.*

RAY POWERS,
President of the Senate.

JUDITH M. RODRIGUE,
*Chief Clerk of the
House of Representatives.*

PATRICIA K. DICKS,
Secretary of the Senate.

TERRI THOMSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Terri Thomson. Presently, Ms. Thomson serves as Vice President-Director of New York City and State Government Relations for Citigroup, a position she has held since December 1996. Ms. Thomson began her career with the company in February 1990 serving as Director of Community and Government Relations in the communities of Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Prior to her career at Citigroup, Terri served as District Administrator for Congressman GARY ACKERMAN (D-NY), advocating for the citizens of the 7th Congressional District for ten years.

Terri Thomson has taken a leading role in the community and has been a strong supporter of many community initiatives. Terri Thomson was appointed for a four-year term beginning July 1, 1998 as a member of the New York City Board of Education. As a Board Member, she serves as Chair of the Parent Involvement and the Capital Plan Committees. Ms. Thomson has advocated for parent involvement because of her commitment to improving the quality of education for our

youth. As Vice Chair of the Board of the Brooklyn Sports Foundation, Ms. Thomson assisted the organization in supporting the development of an amateur athletic facility in Coney Island to serve the children of New York City.

Our society has benefited from Ms. Thomson's active support of organizations that nurture cultural and academic enrichment. She has previously served as a board member for Queens Symphony Orchestra, Queens Library Foundation, Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, and St. Francis College Board of Regents. People in this community can learn from the perseverance of Ms. Thomson. She has found the time and energy to participate in various activities. As a community leader, Ms. Thomson has recognized the importance of economic empowerment, and, for this reason, she became involved in organizations that work to improve economic conditions. She was a board member of Greater Jamaica Development Corporation; a Chairwoman of Queens County Overall Economic Development Corporation; and Treasurer of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

I commend Ms. Thomson and pray that she will succeed in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING GARY COCOLA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Cocola for his service to the Fresno community through his broadcast television stations.

While attending Memorial High School in Fresno, Cocola received inspiration to pursue a career in broadcasting. He was one of the local high school students chosen to participate in a television program called "Open House." He continued to participate in other activities on radio and television, including a Top 40 show with a dance party format that aired in Bakersfield.

Cocola enrolled at Fresno State to pursue a degree in radio and television. He added a minor in business in the event that his father may need him. His father, Morris Cocola, owned the family's tree fruit and grape growing, packing and shipping business. But Gary Cocola's passion was for the television business.

In 1962, Cocola found an agent in Los Angeles and considered entering the highly competitive Southern California media market. Cocola's agent dissuaded him from this, which caused Cocola to become discouraged. So, he entered his father's business and began a career in sales.

Cocola excelled at his business and by 1970 he formed the Cocola Fruit Corporation that allowed him to be a dealer and broker as well as a commercial merchant. Cocola was financially well off, but was not entirely happy with his job. His dream was to return to broadcasting.

With the help of his wife Diane Dostinch, he applied to put a local full power station on the air in 1977. After successfully completing the Federal Communications Commission's lengthy application process, the station was finally built in 1984. In 1985, his station, KMSG, began as a Christian station. He has visions to

create a station resembling MTV, but it was not commercially feasible.

Cocola began branching out into the low power channels he was accumulating. At a cable television convention, Colcola met Bud Paxson, the founder of the Home Shopping channel. In 1987, Cocola entered the shopping channel market. In 1988, the Spanish News Network out of New York City contacted KMSG, and Cocola converted the channel to Telemundo 59.

As the 80's went by, Cocola continued to expand his ownership of the low power channels not offered on cable TV. He added more shopping channels, a pay for view music TV channel, and a classic movie channel. Today his broadcast empire includes 10 stations owned locally, including a full power station, Channel 43, and an additional five channels in other locations throughout the United States. One station is a full power channel in Omaha, Nebraska and another is a low power station that delivers a new concept in Internet access. This new idea will use broadcast to deliver access to the Internet at a faster speed than the current linkups allow.

Cocola has provided a service to many community members without cable by bringing them news, public affairs and entertainment for free.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary Cocola for his service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Gary many more years of continued success and happiness.

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. JOY
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to make the House aware of the 130th anniversary of Mt. Joy Missionary Baptist Church in Edwardsville. The church serves as a pillar of the community. The church began in 1869 in the home of a church member who was also an ex-slave. In 1871 the church moved to a log cabin nearby. The church has always been a center for the community to come together to interact. There will also be the very first showing of the new history museum created by the church.

When a long time church member was questioned about the church she replied, "I used to like the old ice cream socials years ago. It was a way for folks to get together, and there was always a place for the kids to play." It is exciting to see a community get together to celebrate the anniversary of a historic institution in its community. Such events create a sense of pride and history throughout the community.

A TRIBUTE TO CASEY LEE
ADKISSON FOR HIS PROMOTION
TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Casey

Lee Adkisson, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition, the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Casey Lee Adkisson will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Casey on this respected accomplishment.

DR. BRUCE SOMMER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bruce Sommer has impeccable academic and surgical credentials with honors, ranging from Phi Beta Kappa to the American College of Surgeons; Alpha Omega Alpha; Phi Sigma for Biology; Chi Epsilon Mu for Chemistry; and Phi Sigma for Philosophy.

Dr. Sommer, a native New Yorker, was born on October 5, 1948, and received his M.D. degree and internship at the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1974. He is presently the Attending Surgeon Chief in the Division of Transplantation at the University Hospital of Brooklyn with prior hospital appointments that include Kings County, Ohio State University's liver transplantation unit, St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center's Burn Center, and the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Hospital.

His professional memberships number over twenty, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Medical Association, American College of Surgeon Fellows, New York Surgical Society, National Kidney Foundation, not to mention the founding member of the cell transplant society in 1991.

Given this illustrious professional background, it is difficult to describe a more exemplary model of a research fellow. Dr. Sommer is renowned for his funded research in acute hepatic failure, minority tissue transplant, and cellular transplantation for enzymatic and metabolic deficiencies. Moreover, Bruce was the principal investigator at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Research Institute engaging in the phase III Study of Acute Renal Graft Rejection with Deoxyspergulin.

This exceptional man of healing lives in Harrison, New York with his family. The dedication and sensibility he brings to the medical profession is unparalleled here in Brooklyn. I would like my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in commending Dr. Sommer for his achievements.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS HOLINESS
CATHOLICOS KAREKIN I

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to His Holiness Catholicos Karekin I. On June 29, the Armenian community mourned the loss of this Supreme Patriarch and leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Born Nishan Sarkissian in Kessab, Syria, Karekin I was ordained priest in 1949.

Karekin I dedicated his life to preaching the message of the Armenian Church in a dynamic and creative manner by devoting himself to the instruction of a new generation of clergy which he dubbed "Ambassadors of Christian Faith".

During the 1970's, Karekin I was the head of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in New York. In this capacity, he motivated the spiritual and cultural life of Armenians and championed a modern vision within theological writings.

In his most recent role as co-President of the Pan Armenian Committee, His Holiness was preparing for the celebration of 1,700 years of Christianity in Armenia. Without his contribution, this celebration would not have been possible. Sadly, Karekin I will not bear witness to the project's successful completion, expected in 2001.

Karekin I made an impact on Armenians throughout the world, and particularly in eastern Massachusetts. When Karekin I was buried in his homeland of Etchmaidzin, Armenia, local Armenians residing in Watertown and Cambridge, MS, grieved with others around the world at his passing. Karekin I was a compassionate human being who affected the lives of Armenian Apostolic parishioners, particularly those whom he had visited at St. Stephen's in Watertown, and Holy Trinity in Cambridge, MS.

Karekin I's spiritual teachings and services made a vital contribution to the cohesiveness that today exists among a people scattered throughout the globe. The Armenian international community has suffered a great and personal loss in the death of Karekin I, a man of eternal accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING HIGH
SCHOOL SECRETARY KAREN
ENSOR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Mrs. Karen Ensor, the principal's secretary for the past 26 years at Lexington High School in Lexington, Missouri, retired on June 30, 1999.

Mrs. Ensor began her career 33 years ago when she accepted a position as a teacher's aide at Leslie Bell Elementary School. She remained at Leslie Bell for seven years and then moved to the high school as the principal's secretary. In that post, Karen served the students and staff Lexington High School for 26 years.

A typical day at Lexington High School for Mrs. Ensor included keeping attendance, monitoring student records, making arrangements for athletic teams, answering the phone, tracking down over 300 students, and making sure the students got their lunch tickets. Indeed, Karen's duties at Lexington High School have been multi-faceted. Her dedication and outstanding service to the school and the Lexington community are truly honorable.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ensor will surely be missed by everyone at Lexington High School. I wish her and her husband, Dale, all the best in the days ahead. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this great Missourian.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL VICKI L. BEARD, UNITED STATES ARMY, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Vicki L. Beard as she prepares to culminate her active duty career in the United States Army. Vicki is the epitome of an outstanding officer and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel Beard began her career more than 24 years ago as an enlisted soldier. She then received her commission as a second lieutenant. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, as well as the Command and General Staff College, Vicki Beard has met the many challenges of military service as an Army Officer, and has faithfully served her country in a variety of command and staff assignments in the Continental United States, Germany, and Korea.

Vicki was previously assigned to the Army Congressional Investigation Division as a Congressional Liaison Officer. During her tenure in the Army Legislative Liaison Office, Vicki served on several investigation panels, spearheading changes in current Army personnel policy.

She concludes her career as the Special Assistant for Personnel Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Always thorough and precise in applying her personnel expertise, Vicki has been very generous with colleagues, both senior and subordinate, who sought out her advice on personnel and legislative matters. Senior Defense officials depended on Vicki for her studious approach to matters, and Congressional Members and staff looked to her for her honesty, candor, and professional assessment of any given situation.

Mr. Speaker, service and dedication to duty have been the hallmarks of Lieutenant Colonel Beard's career. She has served our nation and the Army well during her years of service, and we are indebted for her many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of the United States. I am sure that everyone who has worked with Vicki joins me in wishing her health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent and unable to vote due to my recovery from heart surgery, July 12, 1999—July 16, 1999.

On July 12, 1999: I would have voted against approving the journal (rollcall No. 277). I would have voted present on H. Con. Res. 107 (rollcall No. 278). I would have voted present on H. Con. Res. 117 (rollcall No. 279).

On July 13, 1999: I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2465 (rollcall No. 280). I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2465 (rollcall No. 280). I would have voted in favor of the McGovern amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 281). I would have voted in favor of the Sanders amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 282). I would have voted against the Coburn amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 283).

On July 14, 1999: I would have voted in favor of the Sanders amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 284). I would have voted in favor of the Sanders amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 285). I would have voted in favor of the Slaughter amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 286). I would have voted against the Stearns amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 287). I would have voted in favor of the Inslee amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 288). I would have voted against the Weldon amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 289). I would have voted in favor of the Klink amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 290). I would have voted in favor of the Farr amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 291). I would have voted against the Tancredo amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 292). I would have voted in favor of the Wu amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 293). I would have voted in favor of the Klink amendment to H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 294).

On July 15, 1999: I would have voted in favor of the motion to recommit H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 295). I would have voted in favor of final passage of H.R. 2466 (rollcall No. 296). I would have voted in favor of approving the journal (rollcall No. 297). I would have voted in favor of the Nadler amendment to H.R. 1691 (rollcall No. 298). I would have voted against final passage of H.R. 1691 (rollcall No. 299). I would have voted in favor of ordering the previous question (rollcall No. 300). I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 246 (rollcall No. 301). I would have voted against the Sessions amendment to H.R. 2490 (rollcall No. 302). I would have voted in favor of the Lowey amendment to H.R. 2490 (rollcall No. 303). I would have voted against the Sanders amendment to H.R. 2490 (rollcall No. 304). I would have voted against H.R. 2490 (rollcall No. 305).

On July 16, 1999: I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 250 (rollcall No. 306). I would have voted in favor of final passage of H.R. 434 (rollcall No. 307).

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES BUSSMANN

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding American who recently passed away. Publisher Charles Bussmann, one of America's leading advocates for ocean research, died on June 28, 1999 at the age of 75. As the founder, president, and Chief Executive of Compass Publications Inc., an oceanographic publishing corporation, Mr. Bussmann was widely known as an outspoken proponent of the high value and critical significance of the ocean/marine manufacturing industries to the success of oceanic research and marine resources development.

Mr. Bussmann has had a long and distinguished career. He began his career with Texaco Inc. After a short time at Texaco he began working for Pit and Quarry Publication Incorporation where he stayed for seventeen years, eventually working his way up to executive vice president and director when he left to form his own company in 1963.

In 1963, Mr. Bussmann created Compass Publications Inc.; publishers of Sea Technology magazine, Washington Letter of Oceanography, Commercial Fisheries News, Marine Performance News and several other oceanographic publications.

Mr. Bussmann was a charter member of the Marine Technology Society and a charter member of the National Ocean Industries Association. He was the sponsor of three highly coveted professional and industry awards presented by the Marine Technology Society: Compass Distinguished Achievement Award, Compass Industrial Award, and Compass International Award. He was a former chairman of the government/business science and technology information committee of American Business Press Incorporation as well as a member of Board of Directors and Trustee, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution Inc., a major research organization of Fort Pierce, Florida. In October 1998 the Charles H. Bussmann Dormitory was named in his honor by the organization. Mr. Bussmann was also charter member of the National Ocean Industries Association where he sponsored the highly-coveted Safety In Seas Award, which is presented annually.

As the Vice President of The Advisory Commission on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), I have worked closely over the past several years with Mr. Bussmann and known personally of his dedication to improving the oceanographic industry through his vast knowledge of the environment. All who knew Mr. Bussmann are grateful that they had the chance to work with him and sincerely mourn his passing. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bussmann was a true champion of the ocean industry. The oceanographic/marine communities owe him a great debt of gratitude for his extraordinary work in joining research with industry to make our marine environment better for all mankind.

IN HONOR OF JAMES DOUGLAS
BURGER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. James Douglas Burger, of Fairview Park, Ohio, who graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy on June 25th, 1999.

Mr. Burger was selected to be among the special few to attend the prestigious Academy to become a member of its 197th graduating class. The Academy's facilities and faculty are acknowledged as world leaders in law enforcement training. Its rigorous eleven week course provides one of the premier training programs and prepares its graduates for bright futures in law enforcement.

The graduates of the FBI National Academy set the standard for integrity, commitment, and expertise throughout the law enforcement community. I am proud to have a member of my district join these elite few in protecting the borders of civilized society.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing Mr. Burger's achievement and we wish him much success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 1999, I missed rollcall votes 284 to 296. On July 15, 1999, I missed rollcall vote No. 300. My absence was due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 287, 289, 292 and "aye" on votes 284, 285, 286, 288, 290, 291, 293, 294, 295, 296, and 300.

TRIBUTE TO WILMER "WILL"
BOTTERBUSH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember Wilmer "Will" Botterbush of Godfrey, Illinois who passed away unexpectedly on July 14th.

Wil was among the most committed and dedicated public servants that I have known. He was active in local government, the small business community, the Boy Scouts and most importantly he was a dedicated father and friend.

His son Ray Botterbush said, "the village of Godfrey and its citizens were always foremost in his mind."

While it's hard to disagree with that statement, it was clear to me and anyone who met him that first and foremost in Wil's mind was his family, especially his three sons, Ray, Kevin and Tim.

The Godfrey community has lost one of its most renowned public servants and I have lost

a good friend. Yet while we mourn his loss, we should remember that Wil Botterbush's legacy lives on in three equally dedicated and talented young men. Wil Botterbush's contributions to his community will continue for generations to come through the lives of his sons and grandsons.

LEON EASTMOND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important New York small businessman, Leon Eastmond who is the owner of an honorable seventy year old New York City based corporation specializing in manufacturing boilers, steel storage tanks, fuel tank maintenance. His company EASCO Boiler Corporation performs excavations of underground fuel oil tanks and his employees are trained in procedures for handling hazardous materials including contaminated soil, working in confined spaces and cleaning up oil spills.

EASCO currently covers the five boroughs of New York City and both Nassau and Suffolk counties maintaining a fully stocked warehouse facility to serve their customers with state of the art combustion equipment with parts and service available twenty four hours a day, three hundred sixty five days a year.

Leon Eastmond is an amazing businessman, but he doesn't limit his help to his company or his employees, but instead, seizes every opportunity to make young people aware that self employment is an exciting option. He has joined the Fernando Mateo Institute and has given talks at Evander Childs and George Washington High Schools. He has been a guest lecturer at the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University and has met with their Minority Student Club on several occasions.

Leo realizes that it is important for young people of all races and socio economic levels to meet success oriented black and other minority adults. Mr. Eastmond believes if we start young enough, people will learn to share information and network across all color lines. He truly serves as an inspiration. This is a person who was born and raised in a system that did not deal him a full deck of cards, but he has made the most of it. Moreover, in an effort to help young people turn their lives around, Leon has talked with young adult inmates at Rikers Island and given them hope that there are business people willing to offer them a job and a "Second Change." He now has one former inmate working as a welder's helper.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Eastmond sponsors six Little League Softball teams; the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS and contributes to the United Negro College Fund, the New York Urban League, the Special Olympics, Promesa, the United Jewish Appeal and the Alvin Alley Dance Company. He has a PhD. In life and I commend Mr. Eastmond's achievements to my colleagues' attention.

CONGRATULATING THE BIA ON
THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Building Industry Association (BIA) on their 10th anniversary of business. Over the past decade, the BIA has had a positive impact on the home building industry.

The Building Industry Association of Tulare and Kings Counties was chartered by the National Association of Home Builders on May 21, 1989. With the efforts of a few visionary builders who wanted to provide a united voice through advocacy for home building and related construction entities the BIA was formed. The Association which received its state and federal non-profit status in June of 1989 is governed by elected officers and a Board of Directors while the day to day operations and administration are coordinated by a professional staff.

BIA's membership of builders, developers, subcontractors, and associated businesses is dedicated to protecting and promoting the home building industry and to keeping home ownership possible and affordable in Tulare and Kings Counties.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Building Industry Association for its outstanding leadership and service to its members, communities, and home buyers in the Tulare and Kings Counties for 10 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the BIA many more years of continued success.

OPENING OF SARATOGA NATIONAL
CEMETERY

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we opened the new Saratoga National Cemetery, and I was in the company of 2,000 distinguished veterans and a very special former colleague in this House. Two of my former colleagues, as a matter of fact, spent a lot of time on that project. One of them, Sam Stratton, was a Member of this body for 30 years. He has since passed away.

But another, thank God, was there for the event. That was Congressman Jerry Solomon, who served in this House for 20 years and rose to be Chair of the Committee on Rules. It was a great honor to be in the presence of all those veterans and to be able to look Congressman Solomon in the eye and say: "Thank you for your dedication through the years, and for the opportunity to be your partner in these efforts for the past 10 years."

And now, to be able to realize that heroes like Pete Dalessandro, who was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner from my district, will be one of the first veterans who finds the Saratoga National Cemetery as his final resting place. It was just another opportunity to be with great Americans, and to thank God for my life and veterans for my way of life.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TILLMAN'S HISTORIC VILLAGE INN

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Tillman family, proprietors of Tillman's Historic Village Inn, on the Inn's 175th Anniversary.

Tillman's Historic Village Inn, located in the Hamlet of Childs in the Town of Gaines, NY, was established in 1824. It boasts a long and storied history. In its early years, the Inn served as the final stagecoach stop on historic Ridge Road in Western New York. Through the decades, more than 5,000,000 meals have been served to hungry locals and weary travelers alike. Indeed, the Inn has witnessed the history of America as the nation developed and expanded westward.

Four generations of the Tillman family, all born and raised in the Rochester area, have worked tirelessly for the past 50 years to preserve and improve the Inn for future generations. An extended family of over 2,500 young people from the community has been employed at the Inn during the course of the past 50 years. Many have stayed with the Inn for 10, 20, and even 30 years. In recognition of their contributions and service to the local community, the Tillman family has been named Entrepreneurs of the Year by the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce.

Today, the Inn stands as a symbol of the beauty and charm of the Hamlet of Childs. Childs is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its quaint cobblestone architecture. Some of the best examples of this type of architecture are located within this picturesque village. In fact, nearby Tillman's Inn is the Cobblestone Museum Complex—the definitive museum of cobblestone architecture in America.

The Inn is a valuable thread in the fabric of our heritage in Western New York and, indeed, the nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in offering best wishes to the Tillman family on the 175th anniversary of Tillman's Historic Village Inn.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Lowey provision within the Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill. Last year, we passed this language with bipartisan support, and I believe we can and will do so again today.

Before this provision was enacted, 81% of all federal employee health benefit (FEHB) plans did not cover the most commonly used types of prescription contraception while an entire 10% covered no prescription contraception at all. At a time when nearly half of all pregnancies in this country are unintended, the need for access to reliable, effective contraception has never been more imperative.

Access to contraception helps children and families more than anyone else. Parents want to prepare for responsible parenting and want their children to grow up in a loving, supportive environment when they are prepared to provide it. They need the power to plan for pregnancy in order to do this.

This is just common sense—access to contraceptives is access to basic, essential prescription drugs and devices that can decrease the number of abortions in this country, which is an objective all Members of Congress seek to achieve.

Contraception is not abortion. Doctors, scientists and the Food and Drug Administration, which approves contraceptive drugs and devices all confirm that contraceptives prevent pregnancy. It does not end it. This bill states an unequivocal prohibition on the coverage of abortion. It also makes a clear distinction between the five major forms of contraception and mifepristone, better known as RU-486. If RU-486 is ever approved by the FDA as a method of abortion, it will not be included in this bill as a contraceptive. I applaud the efforts of our colleagues, who have worked very hard to ensure that this language addresses contraception, and contraception alone.

In addition to contributing to the national effort to lower the number of abortions, this provision narrows the gender gap in out-of-pocket costs for medical care. Women of reproductive age spend approximately 68% more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men. Requiring health plans to cover contraception, which without coverage can significantly affect and add to a woman's annual costs, helps both women and men in managing their families' expenses. Saving money while practicing responsible family planning is something we should all espouse.

The money saved by these families generates minimal cost to the government. This provision has what Congressional Budget Office calls a "negligible" cost.

Finally, this language explicitly excludes religious providers from this requirement and gives individual providers the chance to opt out of providing contraceptive services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in maintaining the Lowey provision of the Treasury bill. It creates vital access to contraception, helps to lower the number of unintended pregnancies, narrows the chasm between women and men in out-of-pocket costs for medical care, and has virtually no budgetary impact. America's families need our leadership and sound judgment. We must respond and vote to maintain this sound legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 75th Anniversary of the New York State Association of Counties.

Since its inception in 1925, NYSAC has seen its membership grow to nearly 6,000 executive, legislative and administrative officials. Through legal research, education, training and assistance to its members, NYSAC plays a key role in helping county governments deliver essential services to residents across New York State.

As a former County and State official, I know first hand the tremendous job that NYSAC does in promoting the issues and concerns of New York's 62 counties at both the federal and state level.

Indeed, despite New York's tremendous diversity—from the skyscrapers of Manhattan to the Falls of Niagara—NYSAC has consistently and effectively promoted the best interests of all its members, whether rural, urban or suburban.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere pleasure to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the members and staff of NYSAC, whose professionalism and commitment have helped ensure the efficient and effective management and delivery of county services; and I ask that this House of Representatives join me in saluting NYSAC for a job well done, and extend our sincerest best wishes for continued success as they begin their second 75 years of advocacy and support for the counties of New York State.

KOJO ABUSUA BADU

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Kojo Abusua Badu is truly a success story. Born in the independent, African State of Ghana, he immigrated to the United States and made admirable achievements on these shores.

He is currently President of Convenient Service Center and its sister company, E-Z Pay Inc., headquartered in Bedford Stuyvesant, with locations in Brownsville, Harlem and Queens. These two companies while providing important services in the community also employ approximately sixty individuals, coupled with a combined anticipated gross income over \$200 million for 1999.

Mr. Badu is also a partner in the Certified Public Accounting firm of Badu & Mahmood located in Manhattan. He was educated at New York University where he earned undergraduate degrees and a Master's Degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Mr. Badu is a widower with four children, two boys and two girls. He participates in various civic and social activities within his community.

I want to commend Mr. Kojo Badu for his important contributions to the Brooklyn community.

THE DIPLOMATIC FAIRNESS COMPENSATION RESOLUTION, H. CON. RES. 157

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H. Con. Res. 157, a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that neither the United States, nor NATO, should reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental damage of their embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia unless the United States is reimbursed for the damage of its government facilities in China.

The State Department has sent an official delegation to China to discuss reparation for the accidental bombing by the U.S./NATO forces of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on May 7, 1999. This is unacceptable. Let us not forget that the Chinese retaliated against our accidental bombing with government sanctioned violent protests against American facilities in China. We should not pay for the damages done to the Chinese embassy in Belgrade unless the Chinese government reimburses us for the damages they have done to our facilities in China, including the United States Embassy in Beijing.

The injustices that occurred in China on May 8–11 as a result of the protests that the Chinese government organized were substantial. The full costs of the damages have not yet been determined. Police officers in Beijing ushered protesters to within 25 feet of the walls of the United States embassy, enabling the protesters to pelt the walls with rocks and pieces of concrete. Our Ambassador, James Sasser, and 13 other staff members were trapped inside the embassy for three days because the Chinese government did not provide enough protection for them to leave the grounds. The Chinese government did not even supply them with food. In addition the Consul-General's residence in Chendu was burned to the ground and the Guangzhou consulate was set on fire.

In light of these unacceptable actions tolerated and promoted by the Government of China, the U.S. should not reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental bombing of its embassy in Belgrade unless China reciprocates by paying the United States for the damages they inflicted upon our government's property.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 157 to ensure that the United States is treated fairly. In insert the full text of the resolution to be printed at this point in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 157

Whereas military forces of the United States acting in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during Operation Allied Force accidentally dropped at least three precision-guided bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on May 7, 1999;

Whereas on May 8, 1999, a joint statement by the United States Defense Department

and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) stated that NATO hit the Chinese embassy, located 200 yards from the Yugoslav Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement, a weapons agency, because of errors in detecting the location of the weapons agency;

Whereas on May 11, 1999, the Washington Post cited a United States official who stated that the error of targeting the Chinese embassy went undetected because the address was checked against outdated maps and databases, which showed the location of the Chinese embassy before it moved in 1996;

Whereas apologies by the United States Government for the accidental bombing went unreported in China by the Chinese Government controlled press;

Whereas it is reported in the New York Times that on May 10, 1999, marchers were ushered by Chinese police officers to within 25 feet of the walls of the United States embassy in Beijing;

Whereas protesters pelted the embassy walls with rocks and pieces of concrete pried from the sidewalk of the embassy in full view of Chinese Government security forces;

Whereas demonstrators on May 8 through May 11, 1999, trapped the United States Ambassador, James Sasser, and 13 other staff members inside the United States embassy in Beijing, unable to leave because adequate protection was not provided by the Chinese Government;

Whereas the Chinese Government did not provide food for the ambassador and his staff;

Whereas the embassy building in Beijing was damaged with broken windows, broken signs, and paint-stains and cars on the embassy grounds were damaged;

Whereas 170,000 students demonstrated outside the Consul-General's residence in Chendu;

Whereas the Chinese Government security forces did not prevent the Consul-General's residence from being set afire and burned down;

Whereas the Chinese Government security forces did not prevent the consulate in Guangzhou from being set afire; and

Whereas protesters were not stopped by Chinese authorities from throwing rocks, pieces of pavement, molotov cocktails, gasoline bombs, paint, and other debris at American facilities throughout China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That neither the United States, nor NATO, should reimburse the Chinese Government for the accidental damage of their embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia unless the United States is reimbursed for the damage of its government facilities in China.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2490) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Chairman, I include the following letter for printing in the RECORD:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Washington, DC, July 15, 1999.

Hon. WILLIAM J. COYNE,
*Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. COYNE: As the House considers the Fiscal Year 2000 Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations bill, which includes the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) budget, I want to urge your support for full funding for the IRS. Adequate funding for FY 2000 is critical to the success of the Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (RRA), passed almost unanimously a year ago. As you know, that legislation established 71 new taxpayer rights provisions and mandated an entire new direction for the IRS.

I understand that on July 13, 1999, the Full Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to trim approximately \$240 million from the Subcommittee mark, including approximately \$135 million from the IRS (approximately \$139 million from the President's budget request). While I can appreciate the new budget constraints under which the Committee must operate, I am gravely concerned that a cut of \$135 million will seriously jeopardize the IRS's ability to implement its reform effort mandated by the Restructuring Act.

A funding reduction of \$135 million would: Severely restrict, if not completely impair, IRS' ability to deliver on the Restructuring and Reform Act mandated by the Congress in 1998. Every aspect of the agency's commitment to reorganize the organization, improve customer service and taxpayer rights would be in jeopardy.

Constrain the ability to implement the initiatives so critical to changing how IRS delivers on customer service and improves its treatment of taxpayers and focus on taxpayer rights. For example, the cut would result in reduced plans to deliver better telephone service and tax assistance in Spanish.

Require reduced staffing levels in order to free up the funds necessary to implement congressionally mandated RRA requirements. IRS staff has already been reduced 14% (or 15,600 FTE) since FY 1993—thereby continuing the rapid decline in exam, collection and criminal tax compliance operations.

Reduce funding for the Electronic Tax Administration program, thereby jeopardizing the Congressionally mandated goal of 80 percent electronic filing by the year 2007.

Impair the creation of operating units to help specialized groups of taxpayers including small businesses and ordinary wage earners.

Delay implementation of important taxpayer rights initiatives.

I sincerely hope that the \$135 million will be restored so that the IRS and Congress can achieve its mutual goal of meaningful IRS reform. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of the Congress to ensure that the American people have the modernized revenue service that they deserve.

Sincerely,

CHARLES O. ROSSOTTI,
Commissioner.

IN APPRECIATION OF JOSEPH E. CARTER, FEDERAL WORKER AND THOROUGHbred HORSEMAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Joseph E.

Carter on the fourth anniversary of his death from cancer, which occurred on July 31, 1995, at the age of 34. Mr. Carter was highly esteemed as a federal worker of great integrity while employed as one of the groundskeepers of the U.S. Capitol. He subsequently was a successful Thoroughbred groom and a respected clocker for "The Daily Racing Form," positions which he greatly enjoyed.

As kind and generous as he was physically powerful, Mr. Carter was quick to help anyone in need, without thought of repayment. This outstanding gentleman regularly helped the frail elderly and the widowed with his strenuous manual labor, and he was known to drive 80 miles to obtain a second veterinarian's diagnosis regarding a dying horse, in order to try to save the animal's life.

A typical example of Mr. Carter's warm compassion was evidenced when he once offered to adopt a profoundly retarded boy and to give him a safe, affectionate home when it was no longer possible for the child's loving family to keep the boy with them.

When Mr. Carter learned that he was dying of inoperable cancer, he said quietly, "The Lord gave me 29 good years, and I'm thankful. I'm going to die of cancer, but I'm not going to let it defeat me."

Mr. Carter was a credit to his upbringing who died undefeated by the terrible pain which he endured in his last years. The loving son of Bill and Kathy Carter of Brandywine, Maryland, Mr. Carter died with the same dignity and compassion with which he lived. His calm courage and optimism remain an inspiration to those who knew him.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—SHAWN
AND KEVIN KELLY

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today I would like to recognize Kevin and Shawn Kelly of Wilson Borough as Lehigh Valley Heroes. These young boys have truly made a difference in their community.

Kevin, 8, and his brother Shawn, 11, recently extinguished a fire that threatened a nearby home in their community. Recently, they were playing outside when they noticed smoke coming from a grassy area near their neighbor's home. Kevin and Shawn reacted instantly to douse the small fire with water and as a result saved a neighbor's home.

These brave young boys made a difference in Wilson Borough and therefore they are Lehigh Valley Heroes in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

THE AMERICAN MILITARY HEALTH
PROTECTION ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue of vital importance to our men and women in uniform.

Since the end of the Cold War, the Army and Air Force have been reduced by 45 percent, the Navy by 36 percent, and the Marine Corps by 12 percent.

At the same time, our military operations commitments around the world have increased by 300 percent.

The Army alone has participated in 33 separate deployments since 1992, and has troops in over 70 nations.

Our military readiness is stretched thin, our reserves of critical missiles and spare parts have eroded, and our military's quality of life is diminishing.

Retention rates are reaching historic lows and aircraft accidents are climbing.

For too long we have been asking our military to do more with less.

In recent years, this Congress has taken many steps to reverse these trends and provide adequate training and equipment for our Armed Forces personnel. We must continue to do more.

Despite these difficulties, our men and women remain the premier military in the world.

Their devotion and commitment to serve is without question.

Time and again, they risk their lives in the defense of our nation and our interests around the world.

Without their selfless dedication, our nation would not be the great place it remains today.

As such, we in Congress and as a nation, have a responsibility to those military personnel and their families.

We owe them the strongest commitment to their safety and well being we can provide.

However, I am concerned our government may be violating that very principle.

Two years ago the Secretary of Defense announced plans to implement a mandatory anthrax vaccination program for the 2.4 million members of the Armed Forces.

Since that time, I heard from a rapidly growing number of military personnel and family members who believe this vaccine may jeopardize their long-term health and safety as well as that of their families.

The lack of a single, conclusive independent study regarding the long-term health effects of the anthrax vaccine on humans have created additional concerns among our nation's uniformed personnel.

Despite Department of Defense assurances of minimal adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccinations, the standards that the Department uses to determine adverse reactions are insufficient to support their claims.

According to a June 29 article in the San Diego Union-Tribune, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera acknowledged in a September 1998 memo that the vaccine "involves unusually hazardous risks associated with the potential for adverse reactions in some recipients and the possibility that the desired immunological effect will not be obtained by all recipients."

The article went on to report that the Secretary concluded, there is no certainty that the anthrax used in tests to measure the vaccine's effectiveness "will be sufficiently similar to the pathogen that U.S. forces might encounter" during warfare.

If the Secretary of one of the services raises these concerns, how can we as a nation expect the most junior soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine to accept the vaccine without question?

As a result of the lack of conclusive data on the long-term effects of the anthrax vaccine, many of these military personnel are being forced to make decisions between the safety and security of their families that their dedication and commitment to serving our nation.

In a time when all branches of our military are faced with severe challenges in recruiting and retaining quality military personnel, we should be looking for ways to recruit and retain these men and women.

Instead, over 200 personnel have chosen to resign from the armed services rather than accept the risks associated with a questionable vaccination program.

In one Connecticut Air National Guard Unit alone, eight pilots resigned their commissions because of the mandatory anthrax vaccination. There are growing reports of large numbers of other Guard units whose ranks are shrinking for the same reason.

In my own state of North Carolina, I have heard from numerous active duty and reserve Air Force pilots who have tendered their resignation after many years of service.

However, I am particularly troubled by the recent court-martial of five Marines for their refusal to accept the anthrax vaccination.

As the representative of one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the country, Camp Lejeune, I have learned how much they value their creed: "Corps, God, and then Country."

For the Marines, it is not just a saying; it is a way of life.

Yet, because of the great uncertainty surrounding the anthrax vaccine, a growing number of Marines are also choosing to leave their beloved Corps, their livelihood, to ensure their long-term health and that of their families.

All of these matters have led me to a single conclusion. Until the questions surrounding the anthrax vaccine are answered, I cannot in good conscience support the current mandatory Department of Defense vaccination program.

I feel as though I would be failing in my responsibility if I did not take action to protect the troops who willingly sacrifice their own lives in defense of this nation and its citizens.

As a result, today I am introducing the American Military Health Protection Act.

The legislation is simple.

It would make the current Department of Defense Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program voluntary for all members of the Uniformed Services until either:

1. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new anthrax vaccination for humans; or

2. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new, reduced shot course for the anthrax vaccination for humans.

It does not eliminate the program or remove the ability of the Department of Defense to provide anthrax vaccinations. It simply ensures before a member of our military is required to take the vaccine, their questions about its safety and long-term effects are answered.

It is the least that Congress and the Department of Defense can do.

I hope my colleagues here will see that and join me in protecting the great men and women of the United States Military.

UNION CITY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND DESIGNATION AS AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, 1999, Union City, California will celebrate its 40th Anniversary and its recent designation by the National Civic League as an All-American City, one of only ten in the United States for 1999. Although the City of Union City will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 1999, the year 1850 marks the date that settlers John and William Horner visited an oasis by the Bay and laid out a small settlement town eight square blocks which they called "Union City." It is said that the name originates from the Horners' Sacramento River steamer call "The Union."

In the early 1850's, Union City had a total population of just three families. This is in stark contrast to the nearly 64,000 residents who inhabit the City today. Many of Union City's early settlers were disappointed gold miners who found that growing potatoes, fruits, and vegetables could also be quite profitable and rewarding. Most of the vegetables grown in California were shipped from Union City as this area was considered to be the most fertile agricultural land in the state.

By 1852, Union City had developed into a town that had several hotels, numerous boarding houses, livery stables, general stores, a blacksmith shop, and a men's furnishing store among others. The coming years saw major industries start to settle in the area, such as Pacific Coast Sugar Company and Gold Medal Flower.

Much of the area that is now Union City was spared with little damage during the earthquake of 1906. However, Union City faced a new challenge in the 1950's when several adjacent cities targeted Union City for possible annexation. To prevent this from happening, Union City residents decided to successfully incorporate the city in 1959.

Present day Union City is known as the Gateway to the Silicon Valley. With a diverse population of almost every imaginable ethnicity, Union City exemplifies the true American spirit. Civic-minded communities continue to work tirelessly for safe neighborhoods, quality housing and exemplary schools.

I am proud to represent Union City in my 13th Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding city on its 40th birthday and designation as All-American City for 1999.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment offered by Congressmen WELDON and BARR.

This amendment would accomplish two goals.

First, it would undermine the Constitutional responsibility that our government has towards Native American Tribes.

Second, it would serve to stop so much of the positive work that is being accomplished in Indian Country.

What my colleagues need to understand is that Tribal Gaming is not a private interest initiative. The proceeds from Tribal Gaming can only be used for governmental programs like education, health care and housing.

Some Tribes that are looking to take lands into trust for the purposes of gaming currently have unemployment rates in excess of 50 percent. Native Americans are simply looking for a way out of what is clearly third world poverty.

This amendment would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from promulgating Class III gaming procedures.

The reason that the Department of Interior has published regulations on Class III gaming is because Congress, by enacting the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, directed the Secretary to develop procedures for Class III gaming compacts.

And lets be clear, Interior's regulations will apply in cases where tribes and states could not reach a Class III agreement but the state already allows Class III gaming activities, and when a state raises immunity as a defense from suit.

Moreover, states could still protect themselves from Class III gaming if they choose by outlawing any kind of Class III gaming in the state. In this regard Tribes could not game under Class III. Examples of States that have no gaming include Utah and Hawaii.

This rule is the result of an extensive public process that began more than three years ago and speaks to the fact that the vast majority of states and tribes have bargained in good faith with each other. In fact, in the ten years since the enactment of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, over 200 compacts have been signed in 24 states.

Tribes deserve a fair opportunity. In many cases they have been denied that chance.

I understand that the National Gambling Impact Study Commission has called for a "pause" in gaming but this amendment does nothing but unfairly discriminate against the only people that use gaming revenues for altruistic purposes.

Moreover, it goes to the very heart of our nation's failure to defend what Tribal Govern-

ments are entitled to by virtue of their status as domestic dependent nations.

Why is there no amendment to limit the growth of gaming in Atlantic City? How about state governments that use lotteries everyday?

The reason is because you all feel that Indians are an easy target. Gaming opponents feel as though they need a quick fix to satisfy their agendas. Consequently the Tribes must bear the burden of the political expediency that is being demonstrated by this amendment.

My colleagues, this amendment is not so much about gaming as it is about not respecting the trust responsibility that our government has towards the first Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I find this particularly disturbing that we are considering this amendment offered by Republican members on a day that Speaker Hastert and the Republican leadership are meeting with several tribal leaders in support of Tribal sovereignty.

This amendment has no place in this debate and I urge all who care for the sovereign rights of native Americans to oppose its passage.

RISE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION OF XINJIANG, CHINA

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to one of the forgotten areas of the world, where human rights abuses are at an all time high and the degree of these abuses is inhuman and completely unimaginable to most of us—the Uighur Autonomous region of Xinjiang, China (XUAR). I have spoken before this Congress many times to discuss the horrendous way the government of the People's Republic of China treats its people, but, according to the experts, the situation the Uighurs are facing is far worse than in any other region of the country.

Amnesty International released a report in April documenting the conditions and abuses in Xinjiang, and yesterday the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a briefing on the Uighurs. We heard from five Uighurs as well as human rights advocates who all describe the same abominable situation.

Xinjiang has long been inhabited by a mixture of different Muslim peoples including Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and Tajiks, as well as the majority Uighurs. The region enjoyed independent statehood until 1759, when it was conquered by China's Manchu dynasty. In subsequent years, there were numerous attempts to shake Chinese rule lasting well into the twentieth century. The most significant of these was in 1945, when local forces took advantage of the looming civil war between Communist and Nationalist Chinese to revive the independent republic of East Turkestan, which survived until 1949 when it was crushed by divisions of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Han Chinese migration and settlement into Xinjiang greatly increased with the onset of the economic reforms of the early 1980s, to the point where there are now almost as many Han as Uighurs living in Xinjiang. The two main ethnic groups live in virtual segregation,

racial discrimination is widely reported and unemployment among Uighurs is high.

Since the early 1990s, the growing strength of the Islamic cultural and religious movement in Xinjiang, combined with the end of Soviet political domination in Central Asia, has led the central government once again to impose increasingly tight restrictions on religious worship and practice in the region. The number of schools and mosques forced to close is rapidly increasing, displaying the strong similarities between the PRC's treatment of this region and Tibet.

Amnesty International reports that torture of political prisoners in XUAR is systematic and that new and particularly cruel methods of torture are used that are not known to be used elsewhere in China. The XUAR is the only region in China where political prisoners are known to be executed. They have been executed for offenses related to opposition activities, street protests or clashes with security forces. As true in other parts of the PRC, the death penalty is also applicable for a wide range of offenses, including non violent ones such as economic and drug related crimes. There are two reasons why this abuse is so much worse than in other areas of China. First, its history of independence and proximity to free countries, and second is the fact that the rest of the world seems to have forgotten them.

Amnesty International is calling on the Chinese government to establish a special commission to investigate human rights violations and economic, social, and cultural needs of the region. I want to join in this call, and demand that the Chinese government stop treating its citizens this way. The international community must be made aware of these atrocities and it is time for us to stand up and let the Uighurs know that the world has not forgotten them, and the Chinese government can not continue with this type of behavior.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to offer for the record a memorandum on the Second Amendment and Gun Control Legislation that was written by Professor Robert A. Sedler, an outstanding constitutional law professor who has taught at the University of Kentucky Law School and now teaches at Wayne State University School of Law. Professor Sedler previously worked with my Judicial Committee staff on constitutional matters during the recent impeachment proceedings. Given the current national debate on gun control and gun control legislation, his memorandum is particularly enlightening.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

(By Robert A. Sedler, Professor of Constitutional Law, Wayne State University School of Law)

Opponents of gun control legislation, such as the NRA, frequently invoke the Second Amendment to argue that gun control legislation is unconstitutional. Such an argument is completely misplaced for two rea-

sons. First, under current constitutional doctrine, as propounded by the United States Supreme Court, the Second Amendment does not establish an individual right to bear arms. The Second Amendment is a state's rights provision, guaranteeing a collective rather than an individual right. Second, even if the Supreme Court were to hold in the future that the Second Amendment does create an individual right to bear arms, that right, like other constitutional rights, would not be absolute, and would be subject to reasonable regulation that did not impose an "undue burden" on that right.

The Second Amendment starts out by referring to state militias, which were the forerunner of the present National Guard: "A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State," and goes on with the more familiar: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." At the time of the Constitution every state had a militia, consisting of all able-bodied men. When there was a call to arms to defend the state, each able-bodied man was supposed to show up with his own rifle. Every man had a rifle, which he used for hunting and for the legitimate self-defense of his family and his home. The Constitution gave the federal government a lot of power over the state militias. Congress could call them into federal service (Art. I, sec. 8, cl. 15), as units of the Michigan National Guard have been called up for service in Bosnia and Kosovo. When the militias were called into federal service, they were subject to the control of the President as Commander-in-Chief (Art. II, sec. 2, cl. 1). Congress was also given the power to govern the organization and training of the state militias (Art. I, sec. 8, cl. 16), just as today Congress regulates the state National Guard.

After the Constitution was ratified, there was concern in the states that Congress would use its power over the state militias simply to abolish them. This concern was addressed by the Second Amendment. The language and historical context of the Second Amendment indicates that it was to be a states rights provision, it was intended to prevent Congress from abolishing the state militias. Under this view of the Second Amendment, it would not be the source of an individual right to bear arms, and federal gun control laws could not be challenged as violative of the Second Amendment.¹

The contrary view focuses on the fact that the time of the Second Amendment, all the able-bodied men that made up the state militia were expected to have their own rifles to bring with them whenever there was a call to arms. Under this view, the Second Amendment would be the source of an individual right to bear arms, just as the First Amendment is the source of an individual right to free speech, and federal gun control laws could be challenged as violative of the Second Amendment. Many state constitutions do expressly establish an individual right to bear arms. The Michigan Constitution, Art. I, sec 6, for example, provides that: "Every person has a right to bear arms for the defense of himself and the state." There is much debate today among law professors and others over whether or not the Second Amendment should be seen as establishing an individual right to bear arms.

Of course, only the United States Supreme Court can say authoritatively what the Second Amendment means. The only Supreme Court case to expressly deal with that subject is the older case of *United States v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 174 (1939). In that case, the Court rejected a Second Amendment challenge to a

federal law banning a number of weapons such as sawed-off shotguns and machine guns. The Court seemed to say that the Second Amendment was a state's rights provision intended to prevent Congress from abolishing the state militias, and was not intended to establish an individual right to bear arms. The Court stated: "With obvious purpose to assure the continuation and render possible the effectiveness of such forces, the declaration and guarantee of the Second Amendment were made. It must be interpreted and applied with that end in view," and concluded that, "[i]n the absence of any evidence tending to show that the possession or use of a 'shotgun having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length' at this time has some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well-regulated militia, we cannot say that the Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear such an instrument." 307 U.S. at 178. The Supreme Court has not had a case dealing with the meaning of the Second Amendment since *Miller*, except to cite *Miller* for the proposition that federal restrictions on the use of firearms by individuals do not "trench upon any constitutionally protected liberties." *Lewis v. United States*, 445 U.S. 55, 65, n.8 (1980).

Because lower federal courts are bound by United States Supreme Court decisions unless and until they are overruled by the Supreme Court itself, the federal courts of appeal have unanimously held, as the Sixth Circuit has put it, that, "[i]t is clear that the Second Amendment guarantees a collective rather than an individual right." *United States v. Warin*, 530 F.2d 103, 1106 (6th Cir. 1976) (upholding ban on possession of sub-machine guns). Recent cases holding that the Second Amendment does not establish an individual right to bear arms include *Hickman v. Block*, 81 F.3d 98 (9th Cir. 1996) (person denied a concealed weapon permit has no standing to claim that denial violates his Second Amendment rights); *Love v. Peppersack*, 47 F. 3d 120 (4th Cir. 1995) (denial of application to purchase handgun cannot be challenged as violative of Second Amendment).²

The Supreme Court's decision in *Miller* sets forth the current state of the law, which is why the lower federal courts must reject any claim that the Second Amendment establishes a constitutionally-protected individual right to bear arms. The Supreme Court may change its mind, but unless and until it does, the federal courts cannot properly use the Second Amendment to declare any gun control law unconstitutional.

Let us assume, however, that the Supreme Court does change its mind and holds that the Second Amendment does protect the individual right to bear arms. This would not have any effect at all on existing and proposed federal gun control laws, such as the ban on assault weapons, the ban on possession of a gun by a convicted felon, a requirement that guns contain safety locks and be kept out of the reach of children, or a background check waiting period. Constitutional rights are not absolute, and are subject to reasonable regulation in the public interest. Guidance on this point can be obtained from the decisions of state courts upholding gun control laws as a reasonable regulation of the right to bear arms. In upholding a ban on

¹ The Supreme Court long ago held that the Second Amendment does not apply to the states. *Presser v. Illinois*, 116 U.S. 252 (1886).

² In view of this unbroken line of federal appellate decisions, the very recent decision of a federal judge in Texas holding that the Second Amendment establishes an individual right to bear arms and renders unconstitutional a federal law prohibiting possession of a firearm while under a court restraining order, *United States v. Emerson*, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4700, U.S. Dist. Ct. N.D. Tex., 4/7/99, is puzzling and is likely to be reversed on appeal.

dangerous weapons over 60 years ago, for example, the Michigan Supreme Court stated as follows: "Some weapons are adapted and recognized by the common opinion of good citizens as proper for the private defense of person and property. Other are the peculiar tools of the criminal. The police power of the state to preserve public safety and peace and to regulate the bearing of arms may take account of the character and ordinary use of weapons and interdict those whose customary employment of individuals is to violate the law." *People v. Brown*, 253 Mich. 537, 539, 235 N.W. 245, 246 (1931).

Moreover, since constitutional rights are not absolute, any regulation of a right—even a fundamental one, such as a woman's right to abortion—is not subject to constitutional challenge unless it imposes an undue burden on the exercise of that right. *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992). Thus, a 24 hour waiting period before a woman can have an abortion was held in *Casey* to be constitutional because it does not prevent the women from having an abortion. By the same token, a three day waiting period for the sale of a gun at a gun show so that a background check can be run on the purchaser does not impose an undue burden on the right to bear arms, since it does not prevent a qualified purchaser from obtaining the gun. Nor does a requirement that guns be equipped with safety locks impose any burden at all on a person's ability to obtain and use guns. Nor could it possibly be suggested that the Constitution stands as an obstacle to denying a gun to a convicted felon or a mentally unstable person. Likewise, a ban on carrying a concealed weapon would be constitutionally permissible because of the clear danger to public safety that can result from people pulling out guns and engaging in a shootout in the public streets.

A constitutionally protected right to bear arms would include the right to have a rifle for hunting and for defense of the home. It might also include the right to have a handgun for defense of the home, although this is debatable. A ban on private ownership of handguns would serve the public interest in crime prevention, since so many crimes are committed by the use of handguns. This aside, most assuredly, the right to bear arms would not include the right to have a sub-machine gun or a sawed-off shotgun or an assault weapon, or to carry concealed weapons, or to brandish a gun in the public streets. And again, any right to gun ownership would be subject to reasonable regulation in the public interest.

In summary, under the current state of the law, the Second Amendment does not establish an individual right to bear arms. But even if the Supreme Court were to subsequently hold that it did, all the present and proposed federal gun control laws would be upheld as constitutional, because they are reasonable and do not impose an undue burden on the right to bear arms.

TRIBUTE TO LINNEAUS C.
DORMAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Linneaus C. Dorman of Midland, Michigan, who recently received the 1999 Percy L. Julian Award, the highest award presented by the National Organization for the Professional

Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. Dr. Dorman earned this award for his pure and applied research in engineering and science.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Dorman and draw attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and my constituents in the 4th Congressional District to Dr. Dorman's distinguished career.

Dr. Dorman's fascination with science began in his childhood, with a friend and a chemistry set. Since then he has made remarkable contributions to his field. He earned his bachelor of science in chemistry from Bradley University and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Indiana University in 1961.

After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Dorman went to Midland to work for The Dow Chemical Company, where he worked in research and development with a primary focus on the chemistry of carbon compounds, found in living things. His work in agricultural chemical synthesis, automated protein synthesis, ceramics, and polymers have earned him high praise from his peers.

Today he continues to be involved with science and shares his love of it with young people in the community, while remaining a member of the National Organization for the Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

Dr. Dorman's contribution to science and the community make him an outstanding role model and a respected professional in his field. I am honored today to recognize Dr. Dorman, his professional accomplishments, and his willingness to share his knowledge.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, long after the end of the Cold War and the breakup of the Soviet Union, the threat of nuclear weapons remains. Today, the United States continues to possess around 7,300 operational nuclear warheads, and the other declared nuclear powers—Russia, Great Britain, France, and China—are estimated to possess over 10,000 operational warheads. Furthermore, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially in countries in unstable regions, is now one of the leading military threats to the national security of the United States and its allies.

The United States, as the sole remaining superpower and the leading power in the world, has an obligation to take bold steps toward encouraging other nuclear powers to eliminate their arsenals and to prevent the proliferation of these weapons. That is why I have chosen today, on the 54th anniversary of the first test of a nuclear explosive in Alamogordo, New Mexico, to introduce the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 1999. The bill would require the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons and to refrain from replacing them with weapons of mass destruction once foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and execute similar requirements.

My bill also provides that the resources used to sustain our nuclear weapons program

be used to address human and infrastructure needs such as housing, health care, education, agriculture, and the environment. By eliminating our nuclear weapons arsenal, the United States can realize an additional, "peace dividend" from which to fund critical domestic initiatives, including new programs proposed in the Administration's FY 2000 budget.

Many courageous leaders from the United States and from around the world have spoken out on the obsolescence of nuclear weapons and the need for their elimination. Those leaders include retired Air Force General Lee Butler and more than 60 other retired generals and admirals from 17 nations, who, on December 5, 1996, issued a statement that "the continuing existence of nuclear weapons in the armories of nuclear powers, and the ever-present threat of acquisition of these weapons by others, constitute a peril to global peace and security and to the safety and survival of the people we are dedicated to protect" and that the "creation of a nuclear-weapons-free world [is] necessary [and] possible."

Recent events on the Indian subcontinent demonstrate the urgent need for passage of my bill. Last year, in defiance of the non-proliferation efforts of the United States and the world community, India detonated several underground nuclear test devices, after it had refrained from doing so since its first nuclear test in 1973. Pakistan, a neighboring country with which India has fought three wars since the British colonial period ended in 1947, soon followed suit with its own nuclear tests. The trading of nuclear tests last year between India and Pakistan were a source of heightened concern as armed skirmishes persisted last month in the disputed Kashmir region adjoining those two nations.

The United States and the world community clearly must redouble their efforts to obtain commitments from India and Pakistan to refrain from actual deployment of nuclear weapons, as well as to contain other countries that aspire to become nuclear powers, such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea, from moving forward with their programs. However, the United States will be far more credible and persuasive in these efforts if we are willing to take the initiative in dismantling our own nuclear weapons program and helping arms industries to convert plants and employees to providing products and services that enhance the wealth and quality of life of ordinary citizens. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 1999 and for the committees with jurisdiction over the bill to mark it up quickly so that it can be considered and passed by the full House.

TRIBUTE TO LAVONNE LITTLE
BISHOP

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in respect and remembrance of a gracious and remarkable lady in my district, Mrs. LaVonne Bishop, affectionately known as "Miss LaVonne" who passed away on July 10, 1999, at her home in St. Catherine's Village in Madison, MS. She was 95 years of age, and the

widow of the late Herbert Bishop, a former mayor of Forest, and a banking official, who served for many years as the President of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Forest, Mississippi, now known as Community Bank.

Miss LaVonne was born in Magee, MS and moved to Forest, MS at an early age. She graduated from Forest High School in 1920, and earned her music degree from Belhaven College in the mid-twenties. Upon graduation from Belhaven, she returned to Forest and taught music in the Forest school system until her marriage to Mr. Bishop.

For the greater part of her life, Miss LaVonne focused her efforts on building a strong church and community relations in Forest and Scott County. Very seldom was there a civic or community project developed within the city of Forest, or the county of Scott, that she did not have some input. Because of her efforts in community development, Forest was named a winner in the National Community Achievement Contest in 1960, and in 1962, Miss LaVonne was named Mississippi Club Woman of the Year. She also served as chairwoman for many Merit Programs sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce. Further, for many years, she served as chairperson for the Forest Miss Hospitality committee, and actively participated in drives that benefitted the Hospital Auxiliary, the Cancer Fund, the Heart Fund, and the March of Dimes Fund.

At Forest Baptist Church, she was the church organist for more than 50 years. On a number of occasions, she served as President of the Women's Missionary Union, and was a teacher and pianist in the junior department. At St. Catherine Village, she was pianist for the choir and the residents of Siena, the nursing division of the Village. Up until her death, she and her piano partner, Grant Smith, performed periodic concerts in the area surrounding Jackson.

Miss LaVonne was very devoted to her family. If you wanted to see pride and job at its apex, then start a conversation about her children, Neill (Mrs. Wade Barton) and Gene and their families, her late husband Herbert and his family, her parents the late Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Little and her brother Woodrow. Also, very dear to Miss LaVonne as her friend, Mrs. Alice Burke and her family, who worked at the Bishop household for many years.

Miss LaVonne's life and legacy can be summed up with one word LOVE; Love for God, Love for Family, Love for Friends, Love for Country, Love for State, and by all means, Love for Forest and Scott County. She was truly a great Christian, and an American, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family, while at the same time, expressing my appreciation, and that of all citizens of the 3rd district for her life of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE BALTIERREZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Joanne Baltierrez, who retired earlier this year from a seat on the City Council of the City of San Fernando. Joanne had a distinguished five-year tenure on the council, including a

one-year term as Mayor. While in office, she was a courageous, visionary and independent-minded public servant, who worked very hard to represent her constituents well and to make a real difference in the quality of life for the citizens of San Fernando.

During her time on the City Council, Joanne compiled an impressive list of accomplishments for her constituents. She is especially and rightfully proud of her successful efforts to keep a Los Angeles county health clinic from moving outside of its San Fernando location. She did this in a particularly creative manner by arranging a land swap with the county that enabled the much-needed facility to remain within her city. Joanne also helped assemble a coalition with San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, the San Fernando Police Department and the courts to provide counseling and shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Another of Joanne's innovations was a series of town hall meetings to allow members of the Council to better gauge the needs and concerns of their constituents.

Joanne has always given unstintingly of her time and talents to public service. Over the past decade, in addition to her work on the City Council, she has served as a recruitment coordinator for Los Angeles Mission College, Director of Community Services for the Volunteer Center of San Fernando Valley, Resource Coordinator for the Latin American Civic Association and Community Liaison for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Now that she has retired from the Council, Joanne has entered a new phase of her career in politics, serving as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. Joanne now puts her considerable abilities to work in representing the League throughout the community and promoting the growth of this highly respected organization through public relations and marketing strategies.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Joanne Baltierrez, whose commitment to her community and strong sense of justice are an inspiration to us all. I am proud to be her friend.

ST. LOUIS A SCHOOL DESEGREGATION SUCCESS STORY

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, May 17, 1999, marked the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* holding racial segregation laws and practices unconstitutional and ushering in the civil rights era. Last month the Harvard Civil Rights Project published a report showing that the nation is now moving backwards toward re-segregation of public schools.

I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the remarkable story of desegregation in St. Louis. St. Louis illustrates the gains that can be made for children even in these times. In St. Louis, a 1983 settlement of a desegregation case brought by the NAACP resulted in the largest voluntary metropolitan school desegregation program in the nation, with 13,000 black students from St. Louis attending school

in 16 suburban districts. The program was very successful in increasing the graduation and college-going rates of participating youngsters as was a magnet program in city schools.

When the State sought to end its financing of the remedy in the early 1990's many feared that the opportunities that had been afforded children would end as had happened elsewhere. But an extraordinary thing happened. The Missouri State legislature voted funds sufficient to continue the programs—including as well as major program for school improvements in St. Louis—for at least ten more years. The legislature insisted that the city of St. Louis contribute financially by raising its sales and property taxes. Many feared that this would not occur. But in February of this year the voters approved a sales tax increase by an almost 2-1 margin—and every Ward in the City—Black and White—voted for the tax increase.

Many people in Missouri worked hard to achieve this remarkable result. Special thanks are due to William H. Danforth, the Court-appointed settlement coordinator, who recognized that continuing a valuable remedy was not inconsistent with ending court supervision. James De Clue, the NAACP leader and Minnie Liddell, the community leader, toiled over twenty five years to advance the interests of children, they are the true heroes of this story. Legislative leadership was exercised by then-Representative Steve Stoll along with Senators Ted House, Lacy Clay and Harold Caskey. My colleague Congressman RICHARD GEPHARDT also helped assure that St. Louisans understood the importance of passing the referendum while business and religious leaders pitched in and lent their support.

Mr. Speaker, we must not give up on the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The St. Louis story provides a model for other communities. I would like to share with my colleagues some articles that detail the success of St. Louis' school desegregation program.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jan. 7, 1999]

SETTLEMENT IS REACHED IN DESEGREGATION CASE

(By Rick Pierce and Carolyn Bower)

The clock on the library wall at Yeatman Middle School in St. Louis said 15 minutes after 2 p.m.

Dozens of lawyers, school superintendents, school board members and settlement coordinator Dr. William H. Danforth were waiting to announce an agreement to settle the area's school desegregation case.

A lawyer turned to another lawyer and asked, "Everyone important seems to be here. Who are we waiting for?"

Moments later, Minnie Liddell, regal in a flowing red blouse and slacks and moving slowly with the aid of a four-pronged metal cane, entered the library.

Knots of people parted to let her through. Some hugged her.

Twenty-seven years ago, when school officials tried to transfer her son, Craton, and other students, out of Yeatman School—a school the Liddell family had fallen in love with—she and other parents sued the St. Louis School Board.

Now Liddell, 59, who has three grandchildren in St. Louis schools, watched as Danforth announced the settlement, something many had predicted was impossible.

"There has been an agreement to settle the case," said Danforth, adding that the agreement would be presented to U.S. District

Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh Sr. "This is a historic occasion for St. Louis."

Danforth said many people had told him it was impossible to settle a suit with more than 20 parties.

"It did take time. I never had any idea how complicated the legal issues were," he said. "What we all wanted was to provide children with a first-class education and the opportunity for choice. We all wanted the voluntary transfer program to continue with this settlement."

After Danforth spoke, Liddell said with obvious emotion: "All I can say is, 'Yay, St. Louis' This has been a long time coming, yet we have just begun. I'm glad I lived to see a settlement in the case."

Liddell suffered a stroke a couple years ago and suffers from numerous health problems.

The settlement still needs approval of area school boards. Besides St. Louis, 16 St. Louis County districts were parties in the suit.

Clayton and Parkway school boards were expected to meet in closed sessions Wednesday night to discuss the settlement. The Rockwood School Board might consider the agreement tonight. The St. Louis School Board already has approved the agreement.

Other parties might agree with Liddell. Until the end, the deal to settle the St. Louis

desegregation case was in danger of breaking apart.

Until the deal was notched around noon Wednesday, anything was possible, said the attorneys involved in the case. The talks had become more frequent, and often ran late, in the past two weeks while students were on holiday break.

The talks New Year's Eve lasted until 8 p.m.

On Monday and Tuesday, attorneys and officials representing the more than 20 parties in the case met from before noon to past midnight at the downtown offices of Bryan Cave, a law firm in St. Louis. Tuesday's schedule followed suit.

As the clock continued to tick past the self-imposed, end-of-the-year deadline, tempers flared.

"We were dealing with difficult issues and people got tired," said Douglas Copeland, an attorney who represents the Webster Groves and Valley Park school districts. "No one ever came to blows."

The attorneys and others involved in the talks have declined to discuss specifics because they were muzzled by a federal judge. But two key issues that remained unresolved until the end were the county districts' concerns over the terms of the busing program

and the city district's concerns over how much it would get for new schools when the students returned.

Ken Brostron, the St. Louis School Board's attorney, said a deal wasn't worked out on how much money the city would get for new schools until Tuesday evening. That figure is \$180 million.

The county districts' concerns over the busing plan, especially over how long they would have to commit to it and who would pay for it, weren't resolved until Wednesday morning. County superintendents had hoped that the state would pay for transportation for students to finish in the schools they attend.

The problem was finding enough state money. County superintendents insisted that no local tax money would be used to pay for the education or transportation of transfer students—which the county districts got. Although issues related to St. Louis were resolved by Tuesday, county superintendents did not reach an agreement until shortly before noon Wednesday.

Then they drove through snow-lined streets to Yeatman, where the case had begun decades ago.

School District	City-to-County enrollment	County-to-City enrollment	Total student enrollment	Percent of black students, 1982-83	Percent of black students 1998	Percent of City-to-County enrollment
Affton	369	73	2,657	1.6	15.43	13.8
Bayless	171	53	1,395	0.1	13.26	12.3
Brentwood	214	15	924	23.9	27.16	23.1
Clayton	479	7	2,404	6.0	21.96	19.9
Ferg.-Flor	0	58	11,368	140.5	55.85	0
Hancock	365	95	1,660	3.0	23.31	21.9
Hazelwood	4	121	18,315	17.4	43.2	0
Kirkwood	691	31	5,061	19.3	25.07	13.6
Ladue	444	11	3,406	15.6	25.63	13.0
Lindbergh	1,030	58	5,205	1.6	20.79	19.7
Maple-Rich. Hts	0	216	1,115	1	241	0
Mehlville	1,411	124	11,694	.03	13.8	12.0
Parkway	3,085	86	20,783	2.5	17.83	14.8
Pattonville	1,058	44	7,027	5.3	27.44	15.0
Ritenour	145	254	6,629	14.5	28.2	2.2
Riv. Gardens	0	1	6,850	1	281	0
Rockwood	2,661	33	20,706	.9	14.23	12.9
Valley Park	229	12	989	.4	28.41	23.1
Webster Groves	497	59	4,163	19.9	26.98	11.9
Total/Average	12,853	1,351	132,251	na	na	9.7

Source: City-to-County and County-to-City Enrollment as of 11/4/98, Voluntary Interdistrict Coordinating Council. Total Student Enrollment as of 9/30/98, Provided by Districts.
¹ Non-white population.
² 1997 date.
³ Not available.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jan. 28, 1999]

A BETTER SETTLEMENT THAN ANYONE ELSE GOT

(By James A De Clue and William L. Taylor)

STATE FUNDING COULD TERMINATE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE

When citizens of St. Louis vote next week on the tax referendum, they will have a unique opportunity to invest in the future of their city and its children.

In many communities around the nation, courts are declaring an end to judicially supervised school desegregation and to the mandated subsidies for improved education that are often part of the remedy. But in St. Louis, the state Legislature has offered a financial package that will enable educational opportunity programs to continue for 10 years or more.

Both from a financial and an educational standpoint, the St. Louis settlement is the best of any school district in the nation. The state funding will make possible continuation of the voluntary interdistrict transfer program and the city magnet program. Both of these programs have enabled African-American city students to complete high school and go on to college at far greater rates than they have in the past.

The \$45 million in state funding that will come to the city if the referendum is approved will not only maintain the magnets but improve educational opportunity in all of the city's schools.

For teachers, the funds will mean new opportunities for professional development and a better environment in the classroom. Part of the reason is new investments in pre-school and in all-day kindergartens along with early-grade reading programs like Success for All that have proved effective in many American schools.

These initiatives will mean that children will emerge from the early grades with the skills they need and that schools will be able to avoid the Hobson's choice between social promotion and retention.

For parents, the agreement contains perhaps the most comprehensive set of reform measures adopted in any litigation. This includes tough performance standards that require schools to show year-by-year progress in students'

It also calls for substantial assistance to schools that are failing and new leadership for schools that do not respond to assistance. One novel feature is a right of transfer for students to go from failing schools to those that are providing better educational opportunities.

Indeed, with the ability to select schools in the county, magnet schools in the city and the right to transfer out of failing schools, St. Louis parents will have a greater range of choice than exists elsewhere.

Is there a price to be paid for these positive changes in education? Yes, voters must approve the two-thirds-of-a-cent increase in the sales tax. But St. Louis citizens will get a 2-for-1 one return (\$45 million in state funds for about \$20 million in local revenues), a much better deal than has been offered anywhere else.

And while the funds will barely match those now ordered by the court, the city will be rid of noneducational expenses such as court costs and can get an even better educational return by investing in initiatives that have proved effective.

If, on the other hand, the levy loses, state funding will terminate in the foreseeable future and the prospects for the city will be bleak.

As two people who have spent all of our professional lives serving as advocates for children, we know that opportunities for a community to make a difference in the lives and futures of children come along very rarely. We pray that the people of St. Louis will grasp the opportunity next Tuesday.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Feb. 3, 1999]

VOTING FOR A MIRACLE
PUBLIC EDUCATION

The campaign for a just settlement to the 27-year-old school desegregation case ended in victory on Tuesday. The crusade to improve the education of all our children begins today.

Tuesday's overwhelming vote in favor of the sales tax increase for city schools is the latest miracle in a year of political miracles.

The first was getting the Missouri Legislature to pass a law to continue making extra payments to the St. Louis schools after the end of court-ordered desegregation. The second was Dr. William H. Danforth's trick of getting the platoon of lawyers to stop squabbling and hammer out a deal. The third was persuading the people of St. Louis to lay aside their opposition to taxes and lack of confidence in the schools and, instead, to tax themselves in hopes of a better future.

This feat makes us the first place in the nation where the democratic institutions of government found a way to preserve the gains of the era of desegregation while making it possible to improve the education of all children.

Imagine. This happened in Missouri.

But as much as we deserve to be proud, it will avail us nothing if we go back inside our homes and businesses thinking the problem is licked.

It isn't. We have to commit ourselves to something that is much bigger, much harder and much more important than a few political victories. We have to commit ourselves to improving our schools in tangible ways that transform * * *

The uncomfortable truth is that we don't know how to do it. But the voters aren't going to take that as an excuse for failure.

A majority of voters said in exit polls that they did not have confidence in the St. Louis public schools. But almost half of those voting in favor of the tax said they did so in hopes of strengthening neighborhood schools. In other words, people don't trust the schools and were unhappy voting for the tax, but they went ahead out of civic obligation and now expect results.

Trust and success are inextricably linked. If we can re-establish trust, if we can pull together in search of this common purpose, we won't fail.

All of those who pushed hard to pass the tax have an obligation in this respect.

School officials who talked about accountability must make that word mean something. Lawyers who brokered the agreement must see to it that the promises of educational improvement are enforced. Civic leaders who backed the tax must redouble the commitment of their groups and corporations to the schools. Newspapers that

crusaded for the deal, must keep their light shining along the path toward better schools.

Suburban school districts too have an obligation. More than half the voters said in exit polls that they considered the city-county transfer program a success. That heightens the duty of suburban school districts to stick with the program past the three-year opt-out period and to improve the education that 13,000 city students get at the other end of the bus ride.

Making a quantum improvement in the education of our city school children will take a miracle. In St. Louis today, mere miracles are within our grasp.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 8, 1999]

DEAL STRUCK FOR ENDING BUSING PLAN IN
ST. LOUIS

(By Pam Belluck)

The St. Louis school system, which has the country's largest busing program, may soon be released from its longstanding court-ordered desegregation plan.

After a long, tortuous negotiation process, a tentative agreement reached this week would end 15 years of court-ordered desegregation under which about 13,000 black inner-city students from the 59,000-student district are voluntarily bused each year to predominantly white suburban schools.

Minnie Lidell, a parent who was the lead plaintiff in a 1972 lawsuit that led to the court-ordered desegregation plan, expressed optimism about the settlement.

"I think we have a plan in place where, if all sides live up to their end of the deal, I think we can see some real change," Ms. Lidell said. "We have a chance to improve the quality of education in St. Louis for all kids, and that was our original goal when we started all of this."

The lawsuit accused the district of segregating its schools by race. Beyond remedying the racial disparity, the desegregation plan spurred improvements in city schools, including renovation of buildings and the reduction of class sizes.

The St. Louis settlement comes as a wave of cities across the country seek to be released from court-ordered busing programs. In recent years, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Mo., Denver, Oklahoma City, Norfolk, Va., Wilmington, Del., Nashville and Cleveland, have resolved their desegregation cases.

But several aspects set the St. Louis settlement apart from others.

For one, it would not so much discontinue busing as change its financing.

Many parents and some administrators in both the city and suburban schools would like busing to continue, saying it gives black city students a choice of where to be educated and gives city schools an incentive to compete for those students. A popular part

of the desegregation program is a small-scale busing plan under which about 1,300 white students from the suburban counties can attend specialized magnet schools in the city.

Several years ago, the State of Missouri, which pays the St. Louis schools \$70 million a year to run the busing program, went to court to try to have the desegregation order lifted so state taxpayers would no longer have to pay for carrying it out.

As a result of Wednesday's agreement, which is subject to the approval of Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh of Federal District Court, and the school boards of the participating districts, and a bill passed by the state Legislature last year, the state would reduce its obligation to \$40 million. The proposal calls for most of the remaining money, about \$23 million, to come from raising the city sales tax by two-thirds of 1 cent.

Whether the agreement is completed depends on whether city voters approve the tax increase in a ballot scheduled for Feb. 2.

"It's all contingent on the passage of a sales tax, which I think is going to be a tough job," said Dr. Cleveland Hammonds Jr., the superintendent of the St. Louis school district.

The agreement would maintain the current busing for at least three years and would allow students already being bused the option of completing their education in the suburban schools. After three years, the 15 participating school districts in St. Louis County would have the option to stop accepting new bused students, although Dr. Jere Hochman, superintendent of the Parkway School District, which receives 3,000 bused students, said he believed that most of the districts would retain the program as long as they continued to receive enough money for transportation and other costs.

All the parties had some interest in reaching this week's settlement. The state would save money. The suburban school districts would get the freedom to discontinue busing.

While the city schools would receive about \$7 million less for the busing program, Kenneth Brostron, a lawyer for the school district, said the benefit of being freed from the cumbersome court order would make up for it. Now, Mr. Brostron said, many decisions about staffing ratios and programs are subject to approval of the judge.

And as for the plaintiffs in the original lawsuit, they would receive commitments that the city school district would "provide for a lot of things to make the schools better," said William I. Taylor, the lead lawyer representing the plaintiffs.

Mr. Taylor said the agreement included provisions that would provide more teacher training, toughen the district's approach to failing schools and would allow students the chance to transfer from a failing school.