

agreements entered into with States would not be second-guessed by EPA, then they would be far more likely to agree to conduct a clean-up.

The Land Recycling Act of 1999 is based on the input of all of the stakeholders in the brownfields debate—the federal government, states, local governments, clean-up contractors, sellers, buyers, developers, lenders, environmentalists, community interests, and others—and in particular based on my own experiences in my district. Among other things, the bill provides “finality” for brownfields cleanups done pursuant to, and in compliance with, State programs, releasing buyers and sellers from liability and litigation under federal law. This certainly is number one on the wish list for developers and Rust Belt businesses. It will also provide liability protection under federal law for a number of nonpolluters, including: innocent landowners, prospective purchasers, contiguous property owners, and response action contractors—thus removing disincentives to clean-up and reuse. This legislation will streamline the federal cleanup process and employ sound and objective science. Finally, the Land Recycling Act of 1999 will provide brownfield grants to states, local governments, and Indian tribes for the inventory and assessment of brownfield sites and the capitalization of revolving loan funds for clean-ups.

I believe these straightforward solutions will provide an aggressive antidote to the wasteful burden of brownfields in America and are part of the overall set of solutions we must pursue to reform the nation's broken hazardous waste laws. I reemphasize this is a bipartisan effort. Reform efforts that are strictly Democrat or strictly Republican mean the group has a point to make but is not serious about enacting legislation in the 106th Congress.

While I am confident that the Land Recycling Act will go a very long way, we in Congress also have a larger task at hand—overhaul of the Superfund Program to ensure that we do not perpetuate the brownfields problem across the country. The Congress needs to address fairness and liability issues for small business recyclers and others. The Land Recycling Act of 1999 is only a piece of the puzzle. I look to the chairman of the Commerce Committee, Mr. BLILEY, and the chairman of the Finance and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Mr. OXLEY, for continued leadership on Superfund reform to address the areas that we can and must address. These two chairmen have fought for Superfund reform and continue their interest in real solutions. The bill last Congress, H.R. 3000, The Superfund Reform Act, had 19 Democrat cosponsors and represented a strong bipartisan effort. I hope that 1999 offers more promise, and that they will again consider including the Land Recycling Act as part of their Superfund reform effort.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIG. GEN. PAUL R. COOPER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Brigadier General Paul R. Cooper,

the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command's 440th Airlift Wing, since August 1995. General Cooper is leaving this post and on August 1 will assume his new duties as the Commander of the 445 Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Milwaukee's loss is surely Ohio's gain.

A native of Seattle, Washington, General Cooper graduated in 1967 from the University of Washington with a degree in chemistry and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He has been a wing commander, group commander and installation commander at two Air Force Reserve bases. General Cooper was recalled to active duty during Operation Desert Storm, where he served as commander of a composite C-130 unit deployed to the Middle East for six months. He was selected to return to extended active duty from June to October 1996 to command the 4100th Group and serve as the installation commander of the NATO Air Base, Boznia-Herzegovina, as part of the implementation force under Operation Joint Endeavor. General Cooper is a command pilot with over 11,500 flight hours.

General Cooper and his wife Kathy will be honored at a farewell dinner and reception July 30 in Milwaukee at which time the Coopers' many friends and colleagues will have an opportunity to show their appreciation for a job well done at the 440th.

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank General Cooper for all his assistance over the last four years when I have called on him to aide the members of the unit as well as the Milwaukee community. In fact, just last month General Cooper showed his commitment to our community by presiding over a military medals presentation in which I was proud to distribute well-deserved medals to World War II soldiers and their families.

Again, on behalf of the men and women of the 440th and the entire southeastern Wisconsin community, thank you General Cooper for a job well done. God bless you and best wishes at your new post.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain that I was unable to vote on Messrs. GILMAN and MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. GIBBONS amendments to H.R. 2415, the American Embassy Security Act. I was needed at home in Missouri for family reasons. At the time of the votes, I was flying back to Washington and was unable to return in time.

If I had voted, I would have voted yes on Messrs. GILMAN and MARKEY's amendment to restrict all nuclear agreements and cooperation between the U.S. and Korea. I would have voted yes on Mr. SANDERS' amendment to prohibit State Department employees from imposing restrictions or interfering on Asian and African nations from importing prescription medications from the lowest-priced source available. And I would have voted yes on Mr. GIBBONS' amendment to require the Secretary of State to issue regulations authorizing that certain requirements be adhered to before a person younger than 14 years of age may be issued his or her first passport.

RESULTS OF AN EDUCATION
FIELD HEARING

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on the field hearing that the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth & Families held in my district—in Anaheim, California—on parent and community involvement in education this month.

Today's children bring so many needs to our classrooms. And we are all responsible for making sure those needs are met—parents, teachers and educators; federal, state and local government; the corporate and nonprofit sectors; our institutions of higher learning and law enforcement.

Teachers can't meet those needs alone. Parents can't do it alone. It's too late for our universities to do it once our kids get to college. And recent events all over our nation have proven that our young people certainly can't make it on their own.

Schools need adequate resources—especially those with the children and the families who need it the most—so our schools can focus on education instead of fundraising. That falls to all of us.

So at this hearing, we discussed how our communities can and should work with our schools. We heard from parents, teachers, students and members of the community on how to do that.

After the conclusion of the formal field hearing, I was able to conduct a question and answer period for members of the community who were in attendance.

This was an opportunity to examine issues that may not have been brought up by the panelists—for example the role of fathers in children's lives. As the traditional breadwinner in the family, fathers who work all day have rarely had time in the past to take an active role in the child's education. Fathers who do take part in the educational pursuits of their children have boosted self-esteem levels that have been lacking in these children. Simple tasks such as reading with and to children and helping with homework, are two ways that involve fathers in this process. Fathers do play a crucial role in the education of their children, a point community members wanted to highlight.

The need for gun safety was also stressed. Requirements, such as a minimum age of 21 and background checks for gun purchases play a significant role in keeping our schools and children safe.

The important question of funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was also raised. While educators look to the federal government to provide 40 percent of the funding for this program, many schools receive only 11 percent of the funding needed and are forced to compensate with local resources. The need to fill in this funding gap was stressed because without sufficient funding for this program more handicapped children are at risk of incarceration and substance abuse.

Suggestions were also made on how to improve education at both the federal and local levels. Citizens expressed their wishes on several items.