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House of Representatives

The House met at noon.

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May Your outstretched hand, O God, that lifts nations and peoples from the ordinary meanderings of the human spirit, touch our lives in such a way that we do extraordinary deeds to promote peace and good will, that we strive to champion justice and freedom and that we ever look to the needs of the homeless and those who are forgotten in our land. Make us instruments of healing when we are apart, make us agents of kindness where there is anger and make us good stewards of the blessings that have been the heritage of our land.

The Lord bless us and keep us,

The Lord make his face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us,

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace. Amen.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Section 2 of House Concurrent Resolution 235, 106th Congress, the House will now proceed to organizational business.

□

CALL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will utilize the electronic system to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

Members will record their presence by electronic device.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

Ackerman
Allen
Archer
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Bateman
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bliley
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Bonilla
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Burr
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Canady
Cannon
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chenoweth-Hage
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Conyers
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crowley
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (VA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Ewing
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fowler
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frost
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gephardt
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kanjorski
Kasich
Kelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kleczka
Klink
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Larson
Latham
LaTourette
Lazio
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Manzullo
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Menendez
Metcalf
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Minge
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pease
Pelosi
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pickett
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schakowsky
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Weygand
Wicker
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

□ 1229

The SPEAKER. On this rollcall, 313 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

□

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Printed on recycled paper.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALDACCI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

□

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolutions:

S. RES. 245

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick served the Senate with honor and distinction as its second Parliamentarian from 1965 to 1975;

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick created the Daily Digest of the Congressional Record and was its first editor from 1947 to 1951;

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick was Assistant Senate Parliamentarian from 1951 to 1964;

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick compiled thousands of Senate precedents into the official volume whose current edition bears his name;

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick served the Senate for more than 40 years;

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick upon his retirement as Senate Parliamentarian served as a consultant to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration;

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick performed his Senate duties in an impartial and professional manner; and

Whereas Floyd M. Riddick was honored by the Senate with the title Parliamentarian Emeritus: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Floyd M. Riddick, Parliamentarian Emeritus of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

S. RES. 246

Whereas Senator Curtis served with honor and distinction, for the State of Nebraska, in the House of Representatives from 1939 until his resignation in 1954 and in the Senate from 1955 to 1979;

Whereas Senator Curtis served his country for 40 years;

Whereas Senator Curtis stood for fiscal and social conservatism;

Whereas Senator Curtis regarded one of his biggest accomplishments as bringing flood control and irrigation to the Midwest;

Whereas Senator Curtis served as the Senate Republican Conference Chairman and ranking member on the Finance Committee during his last term in office;

Whereas Senator Curtis was admitted to the bar in 1930 and had a private law practice in Minden, Nebraska prior to his service in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas Senator Curtis served in Congress longer than any other Nebraskan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Carl Curtis, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Carl Curtis.

S. RES. 243

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

The message also announced that the Senate withdraws its request for a conference dated November 19, 1999 on the bill (S. 376) ''An Act to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, and for other purposes,'' that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the above entitled bill and agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. INOUYE, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–79, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, after consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders, announces the appointment of the following Senators to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, made during the sine die adjournment—

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS); and

The Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 105–277, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, who consulted with the Minority Leader of the House, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission, made during the sine die adjournment—C. Fred Bergsten, of Virginia, vice Paul A. Volcker, of New York, resigned.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106–120, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office—

The Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD);

Martin Faga, of Virginia; and

William Schneider, Jr., of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106–120, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office—

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY); and

Lieutenant General Patrick Marshall Hughes, United States Army, Retired, of Virginia.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to take this occasion to remind all Members and staff of the absolute prohibition contained in the last sentence of clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of any personal electronic office equipment, including cellular phones and computers, upon the floor of the House at any time.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or send cellular telephone messages to do so outside of the Chamber, and to deactivate, which means to turn off, any audible ring of cellular phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant at Arms, pursuant to Clause 3(a) of rule II, to enforce this prohibition.

□

□ 1230

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 401) providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 401

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

NOTIFICATION OF THE SENATE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 402) to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 402

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

DAILY HOUR OF MEETING

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 403) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 403

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, before Monday, May 15, 2000, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; 11 a.m. on Tuesdays; and 10 a.m. on

all other days of the week; and from Monday, May 15, 2000, until the end of the second session, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays; 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS—STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 241) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 241

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, January 27, 2000, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

HOUR OF MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, February 2, 2000.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□

GRANTING MEMBERS OF HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND REMARKS AND INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF 106TH CONGRESS

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for the second session of the 106th Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the RECORD entitled ''Extensions of Remarks.''

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2005, THE WORKPLACE GOODS JOB GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon a ''Dear Colleague'' letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of January 31 to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 2005, the ''Workplace Goods Jobs Growth and Competitiveness Act of 1999.''

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amendments must be preprinted prior to their consideration on the Floor.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted, and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

□

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 401

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Without objection, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following as members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), and

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT).

There was no objection.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore MORELLA signed the following enrolled bills on Thursday, December 2, 1999:

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;

H.R. 3419, to amend Title 49, United States Code, to establish the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3443, to amend Part E of Title IV of the Social Security Act to provide states with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to help children make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency, and for other purposes;

And the following enrolled bill on Monday, December 6, 1999:

H.R. 1180, to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

□

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, December 6, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 6, 1999 at 12:50 p.m.

That the Senate Agreed to conference report H.R. 1180

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

□

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 702(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (50 USC 401) and the order of the House of Thursday, November 18, 1999, the Speaker on Wednesday, January 12, 2000, appointed the following Member of the House to the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office:

Mr. GOSS, Florida.

And from private life:

Mr. Eli S. Jacobs, New York.

Mr. Larry D. Cox, Maryland.

□

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF COMMISSION ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a) of the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development Act (42 USC 1885a) and the order of the House of Thursday, November 18, 1999, the

Speaker on Monday, January 3, 2000, appointed the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. Charles E. Vela, Maryland.

□

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR DENNIS: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on November 10, 1999, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 606.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

□

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 14, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 created the Web-Based Education Commission (the ''Commission'') to conduct a thorough study to assess the educational software available in retail markets for secondary and postsecondary students. The Commission will conduct the study by utilizing existing research, holding public hearings and facilitating information exchange within and between the Federal Government, State Governments and educators. As a result of amendments to the Web-Based Education Commission Act included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2000, the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives is to appoint a Member from the House to the Commission and the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate is to appoint a Member from the Senate to the Commission.

Pursuant to Section 852(b) of Public Law 105–244 (as amended by Public Law 106–113), I hereby appoint the Honorable Johnny Isakson to the Web-Based Education Commission.

Sincerely,

BILL GOODLING,
Chairman.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRODUCTION OPERATIONS MANAGER, OFFICE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Gary Denick, Production Operations Manager, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena *ad testificandum* and *duces tecum* issued by the Court for the District of Columbia in the case of *United States* v. *Armfield*, Case No. M13209–99.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

GARY DENICK,
Production Operations Manager.

□

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRODUCTION OPERATIONS MANAGER, OFFICE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Gary Denick, Production Operations Manager, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 18, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with two subpoenas *ad testificandum* and *duces tecum* issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoenas is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

GARY DENICK,
Production Operations Manager.

□

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HENRY A. WAXMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that my district office has been served with a deposition subpoena for business records issued by the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, in the case of *McIntosh* v. *Department of Justice*, Case No. BC218586.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Member of Congress.ab

□

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kay Ford, Associate Administrator, Office of Human Resources:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that the Custodian of Records, Office of Human Resources has received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

KAY FORD,
Associate Administrator,
Office of Human Resources.

□

COMMUNICATION FROM THE FINANCIAL COUNSELING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FINANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jacqueline Aamot, Financial Counseling Director, Office of Finance:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that the Custodian of Records, Office of Finance has received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

JACQUELINE AAMOT,
Financial Counseling Director,
Office of Finance.

□

COMMUNICATION FROM COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, HOUSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Margaret Mitchell, Communications Specialist, House Information Resources:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that the Custodian of Records, House Information Resources has received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

MARGARET MITCHELL,
Communications Specialist,
House Information Resources.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that tonight when the two Houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the Floor of the House who does not have the privileges of the Floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance which is anticipated, the Chair feels that the rule regarding the privilege of the Floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the Floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special orders until 5:30 p.m., at which time the Chair will declare the House in recess.

The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

□

CITIZENSHIP FOR ELIAN GONZALEZ

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill that was introduced on Monday which would bestow citizenship upon Elian Gonzalez, a 6-year-old Cuban boy who was miraculously rescued off of Florida's shores on Thanksgiving Day.

This citizenship bill does not advocate for a particular outcome. It merely ensures due process. It ensures that a court of law will be afforded the opportunity to hear and evaluate all facts and arguments in the case; that it will hear testimony from Elian himself, who says he wants to stay here and who says he wants to be a citizen; that it will evaluate the statements of a child psychologist and other experts who present a comprehensive assessment of what is in Elian's best interest.

Mr. Speaker, in essence, this bill merely ensures that Elian's rights under the law are upheld and that his rights do not continue to be violated and circumvented by bureaucrats at INS.

Citizenship would also protect Elian in the event that he is required to return to Cuba against his wishes and one day seeks to return to our United States.

Mr. Speaker, for Elian's welfare and for the sake of justice, fairness and equality, I ask our colleagues to support the citizenship bill.

□

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT FORCE CITIZENSHIP ON ELIAN GONZALEZ

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, Elian Gonzalez will be the only person in the history of this country to have citizenship and/or residency shoved down his throat. He has not asked for it and the guardian who we accept is speaking for him in Cuba has rejected it.

In the meantime, there are 2 million folks awaiting citizenship in this country who followed the law and will not get it on that date. There are 9 million undocumented aliens who will not receive residency on that date. The arrogance of all of this is that for the first time ever we are going back on a promise. We have said for years that we are not trying to hurt the Cuban people, but rather the Cuban government.

□ 1245

From a desire to hurt the Cuban government, we now question grandparents' love for their grandchild, after all, they are only tools of the Communist government, and fathers' love for their child.

I have spent 3 days with the grandmothers. We all know grannies. They do not seem to me to be crying Communist tears or Socialist tears. They are crying the tears of grandparents who want Elian back. They show me pictures of his room, of his toys. They said to me, ''We cannot provide him trips to Disneyland or Disney World. We cannot provide him an electric car, but we love him, and we want him back.''

□

DO NOT PLAY POLITICS WITH EMERGENCY FUEL ASSISTANCE

(Mr. RAMSTAD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Clinton released $45 million in emergency fuel assistance to 11 States to help low-income families and senior citizens pay their utility bills, States that have been unusually hit by cold weather.

Mr. Speaker, I noted that New York, New Hampshire, and nine other States got these funds, but Minnesota got nothing. A State like Minnesota which has experienced very, very harsh winter temperatures, below zero windchills on a regular basis, where fuel prices are 30 percent higher than last year has got nothing.

As Senator WELLSTONE said yesterday, there is no reason to put families in New York or New Hampshire above families in Minnesota. I certainly agree with the good Senator from Minnesota. We are running out of money. And I have nothing against my friends in New York and New Hampshire, and perhaps their requests are warranted. But believe me, it is unfair, unconscionable, and unreasonable not to grant Minnesota the necessary funds.

Ninety thousand Minnesota families in need are going to be at risk if we do not get this emergency fuel assistance. I urge the White House not to play politics with the emergency fuel assistance.

□

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO GIVE ELIAN GONZALEZ RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today, and actually in comment of other colleagues as well, of supporting legislation that would give Elian Gonzalez at least resident alien status in the United States of America.

I do this because it is a Solomonesque answer to a tragic situation. But let me also just stop and reflect, and hopefully not just my colleagues but people throughout the country will listen, that if a mother left a country that had slavery and died on the way to freedom and her child was able to reach freedom and then the owner of the father told the father to ask for the boy back, we would be suspect of what the father said.

Unfortunately, the reality of Cuba today is exactly that. It is a country where the leader does, in fact, kill people indiscriminately, does in fact restrict freedom of speech, religion, and travel. If it were not so, what I just said, the father would be here.

The obvious reason the father is not here today or not here 2 months ago is because Castro is afraid that if he comes, he will not leave. I ask my colleagues to support this effort.

ASKING THE PRESIDENT TO PUT ASIDE PARTISAN DIFFERENCES AND WORK WITH CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, we all know President Clinton is coming to this Chamber tonight to deliver his last State of the Union address. As we all await with great anticipation what he will say and what he will propose, I would like to mention a few items I hope he will emphasize.

The House Republican leadership wrote to the President this week asking that he discuss three specific initiatives. I would like to echo their call to the President to, first, join us in protecting 100 percent of the Social Security Trust Fund; second, detail how he will pay off the public debt by 2013; and, third, sign meaningful and responsible tax fairness into law and do not propose higher taxes or more burdensome user fees.

If the President can address these items and resist the temptation to propose new spending programs that increase the size and scope of the Federal Government, then his speech will be well received by Congress.

Tonight is a major opportunity for cooperation, not confrontation. I hope the President will work with us this year on behalf of the American people and put aside partisan differences.

□

TAKE UP UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF 1999 AND PREPARE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, over the past 7 years, we have made significant progress in creating jobs, creating a budget surplus, and expanding opportunity. We now have the historic and unique opportunity to prepare for the future and to bolster American families.

Let us strengthen Social Security and Medicare for future generations, including a prescription drug benefit for all Medicare beneficiaries.

Let us provide tax cuts that eliminate the marriage penalty, help working and middle class families afford health care, child care, and a college education, enact HMO reform that puts medical decisions in the hands of the doctors and patients, and allows people to hold their HMOs accountable.

Let us improve our schools, modernize our classrooms, reduce class size, and increase discipline and standards in our school. Let us pass gun safety reforms and keep guns out of the hands of kids and criminals.

These are sensible proposals. They have bipartisan support. Let us take up the unfinished business of 1999, make good decisions for the long term, and prepare our families and our communities for the 21st Century.

□

FCC VIOLATES FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it turns out that during the Christmas holiday season, when not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse, the Federal Communications Commission violated America's freedom of religious expression.

You see, the FCC on December 29, last year, concluded that in order for noncommercial educational television stations to retain their licenses, stations must devote 50 percent of their programming hours to shows that are educational and cultural. However, the FCC decided that ''statements of personally held religious views and beliefs'' could not qualify as educational or cultural.

Thus, broadcasts of religious sermons, simply the sermon, and church services, according to the FCC, would have no educational or cultural significance and would not count towards the 50 percent obligation.

As a result, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the ''Religious Broadcasting Freedom Act,'' which reverses this decision.

□

ACT AS AMERICANS WITH FAMILY VALUES; RETURN ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER AND GRANDMOTHERS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I do not have a prepared text this morning, and I would really rather be discussing the issues that this Congress needs to address for the American people, school construction, the idea of a Patients' Bill of Rights, and opportunities for Americans who have less than many of us. But having spent over 2 days with the grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez, today I come simply to plead to America and to plead to this Congress.

As the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, I simply ask, as a mother and as a parent, let us all put the angst of divisiveness aside and let us rule not with our political interests but with our hearts and ask ourselves, if it was us, our child, our grandchild, how would we want a Nation, a government to respond.

Mr. Speaker, we should not move on the citizenship legislation or the permanent residency. We should act as Americans who believe in family values. Return Elian to his grandmothers and his father.

A REAL BALANCED BUDGET MEANS DEBT WILL NOT INCREASE

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is important that the American people understand tonight, when we will hear the President brag about a balanced budget and paying off the debt, what is really involved. For the American people to understand that, the press has got to start understanding what a balanced budget is and the fact that our total debt of this country, the public debt of this country, is going up every year.

The suggestion is that we simply increase our borrowing from Social Security to reduce the so-called Wall Street debt. The current debt to this country, as defined in law, is $5.72 trillion. It is important that everybody understand we are not going to have a real balanced budget until the total debt of this country does not continue to increase.

□

SUPPORT RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING FREEDOM ACT

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is a cold day in Washington, but the chill is on religious broadcasters. A word to the Members: If one has a religious broadcaster or people who listen to religious broadcasters in one's district, their rights have been compromised. The rights are less than they were in 1999 because of an FCC decision on the Cornerstone license swap in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Since this order, traditional religious programming can no longer be counted toward the 50 percent educational programming requirement that must be met by those who would hold noncommercial television licenses.

Basically, the FCC wants less religion and more of what it considers educational on the noncommercial airways. The majority of commissioners apparently want religious broadcasters to look more like PBS.

My office has received hundreds of e-mails and telephone calls from people who want to protest this decision. I know many other Members have been contacted, and I want to invite all the Members to cosponsor the bill, the Religious Broadcasting Freedom Act. Join me and over 50 cosponsors already to protest the FCC's efforts to limit religious programming.

□

RHETORIC DOES NOT ALWAYS SQUARE WITH REALITY

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the aforementioned legislation by my friend from Ohio and urge other Members to join us in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, there is a gulf between the rhetoric of Washington and the reality of everyday life in America. Not only are religious broadcasters under attack from this administration and its political appointees, also over our break we heard the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was going to come into one's home if one had a personal work station, if one was a telecommuter.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that spirit that I bring quite literally hope to the House floor today, the Home Office Protection Enhancement Act. Because even though the administration has backed away, now we know that rhetoric does not square with the reality.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would call on our President tonight to make sure that his words match his actions and to ensure that the only snow job in Washington was the blizzard visited upon the East Coast earlier this week.

□

RETURN ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I believe Elian Gonzalez should be allowed to return to his father. If it would be the reverse and we would have our child in Cuba, we would expect no difference.

Our responsibility is to look beyond the political issues. It is unfortunate that this issue has been politicized. It is unfortunate that it has gotten to this point.

If we look at our own present law, we would have allowed that individual to go to the father and to his grandmothers. The extended family that is there, even within the courts, should not have any jurisdiction. I feel very strongly that Americans should also be supportive of this. It is unfortunate that it has been tainted with politics and that that youngster has been used in politics.

I have heard also that, why is not the father here? Well, it is my understanding, I know that the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) has advised him not to come to the United States because they were concerned that, legally, he would have been detained here and a subpoena would also have forced him to be here. He also has another family.

We need to be conscientious. If we look at family values, we need to return Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba.

□

OPPOSITION TO GRANTING PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TO CHINA

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern in granting China permanent normal trade relations. A recent Zogby International poll shows that the American people overwhelmingly oppose granting permanent trade relations with China until human rights and religious freedom improve.

Sixty-eight percent of the Republicans, 70 percent of the Democrats, 65 percent of Independents insist on better human rights and religious freedom within China before establishing permanent MFN. Every age group, every gender, every income, every political spectrum insists on human rights.

The American people know about the Chinese government's continued persecution of the Protestant House Church. They know the Chinese Government has seven Catholic Bishops in jail. They know that the Chinese has 10 Catholic priests in prison.

□ 1300

They know they have plundered Tibet, and they know they are persecuting the Muslims.

I personally believe if the Congress votes to grant permanent normal trade relations, or MFN, for China, Congress will be on the wrong side of the American people and I believe on the wrong side of history.

Mr. Speaker, I provide for the RECORD documents in support of my comments.

39. Should the US have a permanent open market with China and admit the country to the global trade system or should the US insist on better human rights and freedom of religion in China before we establish a permanent open market?

	Total		Region								Party						Primary						Union			
			East		South		CentGrLk		West		Democrat		Republican		Independent		Democrat		Republican		Cannot Vote		Yes		No/NS	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Open Market	212	21.2	61	24.4	54	20.8	70	21.9	27	15.7	81	19.4	77	20.3	54	26.6	101	20.3	91	20.7	20	31.3	47	23.2	165	20.7
Human Rights	686	68.5	168	67.2	172	66.4	217	67.8	129	75.0	294	70.3	259	68.2	133	65.5	346	69.5	303	69.0	37	57.8	139	68.5	547	68.5
NS	103	10.3	21	8.4	33	12.7	33	10.3	16	9.3	43	10.3	44	11.6	16	7.9	51	10.2	45	10.3	7	10.9	17	8.4	86	10.8
Total	1001	100.0	250	100.0	259	100.0	320	100.0	172	100.0	418	100.0	380	100.0	203	100.0	498	100.0	439	100.0	64	100.0	203	100.0	798	100.0

	US Direction						Personal Finances								Age Group–B									
	Right Direction		Wrong Track		NS		Better		Worse		Same		NS		18–24		25–34		35–54		55–69		70+	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Open Market	148	25.4	58	16.7	6	8.3	101	24.2	27	19.4	83	18.9	1	20.0	6	17.1	23	23.5	92	22.0	62	23.0	28	16.2
Human Rights	390	67.0	250	72.0	46	63.9	283	67.9	95	68.3	307	69.8	1	20.0	25	71.4	65	66.3	297	70.9	179	66.3	118	67.1
NS	44	7.6	39	11.2	20	27.8	33	7.9	17	12.2	50	11.4	3	60.0	4	11.4	10	10.2	30	7.2	29	10.7	29	16.8
Total	582	100.0	347	100.0	72	100.0	417	100.0	139	100.0	440	100.0	5	100.0	35	100.0	98	100.0	419	100.0	270	100.0	173	100.0

39. Should the US have a permanent open market with China and admit the country to the global trade system or should the US insist on better human rights and freedom of religion in China before we establish a permanent open market?

	Total		Born Again				Ideology										Gender				Work Outside			
			Yes		No/NS		Prog/VLiberal		Liberal		Moderate		Conservative		Very Cons		NS		Male		Female		Yes		No/NS	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Open Market	212	21.2	37	15.7	57	23.8	15	25.0	42	24.0	85	23.4	54	17.3	12	19.4	3	11.1	108	28.7	104	16.6	59	17.2	45	16.0
Human Rights	686	68.5	177	75.0	147	61.5	42	70.0	117	66.9	247	68.0	222	70.9	44	71.0	14	51.9	236	62.8	450	72.0	247	71.8	203	72.2
NS	103	10.3	22	9.3	35	14.6	3	5.0	16	9.1	31	8.5	37	11.8	6	9.7	10	37.0	32	8.5	71	11.4	38	11.0	33	11.7
Total	1001	100.0	236	100.0	239	100.0	60	100.0	175	100.0	363	100.0	313	100.0	62	100.0	27	100.0	376	100.0	625	100.0	344	100.0	281	100.0

39. Should the US have a permanent open market with China and admit the country to the global trade system or should the US insist on better human rights and freedom of religion in China before we establish a permanent open market?

	Total		Age Group								Education								Race									
			18–29		30–49		50–64		65+		<High School		High School		Some College		College +		White		Hispanic		Afr Amer		Asian		Other	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Open Market	212	21.2	17	23.9	82	22.0	60	20.5	52	20.2	4	12.9	23	10.9	63	19.2	122	28.4	184	21.2	5	29.4	14	18.7	4	50.0	4	12.5
Human Rights	686	68.5	46	64.8	258	69.2	213	72.7	165	64.0	23	74.2	159	75.4	231	70.4	272	63.3	593	68.5	11	64.7	53	70.7	3	37.5	24	75.0
NS	103	10.3	8	11.3	33	8.8	20	6.8	41	15.9	4	12.9	29	13.7	34	10.4	36	8.4	89	10.3	1	5.9	8	10.7	1	12.5	4	12.5
Total	1001	100	71	100	373	100	293	100	258	100	31	100	211	100	328	100	430	100	866	100	17	100	75	100	8	100	32	100

	Religion										Income											
	Catholic		Protestant		Jewish		Muslim		Other		<$15,000		$15–24,999		$25–34,999		$35–49,999		$50–74,999		$75,000+	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Open Market	52	21.7	94	19.8	10	38.5	1	33.3	55	21.6	5	7.4	27	22.5	27	20.1	32	18.0	46	23.1	60	28.2
Human Rights	174	72.5	324	68.2	15	57.7	2	66.7	170	66.7	54	79.4	79	65.8	89	66.4	137	77.0	139	69.8	131	61.5
NS	14	5.8	57	12.0	1	3.8	.....	.....	30	11.8	9	13.2	14	11.7	18	13.4	9	5.1	14	7.0	22	10.3
Total	240	100.0	475	100.0	26	100.0	3	100.0	255	100.0	68	100.0	120	100.0	134	100.0	178	100.0	199	100.0	213	100.0

[From the Cardinal Kung Foundation, Updated: December 8, 1999]

PRISONERS OF RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE FOR THE UNDERGROUND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CHINA

The following is a list of persons known to the Cardinal Kung Foundation to be Roman Catholics who are confined for their religious belief and religious activity. This list is by no means complete, because of the difficulties in obtaining details. Accordingly, many cases of arrest were not reported here.

A: Murdered:

PRIESTS

1. Father Yan Weiping, Yixian, Hebei Arrested May 13, 1999 and found dead on a street in Beijing. He was 33. (Our press release July 5, 1999.)

B. Now in Prison or Under House Arrest or Under Survellance or In Hiding:

BISHOPS

1. Bishop AN Shuxin, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested in March, 1996. (Our press release June 17, 1996.)

2. Bishop FAN Zhongliang, S.J., Shanghai—under strict surveillance.

3. Bishop HAN Dingsiang, Yong Nian, Hebei—Arrested and released on and off. We believe that he is now in hiding.

4. Bishop HAN Jingtao, Jilin—Prevented by police from exercising his ministry. (Fides press release February 13, 1998.)

5. Bishop JIA Zhiguo, Bishop of Zhengding, Hebei—Arrested August 15, 1999. (Our press release November 2, 1999.)

6. Bishop Li Side, Tianjin, Hebei—Confined to the top of a mountain.

7. Bishop Lin Xili, Bishop of Wenzhou, Zhejiang—Arrested September 7, 1999. (Our press release September 13, 1999.)

8. Bishop Liu Guandong, Yixian, Hebei—Paralyzed, but still under strict surveillance.

9. Bishop Shi Enxiang, Yixian, Hebei—In hiding.

10. Bishop Su Zhimin, Baoding, Hebei—Rearrested October 8, 1997 after 17 months in hiding. (Our press release October 11, 1997.) He has disappeared. His whereabouts are unknown.

11. Bishop Xie Shiguang, Mindong, Fujian—Arrested mid-October 1999. Whereabouts unknown. (Zenit Release, Nov. 10, 1999.)

12. Bishop Zeng Jingmu, Yu Jiang, Jiangxi—Arrested November 22, 1995. Sentenced to 3 years. (Our press release November 26, 1995.) He was released from jail May 9, 1998 and is now under house arrest with 24-hours armed guards watching over him. (Our press release May 10, 1998.)

13. Bishop Zhang Weizhu, Xianxian, Hebei—Arrested May 31, 1998. (Our press release June 5, 1998.) Current status unknown.

NOTE: Notwithstanding the above list, almost all underground bishops are either in jail, under house arrest, hiding with or without arrest warrant, in labor-camp, or under severe surveillance.

PRIESTS

1. Father Guangyao, Shanghai—Arrested August 16, 1999 after he treated his parishioners a simple noodle dish symbolizing longevity for Cardinal Kung's 98th birthday. His whereabouts are unknown. (Our press release September 13, 1999.)

2. Father Cui Xingang, Dong Lu, Hebei—Arrested in March 1996. (Our press release June 17, 1996.)

3. Father Kong Buocum, Wenzhou, Zhejiang—Arrested about October 20, 1999. Whereabouts and current status unknown. (Zenit Release, Nov. 10, 1999.)

4. Father Lin Rengui, Pingtan County, Fujian—Arrested Christmas 1997. Sentence and current status unknown.

5. Father Lu Genyou, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested about November 3, 1999. Whereabouts and current status unknown.

6. Father Ma Qingyuan, Baoding, Hebei—Being pursued for capture. (Our press release February 20, 1998.) He is now in hiding.

7. Father Pei Junchao, Youtong, Hebei—Arrested January 1999. (Our press release January 31, 1999.) Current status unknown.

8. Father Shao Amin, Wenzhou, Zhejiang—Arrested September 5, 1999. Other details unknown. (Our press release September 13, 1999.)

9. Father Shi Wende, Yixian Diocese, Hebei—Arrested and released many times since March 14, 1998. (Our press release April 15, 1998.) He has been tortured severely and is now in bad health.

10. Father Wang Chengi—Arrested December 1996. Sentence 3 years. Now at Shandong Jining Reeducation Camp. Source: Mr. John Kamm.

11. Father Wang Chengzhi, Wenzhou, Zhejiang—Arrested September 3, 1999. Other details unknown. (Our press release September 13, 1999.)

12. Father Wei Jingkun, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested August 15, 1998. (Our press release October 13, 1998.) Current status unknown.

13. Father Xiao Shixiang—Arrested June 1996. Sentenced to 3 years. Now at Tianjin #5 prison. Source: Mr. John Kamm.

LAITY

1. Mr. An Xianliang, An Jia Zhuang Village, Xushui County, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested in 1996. Sentenced to three years.

2. Mr. Di Yanlong—An Jia Zhuang Village, Xushui County, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested in 1996. Sentenced to three years.

3. Mr. Guo Baochen—Sentenced to 2 years. Now at Shandong Changle Reeducation Camp. Source: Mr. John Kamm. Current status unknown.

4. Ms. Huang Guanghua, Chong Ren County, Jianxi—Arrested April 1995. (Our press release May 1, 1995.) Current status unknown.

5. Mr. Huang Tengzong, Chong Ren County, Jiangxi—Arrested August 1995. (Our press release Sept. 11, 1995.) Current status unknown.

6. Mr. Jia Futian—Yangzhuang Village, Hengshui City, Hebei—Arrested in 1996. Sentenced to three years.

7. Mr. Li Lianshu—Arrested Christmas 1995. Sentenced to four years. Now at Shandong #1 Reeducation Camp. Source: Mr. John Kamm.

8. Mr. Li Quibo—Arrested Easter 1996. Sentenced to three years. Now at Shangdong #1 Reeducation Camp. Source: Mr. John Kamm.

9. Mr. Li Shengxin—An Guo City, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested in 1996. Sentenced to three years.

10. Mr. Li Xin, Heng Shui, Hebei—Arrested in 1996. Sentenced to three years.

11. Mr. Pan Kunming, Yu Jiang, Jiangxi—Arrested April 1995. Sentenced to 5 years. (Our press release July 19, 1995.)

12. Ms. Rao Yanping, Yu Jiang, Jiangxi—Arrested April 1995. Sentenced to 4 years. (Our press release July 19, 1995.)

13. Mr. Wang Chengqun, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested 1996. Sentenced to three years. Current status unknown.

14. Mr. Wang Tongsheng—Quan Kun Village, Qing Yuan County, Baoding, Hebei—In hiding. Being hunted by the police.

15. Mr. Wang Yungang—Arrested Christmas 1996. Sentenced to 2 years at Shandong Changle Reeducation Camp. Source: Mr. John Kamm. Current status unknown.

16. Ms. Xie Suqian, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested August 15, 1998. (Our press release October 13, 1998.) Current status unknown.

17. Mr. Xiong Bangyin, Xiagangcum Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

18. Mr. Yang Guosun, Xiagangcum Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

19. Mr. Yang, Jijiang, Xiagangcum Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

20. Mr. Yang Laixing, Xiagangcum Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

21. Mr. Yang Liulang, Xiagangcum Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

22. Mr. Yang Wenhui, Xiagangcum Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted

August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

23. Mr. Yao Jinqiu—An Jia Zhuang Village, Xushui County, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested 1996. Sentenced to three years.

24. Ms. Yu Qixiang, Yu Jiang, Jiangxi—Arrested April 1995. Sentenced to 2 years. (Our press release July 19, 1995.) Current status unknown.

25. Mr. Yu Shuishen, Yu Jiang, Jiangxi—Arrested April 1995. Sentenced to 3 years. (Our press release July 19, 1995.) Current status unknown.

26. Mr. Zhou Quanxin, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested May 23, 1999. (Our press release July 5, 1999.) Current status unknown.

27. Mr. Zhou Zhenpeng, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested May 23, 1999. (Our press release July 5, 1999.) Current status unknown.

28. Mr. Zhou Zhenmin, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested May 23, 1999. (Our press release July 5, 1999.) Current status unknown.

29. Mr. Zhou Zhenquan, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested May 23, 1999. (Our press release July 5, 1999.) Current status unknown.

30. Mr. Zhou Zimin, Xiagangcum Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

C. Previously imprisoned, now released:

1. Father Chen HeKun, Quantou, Hebei—Arrested January 1999 (Our press release January 31, 1999.) Now released.

2. Father Chu Guangyao, Shanghai—Arrested August 3, 1999, and released August 5, 1999. Arrested again August 16. Now released.

3. Ms. Gao Shuping, Lin Chuan City, Jiangxi—Arrested Nov. 1996. Now released.

4. Ms. Gao Shuyin, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested April, 1995. Now released.

5. Ms. Guo, Jiancheng—An Jia Zhuang Village, Xushui County, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested in 1996. Now released.

6. Father Hu Duo, Baoding, Hebei—arrested Spring, 1997. Sentenced to 3 years. Now released.

7. Father Liao Haiqing, Yu Jiang, Jiangxi—Arrested in August, 1995. (Our press release October 9, 1995.) Now released.

8. Father Lu Genyou, Baoding, Hebei—arrested April 5, 1998, released around April 20, 1998. (Our press release April 15, 1998 and our press release May 10, 1998.) Now released.

9. Father Wang Quanjun, Baoding, Hebei—arrested September, 1997. (Fides press release, December, 1997.) Now released.

Summary of victims (murdered recently or suffering for their faith)

Murdered recently	1
Bishops	13
Priests	13
Laity	30
Previously imprisoned, now released	9
Total	63

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TRIBUTE TO MARDI MONTGOMERY, KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Mr. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding educator in central Kentucky and one of the exemplary teachers of this Nation. As a freshman and senior honors English teacher at Boyle County High School, this teacher of 6 years has added a curriculum that instills compassion and understanding in her students.

Recently, the Kentucky Department of Education selected this distinguished teacher, Mardi Montgomery, as Kentucky Teacher of the Year for 2000. She was nominated for this honor by her fellow teachers and selected, along with others, from a list of very deserving semifinalists.

Mrs. Montgomery sought to integrate her students with the community by forming the Boyle County Breakfast Book Club in which students and local community members, from grandmothers to business leaders, critically read and discuss books. This creative approach has led her students to a deeper appreciation for literature and learning.

Today, I join our central Kentucky community in recognizing a remarkable teacher for making a significant contribution in the lives of her students and to education. I find it most fitting that Mrs. Mardi Montgomery receive this prestigious award.

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BIG SPENDING HURTS TAXPAYERS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we learned a painful lesson in the not so distant past; that when the big spenders in Washington get their way, the taxpayers get the shaft. When the budget is drained to fund all sorts of pork barrel projects and special interest boondoggles, there is nothing left for those who pay the freight: Working American families.

Not only do our working folks fail to get a long overdue and well-deserved tax break, we now learn that the Federal Reserve Board is watching Congress very closely to see if it intends to engage in more reckless spending. If it does, the Fed is apparently ready to raise interest rates to head off any inflation that excessive government spending may bring about.

So who is the big loser? Again, my colleagues may have guessed it, the American taxpayer. Not only is the taxpayer denied a tax reduction, because there is no money left in the bank, but he or she will also pay higher interest rates on mortgages, on car payments, on education loans, on credits cards, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, this year let us tell the President and his free-spending friends in this body that enough is enough. We are not going to let them pick the taxpayers' pockets any more.

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REPUBLICAN PARTY IS ON NATIONWIDE HOLY WAR TO REDUCE TAXES

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I have a message for the American people. Let me be perfectly clear: Despite the extraordinary case of amnesia on the part of some about what got us here, amnesia on a scale that is rivaled only by that of Lorena Bobbitt and O.J. Simpson, I wish to state to all Americans that the Republican Party of Ronald Reagan is on a nationwide jihad for lower taxes.

That is right, Mr. Speaker. The Republican Party is on a holy war on behalf of hard-pressed working people whose take-home pay has stagnated. We do not stand for tax cuts tomorrow. We do not stand for tax cuts at some theoretical future date that is conditional on the politicians' good behavior. We do not stand for targeted tax cuts, which we all know is a code for no one is going to get one. We do not stand for some groups and not others. We do not stand for tax relief only for those who are represented by special interest groups.

No, Mr. Speaker, we are for lower taxes for all working Americans, and we want lower taxes now.

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U.N. PROSTITUTION PROTOCOL

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, imagine a woman filled with hope accepting a new job in a big city. Promises of freedom from manual labor and better income have lured her away from her family. When she meets her new boss, she is crushed. She is given tight clothes to wear, condoms for her customers, she is beaten, raped, locked in a trailer and forced to have sex with whoever walks in the trailer.

Unfortunately, this happens every day in some parts of Asia, Africa, Latin America and, yes, even the United States.

Many of us were surprised to learn that the administration's Interagency Council on Women has apparently been supporting a move to alter the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime to accept so-called ''voluntary'' prostitution. They want to adopt what is called the Netherland's definition of prostitution, which excludes anything that cannot be proven to be coerced.

Mr. Speaker, this would make it virtually impossible to prosecute sex traffickers in nations adopting this protocol. We should oppose the forced Europeanization of America by United Nations' bureaucrats using the failed social policies of the Netherlands.

I hope it is not true, and I hope this will be stopped.

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LISTEN CAREFULLY TO PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS TONIGHT

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is going to give his State of the Union message this evening and I am going to listen very, very intently.

I think when we look back at this administration we can see a very successful administration. Prosperity is at an all-time high, our economy is growing, we are about to set a record in terms of the economy, and that has been done by this President and this administration.

The important things that the President will stress tonight are going to be very, very important to listen to, but I think preserving Social Security and Medicare is something that the American people want and that this administration will do.

A prescription drug program. I know our senior citizens on Medicare need help with prescription drugs.

Targeted tax cuts. We do not need a risky tax scheme that give tax breaks for the rich. We need targeted tax cuts to help middle America, to help the middle class, to help people so that they can pay for college tuition for their sons and daughters.

My daughter is going to college, and families are struggling to try to send their children to college. So the President's proposal to have tax deductions or a tax credit for college students is certainly something that we need.

Gun control, campaign finance reform, a patient's bill of rights, these are the things that Congress should pass this year.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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SUPPORT CITIZENSHIP FOR ELIAN GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress who represents the Congressional District of Florida where Elian Gonzalez currently resides, as the mother of two young daughters, and as someone who knows all too well about Castro's brutal tyrannical regime, I ask my colleagues today to support the bill which was introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) on Monday which would bestow citizenship upon 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez.

As a Cuban refugee and as a naturalized American myself, I know what an honor it is to be a United States citizen. Elian's mother Elizabeth drowned in her voyage to freedom, but she had a dying wish, to have her 5-year-old son reach the shores of freedom. To honor that deathbed declaration, we are promoting this legislation to grant citizenship to Elian, which will also have the practical effect of taking the case out of INS hands and placing it where it properly belongs, as a delicate custody issue to be handled by Florida State courts.

Some will argue that Congress should not be involved because it is a custody issue. And those of us who support the bill agree, this is a custody issue and as such it should have been allowed to play out in a court of law. As in every other custody case, a hearing should be held. The parents and the relatives should be afforded an opportunity to testify. Medical experts should render their assessment. Other experts should be granted a forum to present testimony about the conditions in which the child would live and be subjected to in Cuba. And, most importantly, the child would be able to state freely and openly for the record what his desires are and with whom he wishes to live.

However, INS has prevented this orderly process from taking place. It has made a mockery of our laws by making a unilateral summary judgment to return Elian to Cuba and, in so doing, have defamed the principles of justice, of fairness, and of equality under the law which are really the fabric of our society.

Originally, on December 1, 1999, INS quoted to the family, to the attorneys and to the press, ''Although it had no role in the family custody decision, we have discussed this case with State of Florida officials who have confirmed that the issue of legal custody must be decided by its State court. However, Elian will remain in the U.S. while the issues surrounding his custody are resolved.''

However, this was not to be. INS soon recanted this statement, decided to apply Cuban law instead to this case, and ordered that the boy be returned to Cuba without any semblance of our due process. Faced with this reality, my colleagues and I were compelled to act to protect and uphold Elian's rights as a person under the law; rights not only guaranteed by our constitution and legal system but rights protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 6 of this convention states, ''Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.'' Article 7 states, ''All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.'' And Article 14, ''Everyone has the rights to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.''

This last provision is particularly telling, as INS, in denying Elian his rights and defending only the father's rights under Cuban law, rejected various asylum applications for Elian and unilaterally withdrew his application for admission into the U.S.

There are those who will ignore these arguments and discount the fact that the U.S. and international law requires that the custody issue be resolved in a court of law and simplifies this case to a question of merely returning the boy to his father. But appropriate steps have not been taken to ascertain whether this in fact is in the boy's best interests, and that should be the guiding standard.

To those advocates who say, no, let us not advocate for that, I ask if they are aware that Castro's laws require that children and youth must prepare themselves for the defense of the country, honoring the principles of proletariat internationalism and combat solidarity? That is a quote from their code. It requires that children under the age of 11 to work long hours in farm labor camps. It mandates society and State work for the efficient protection of youth, and this is a quote, against all influences contrary to their Communist formation.

And the latter one applies even to parents. Just ask Gladys Ibarra-Lugo, age 15, who has for years been denied access to her parents because of their support of Democratic principles and human rights. Their support was contrary to the dictums of the Communist State. Gladys' parents are Amnesty International prisoners of conscience.

I wonder if those who simply say forget the court hearing have really read the testimony of Francisco Garcia. This testimony was included in a report distributed by the United Nations NGO Group for the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Francisco tells of his experience as a child in Cuba, and I commend it to my colleagues.

For Elian's present and future, for the sake of justice, liberty, and equality, I ask my colleagues to support the citizenship bill.

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PROS AND CONS OF CUBAN EMBARGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to discuss my recent visit to Cuba. I just returned last evening from a 6-day trip to Cuba where I had the opportunity to meet with the various ministries. I met not only with the minister of health but I went into the neighborhoods, into the neighborhood clinics. I talked with the doctors there, I talked with the patients there, and I got a good understanding of the kind of health care that Cubans are involved with based on health care being one of the national priorities.

I also went to the University of Medicine, where they are training young doctors throughout the region, and I was absolutely amazed at the fact that they have 5,000 young people who are there from all over the Caribbean who are being trained as doctors. It amazes me, because here in the United States it is just so difficult to get young people of color into the universities so

that they can be trained as doctors. But they are showing that it can be done there. Over 60,000 doctors have been produced in Cuba.

Having said that, my real reason for being there was to follow up on a commitment that I made 11 months ago when I visited Cuba.

□ 1315

When I visited Cuba 11 months ago to basically try and get a handle on the pros and cons of the embargo, I discovered that we have a waiver on medical supplies and equipment. However, not one aspirin had been sold in Cuba. I talked with people to try and understand why this was true.

We finally came back and we got together with representatives from the Treasury Department, from Commerce and from the State Department to try and understand the rules and the laws as it related to the waiver. We finally all got on one track and we got with those individuals who have been trying for years to get a medical trade show going in Cuba, and we finally got it on track and that trade show did open. I was there to help cut the ribbon, along with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and many of our representative of our business community.

I was very pleased that we had almost 300 representatives there from various businesses in the United States representing over 90 of our largest businesses who were delighted to be there to show their medical supplies and equipment. We had companies like ADM. We had companies like Eli Lilly, Procter Gamble, Pfizer, many of the huge companies of America with goods and products that they want to share, that they want to sell.

I think it is foolhardy for the American business community to allow China and Germany and Canada and all of these countries to be in Cuba selling their goods, selling their supplies, and we are just 90 miles from Cuba.

They have many, many needs. They want to do business with us, particularly with medical supplies and equipment. They have trained the professionals. They have trained the doctors. They have children who desperately need the supplies, the state-of-the-art equipment. I think that our American firms should continue to seek these opportunities and to be there.

Now, having said all of that, none of this happens in a vacuum. As you know, the center of debate in Cuba and it appears in the United States is Elian Gonzalez, this young child who is in Miami, who one side is saying he should be kept there, he should be given citizenship, he should not be allowed to return to Cuba to his father.

Well, I met with his father while I was there, Juan Gonzalez. There is no logical argument, none that anybody can make, that should take this child from his father. This child lost his mother on the sea. This child should not be deprived of his father. This child should be returned to Cuba immediately.

This political spectacle that is being created in Miami is unconscionable. There is no reason a little child should be a political pawn. This is not about whether or not we like Castro. This is not whether or not we agree with the revolution, that we are one of the Batista people, that we do not believe in what is going on there. This is about parental rights. This is about the right of a father to have their child and to raise their child.

By all accounts, this man is a good father; he had a great relationship with his child. Let us stop the political madness. Let us allow little Elian to go home.

□

TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES: ELIMINATION OF MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be back here for another session of good and hard work.

I represent a pretty diverse district. I represent the south side of Chicago, the south suburbs, and Cook and Will counties, a lot of industrial as well as farm communities. And even though this district that I represent is so very, very diverse, I find there is a common message; and that is the folks back home want us to come here, Republicans and Democrats, and work together to find solutions to the challenges that we face.

That is why I am so proud that over the last 5 years we have done so many things we were told we could not do. We balanced the budget for the first time in 28 years. We gave a middle-class tax cut for the first time in 16 years. We reformed our welfare system for the first time in a generation. And a great accomplishment just this past year was we stopped the raid on Social Security for the first time in 30 years.

That is progress on our agenda, and we are continuing to move forward to find better ways to help find solutions.

Our agenda is pretty simple, paying down the public national debt, saving Social Security and Medicare, helping our local schools. And we also want to bring fairness to the Tax Code. That is one of the issues I want to talk about today. Because I believe that as we work to bring fairness to the Tax Code, particularly to middle-class working families, that we should focus first on the most unfair consequence of our current complicated Tax Code and that is the marriage tax penalty which is suffered by almost 21 million married, working couples.

Let me explain what the marriage tax penalty is. Under our current Tax Code, if they are married, both husband and wife are working, they pay more in taxes than they do if they stay single.

Let me give this example, a marriage tax penalty example: A machinist and a schoolteacher, middle-class working folks in Joliet, Illinois, with a combined income of $63,000 pay more. And here is how they do it. If they have a machinist making $31,500, he is in the 15 percent tax bracket. If he marries a schoolteacher with an identical income of $31,500, under our Tax Code they file jointly. Their combined income of $63,000 pushes them into the 28 percent tax bracket. And for this machinist and schoolteacher, they pay the average marriage tax penalty of almost $1,400 more just because they are married under our Tax Code.

Now, if they chose to live together instead of getting married, they would have saved that $1,400. Our Tax Code punishes them if they choose to get married. That is just wrong.

It is a pretty fair question: Is it right, is it fair that, under our Tax Code, this machinist and schoolteacher in Joliet, Illinois, pay more in higher taxes?

Let me give my colleagues another example here of two schoolteachers also of Joliet, Illinois, Michelle and Shad Hallihan. They were just married in the last couple of years, a wonderful young couple. I have had a chance to sit down and talk with them. And, of course, I have a nice wedding photo.

The point is that Shad has taught a little longer than Michelle, and he makes $38,000 a year. His wife Michelle makes $23,500. Because they chose to get married, to live together in holy matrimony, they suffer the marriage tax penalty because their combined income when they file jointly pushes them into the 28 percent tax bracket.

For them, for Michelle and Shad Hallihan in Joliet, Illinois, two schoolteachers, they pay almost a thousand dollars more. Michelle has pointed out to me, since they have just had a baby, that is almost 3,000 diapers that $1,000 of marriage tax penalty would pay for in that family if they were allowed to keep it.

Now, the Republicans in this Congress believe that eliminating the marriage tax penalty should be a priority; and we believe that, in this era of budget surpluses, when the Federal Government is taking in more than we have been spending, that we should give some of it back. We want to focus that on bringing fairness to the Tax Code.

This past year we sent to the President legislation that would have wiped out the marriage tax penalty for people like Michelle and Shad Hallihan. Unfortunately, the President and Vice President GORE chose to veto that legislation because they wanted to spend the money on new Government programs.

My colleagues, should it not be a priority to help people like Michelle and Shad Hallihan, married working couples who work hard and who are unfairly treated by our Tax Code?

We have legislation today which now has 230 cosponsors, a bipartisan majority of this House, that is cosponsoring the Marriage Tax Elimination Act,

H.R. 6, cosponsored by myself and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. DANNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) as well as 230 Members of the House.

That is why it is so important, we want to bring fairness to the Tax Code. That is why I am so pleased that the leadership of this House, led by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the Speaker of the House, has made a decision to move a stand-alone piece of legislation, a stand-alone bill, which wipes out the marriage tax penalty for the vast majority of those who suffer. In the next few weeks, the Speaker intends to bring that legislation to the floor. That is good news as we work to bring fairness to the Tax Code by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

I was just informed earlier today that the President in his State of the Union Speech tonight is going to discuss eliminating the marriage tax penalty. That is good news. Because it is time to make it a bipartisan effort. And while the President and Vice President GORE vetoed the legislation last year, he is now coming our way. I am very pleased. Let us make it a bipartisan effort. Let us wipe out the marriage tax penalty and let us send the President a stand-alone bill and let us bring fairness to the Tax Code.

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MARSHA PYLE MARTIN: A LEADER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during the short interlude we call life, we sometimes have the rare and memorable occasion to meet someone who exudes such a sense of positive accomplishment that we are forever changed just from that encounter.

I had that special experience when I met and heard Marsha Pyle Martin, who served as chair of the Farm Credit Administration Board. She appeared before our Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies of the House Committee on Appropriations to thoughtfully and persuasively argue that we need to be concerned about the financial condition of America's farmers and the future of agriculture in rural America.

I am sad to tell our colleagues that Ms. Martin passed from this life to her blessed rewards on January 9. This afternoon she is being celebrated in a memorial service at the Farm Credit Administration Offices in McLean, Virginia.

She is a woman who deserves this celebration, for she has helped so many by her caring for America's farmers and her advocacy on their behalf and for building a sound farm credit system in this country.

Marsha Pyle Martin was the first woman who ever served as chair of the Farm Credit Administration. While that was a first for FCA, it was far from that for her. After all, she was the first woman senior executive in the Farm Credit System when she served as vice president of the Farm Credit Bank of Texas. She also was the first woman to serve as a director of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

I remember most vividly when she appeared before our subcommittee. Her dedication, her passion, her knowledge both overwhelmed and imposed her sense of purpose on our committee. She wanted efficient and competitive credit markets for borrowers, and it showed. She recognized the changing face of agriculture in America and wanted to both embrace and support the changes that are necessary for America's farmers to continue as the finest in the world.

Those who know agriculture know that the availability of credit at reasonable terms is critical, vital to success; and those who knew Marsha Pyle Martin knew that such a system was both her goal and her mandate to those who worked for and with her.

To her husband Britt, to her daughters Michelle and K.B. and her two grandchildren, I can only extend our deepest sympathies for the unexpected loss of their loved one. But may they be comforted and inspired by the fact that each and every day she tried to make a positive difference for people. Each and every day positive change was her goal and her accomplishment.

If only more people shared her vision, her energy, her commitment, just imagine how much better a place this world would be.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in thanking Marsha Pyle Martin for her lifetime of contribution. May her eternal reward be no less than triple what she gave in this world. For, because of her, many people live each day as a better one than they might have were it not for her.

May I ask the House, in her memory, for a moment of silence.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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DEMOCRATIC AGENDA FOR PROGRESS IN 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am glad to be back.

I think my colleagues know and I am sure most of the American people or many of the American people know that the House of Representatives has been in recess, has not had a session, for approximately 2 months since we adopted the budget at the end of November for the next fiscal year.

Tonight, of course, the President will give his State of the Union Address, which represents really a new opportunity. This is the second session of the 2-year Congress. And when we come back today, we know that although we perhaps only have about 10 months before the House adjourns and the Congress adjourns there is this 10-month period when we can pass legislation and get things done that will positively impact the American people.

Of course, the President will give his speech tonight and we will not know exactly what is in it until we hear it from him. But we know that he is going to talk about how the state of the Union is strong, how the country is strong economically, record new surpluses, overall crime rate down 25 percent, welfare rolls deeply cut.

A lot of progress has been made under President Clinton, certainly in the 6 or 7 years now that he has been in office.

□ 1330

But part of the problem particularly in the last year is that many times when the President suggests a positive agenda, progressive agenda to the American people as he did in his last State of the Union address, the Congress, which of course is dominated by the Republican majority, the Republicans are in the majority, resists his recommendations and do not pass the legislation or provide the resources so that we can move his agenda. And so I hope that this year that will not be the case again.

If we look at what happened last year in the Congress, particularly in the House, there really was a resistance and most of the President's agenda was not adopted. I hope that is not the case this year. I hope that this year the Republican majority in the Congress will go along with the President's programs. If they differ slightly, fine, we can come to accommodations, but let us try to work together to come up with an agenda to pass legislation that helps the people and that moves this country quickly in a positive way into the next millennium.

I wanted to talk a little bit about President Clinton and the Democratic congressional leaders' agenda for a few minutes if I could. What we want to do is to get the job done, if you will, for the American people in the year 2000. I am going to talk about a few specific points. Basically our Democratic agenda for progress in 2000 includes, first, repairing, renovating and renewing our schools. Second, cutting taxes while maintaining fiscal discipline because obviously we want to maintain the balanced budget that we have had and the surpluses that we continue to generate. Third, the Democrats want to modernize Medicare and include a voluntary prescription drug benefit.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, during the 2 months that we were not in session I had many forums, some forums with senior citizens in my district, some with just people in general, constituents in general in my district. The number one concern that they had was with regard to health care. If it was seniors, they were concerned about the lack of access and the affordability of prescription drugs. Generally people expressed concern about the need for reform of HMOs because of the difficulties that they were having with HMOs in getting the health care that they thought that they needed.

Then, of course, I had a lot of my constituents who simply have no health insurance whatsoever and want to see what we are going to do as a Congress and as a country to provide more options for health insurance. But let me continue with the Democratic agenda. I am going to go back to some of those health care issues a little later. The Democrats' agenda for progress in 2000 also includes strengthening Social Security. The President in his last State of the Union address stressed that whatever surplus was created as a result of the Balanced Budget Act, that that primarily, overwhelmingly, should go to shore up Social Security.

Now, again when I had my forums in the district over the last couple of months, many of the seniors expressed concern over Social Security. I explained to them that Social Security was not bankrupt and that Social Security was sound but that the problem would come in, say, another 20 years, in another generation and that we needed to prepare now to make sure that for the next generation, Social Security was there. The President says the easiest way to do that is to certainly put a down payment down for the future by using the surplus primarily that is generated over the next 5 or 10 years.

The other very important, perhaps the most important part of our Democratic agenda for progress in 2000 is to enact a real Patients' Bill of Rights. Some of my colleagues know that for the last 2 years, I have been pushing for this. We have yet to have a conference on the Patients' Bill of Rights, on HMO reform. I was pleased to see, I believe, today that the Republican leadership indicated that they were going to have a conference between the House and the Senate to try to work out differences on the Patients' Bill of Rights, on HMO reform, at some time next week or very soon. I applaud them for that but I think it is crucial that we have a good, strong Patients' Bill of Rights and I will insist on that as one of the conferees, because this is an important issue and if all we do is put together some makeshift reform that really does not do anything, some Band-Aid approach, the American people are going to hold us responsible and say, ''You didn't get the job done,'' so we need a strong Patients' Bill of Rights.

The other important part of our Democratic agenda for progress in 2000 is to raise the minimum wage. We all know that the economy is strong. We know that this economy has generated hundreds of thousands of new jobs. But the bottom line is there are a lot of people who work and who basically do not make enough money, even though they are working full time or have two or three jobs, because their salaries, their wages are so low. We need to enact legislation that was primarily sponsored here in the House by our minority whip the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) to raise the minimum wage. Finally, we also need to pass legislation to fight hate crimes, another important part of our agenda.

What I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, if I could, is to go through some of these items individually. I see my colleague here from Texas. I do not know if he wants to join me now. If he would like to I would certainly yield to him.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to just congratulate the gentleman for outlining the items. Especially I know he has been in the forefront when it comes to health care. I know one of the concerns that a lot of Members had and in conjunction also with the constituencies that are being serviced by managed care systems, that a lot of them are concerned that they do not have any appeal process. I know that we have been trying to push forward in allowing that opportunity that when individuals are denied access to health care, that they can be able to appeal. One of their concerns is that we will have too many lawsuits. I am here to attest to the fact that in Texas we have allowed for that appeal process to exist and we have not had the number of lawsuits and we have had the accountability on the part of the managed care systems to be a little more responsive. I think that the Patients' Bill of Rights needs to go through and we are hoping that it will. I am here just to thank the gentleman for that.

I know that he has also been in the forefront when it comes to prescription coverage. In the area of prescription coverage, it just does not make any sense now that in Medicaid for indigents we provide prescription coverage, yet when it comes to our senior citizens we do not. That to me just does not make any sense whatsoever, at a time when we know that we want to take care of our senior citizens, that prescription coverage is also a very instrumental effort and tool to take care of illness. As we all well know, when Medicare started, that was not the case. We did not use prescriptions as much as we do now for taking care of our patients. That is something I think that now is really important and we have got to make sure that that happens.

I am also very pleased that we have moved and are beginning to take care of our uninsured. We have the largest number of uninsured in Texas and it is unfortunate that Texas also was unwilling to provide any local resources. Most of the resources for the CHIPS program, the children's program, are resources that were provided through the tobacco lawsuits. There is a real need for local communities to come forward, also, and help out in that process as the Federal Government, the President has moved forward in providing the uninsured children of this country an opportunity to have access to health care. As our leader in this area, I want to thank the gentleman for allowing me the opportunity just to say a few words and to thank him for his efforts. I look forward to working with him during this particular Congress.

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank the gentleman for his kind words. I am really pleased that he is here because I think that his State really is a model for so many of the things that we have been talking about here on the House floor over the last year with regard to these health care concerns. If I could just comment on some of the things the gentleman said, with regard to the Patients' Bill of Rights, in many ways the Texas legislation, which has been in force now for a couple of years, is really a model for the Federal legislation, not only in terms of the basic rights that are provided to patients to protect them against the abuses of HMOs but also in terms of the liability provisions. It is kind of interesting, because I noticed that the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), who for a long time has resisted, as long as I can remember he has been resisting the idea that there would be any ability to sue under Federal law, sue the HMO, finally came around today to saying that he would provide some limited ability to sue. Again, we are going to call him to task on that, to make sure that the Federal legislation that comes up here does provide the ability to sue as a last resort. I am sure that to some extent, though, he was probably saying that because of the Texas experience, because if we remember, when the Texas legislature was considering something like the Patients' Bill of Rights, there was tremendous opposition to any ability to sue on the grounds that the litigation would be forever and everybody would be suing the HMOs. I remember back in November when we last convened, at that point I think in the 2-year life of the Texas legislation, they had only had two people file lawsuits, maybe two or three people file lawsuits. That just totally denigrates the idea that somehow by allowing lawsuits against the HMOs that we are going to have all this litigation.

But the other aspect the gentleman mentioned is just as important. In other words, the problem is if we give people all these rights to prevent abuses by HMOs but they do not have any ability to enforce it, what good are the rights? We all know that. In our Patients' Bill of Rights that passed the

House, we have an internal appeal process. Then we also have an external appeal process, the idea being that if the HMO internally denies a person the ability to stay a few days in the hospital or a particular operation or procedure that the person and their doctor think they need, they can go outside the system without going to court and have an external review board look at it that is not dictated or controlled by the HMO. So we have that external review process before you would even have to sue in court. Texas has the same thing. That is one of the reasons why they have so few suits, is because these things go to an external administrative review and at that time usually the HMO reneges and lets people have the operation or procedure they think is necessary. Texas is really out front and very progressive in this regard. We need to do the same thing on the Federal level.

The other thing the gentleman talked about with the prescription drugs, I just find so many of my seniors coming to me at the forums or at the office and talking about the problem not only with price but also the inability to have any kind of benefit under Medicare. We have seen so many cases, the gentleman has probably seen them in Texas, too, as a border State. I am maybe a little more familiar with the Canadian example where people have been going across the border to Canada to buy drugs because it is so much cheaper. We know the majority of Americans who are seniors have no access to prescription drug benefits. That is really crucial, too. That is going to be part of the President's agenda and the Democratic agenda again.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. If the gentleman will yield further, we do have an experience in South Texas. In fact the gentleman is aware of the studies that we did in reference to the expenditure for certain prescriptions. When we looked at those prescription coverages and how much they cost, for a person with an HMO or the government, the prices ranged almost 25 percent less. The senior citizen was sometimes having to pay up to 300 percent more for the same medication. The same individuals that are paying for it are our senior citizens. Basically at the expense of our senior citizens, we are causing this to occur. I think the President is correct in saying that we need to come back and reassess that and that Medicare also has the responsibility to provide prescription coverage. I think that this is something that needs to occur, that needs to happen. For all practical purposes, the way it is now, it does not make any sense. We give it to our indigents but we do not provide it to our senior citizens. In fact, not only do we not provide it to them but we charge them 100, 200 to 300 percent more for the same prescription. We are basically robbing them. That is not right. We need to do whatever we can. I am hopeful that this time around there is a feeling that we can do a bipartisan effort in making something happen in this area. I am optimistic.

We have a unique opportunity as the gentleman well knows. It is an election year. We are all up for reelection, including Democrats and Republicans, both in the presidential and in the Congress and so it is a unique opportunity to ask our constituents to put the squeeze on their local official, their local Congressman and the presidential candidate, Republican or Democrat, to make it happen. I think it is something that most people feel it is the right thing to do. When we are asking our senior citizens to pay 200 to 300 percent more for the same prescription, it is not fair, it is not right, and we need to do something about it.

Again, I thank the gentleman very much for being here and taking the lead not only in terms of some of the health issues but a lot of the other issues that are before us. I thank the gentleman for allowing me the opportunity to say a few words.

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank the gentleman again. I was just going to say there was one very positive development, I think, with regard to this prescription drug issue. That is, that a few weeks ago, I am sure the gentleman noticed that the major pharmaceutical companies, a lot of which are based in my State of New Jersey, announced that they were going to stop opposing a prescription drug benefit and speaking out against the President's proposed Medicare prescription drug benefit and were going to try to work with him to come up with a solution. I took that as a very positive development and contacted some of the pharmaceuticals in New Jersey which have their corporate headquarters in New Jersey in trying to work with them to accomplish that.

□ 1345

On a somewhat negative note, though, I noticed that my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), revealed some documents that had been circulated by some of the pharmaceuticals last week where they indicated that they were still going to be spending money and doing ads and doing things to try to oppose some of the efforts to keep the costs down.

I would say that there are two things here. We need the Medicare benefit, but we also need to have affordable drugs. It is also important for the pharmaceuticals, as I know the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) has said, that whatever benefit we provide has to be an affordable benefit as well in terms of buying drugs. Because if there is some kind of benefit but the costs keep going up and ultimately people cannot afford it, the benefit does not do them any good.

So we need to have the benefit, but we also have to have affordability and I think kind of empower people to be able to act together so that they can keep prices down.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. That advertisement that has been going on with Flo that comes out and she talks to our senior citizens, she is covered. She is taken care of right now with prescription coverage, but our senior citizens out there that are straight Medicare are not. I would attest the majority of Americans out there only have the straight Medicare and do not have prescription coverage.

For Hispanics and a lot of our minorities and especially those individuals that have worked in areas that do not have any form of a pension, which a lot of people that have worked for small companies, do not have that extended care. So it is important that we reach out to those individuals and that we provide that care.

I think that it is about time that we come back and kind of look at that. I know that throughout history, when it comes to health care, we have had some endeavors of trying to take care of and provide health care in terms of universal, across the board, and that occurred in the 1930s with Roosevelt, 1960s with Kennedy and Clinton in the 1990s. Ironically enough, we have not been able to do that, and I am hoping that we can soon start talking about also those uninsured that are out there.

The uninsured, they are over 44 million and growing, and I would attest that if the economy was not doing as well as it is that we would have a lot more uninsured, and that is something that is very scary because a lot of people are out there that are in need, and these are people that are not poor enough to qualify for medicaid, not old enough to qualify for Medicare and are working Americans that fall in between. So there is a real need for us to reach out to that population as well and the uninsured.

We have been doing those efforts with the CHIPS program, the children's program, but there is a need for us to push forward. I am hoping that the insurance companies, because they have been, in all honesty, an obstacle in the past; and I look at Medicare and the reasons why we were able to establish Medicare when LBJ was because of the fact that the insurance companies recognized that when people reached 65 they got sick, and that is when they did not want us, that is when they wanted government involved at that point in time. And if they were poor enough they knew people did not have money so they did not mind government being involved in medicaid because, after all, they were too poor to pay for that insurance.

Now we have this middle class that cannot afford it, do not have the access and are uninsured out there; and there is a need for us to provide some alternatives. And I am hoping that the private sector can participate in that effort and we can be able to come up with some kind of response.

Again, from Texas, we have the largest number of uninsured, the largest throughout the country. I am not proud to say that. Yes, we should be

proud that we have passed some legislation on HMOs that are far-reaching in terms of appeal process, but some of those areas we are still lacking. So we are hoping that as we look at this session that we can concentrate on some of those specific areas and try to meet some of those needs.

Mr. PALLONE. Well, again, I appreciate the gentleman bringing that up. The gentleman says that Texas has the largest percentage of uninsured, but this is a problem that is national. Six years ago, when President Clinton first proposed the universal health care plan, which I think was a good idea and if we did not have all the opposition from the insurance industry and the Republicans that we probably could have worked something out that provided universal coverage, but now over the last few years we have been trying in some of these areas, as you mentioned, with the kids' health care initiative in particular, to try to plug up the holes and cover some of the uninsured in sort of a piecemeal fashion.

It has been working, but even with that, even with the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill to deal with the problem of people having preexisting medical conditions not being able to get insurance and a lot of them can even with the kids' care insurance, we still have the number of uninsured growing nationally. We have to do more.

One of the things that the President is going to announce tonight is a major new initiative to try to expand on some of these health care Federal programs to provide more coverage for the uninsured. If I could just mention a couple of things that I think are very significant, with regard to the kids' care initiative as well as Medicare, he has major proposals to spend money and to do outreach so we can get more kids signed up both for medicaid as well as the kids' care program. Because we have had a problem getting kids signed up, I think that one of the major reasons why they do not sign up is because, many times, those are the same parents of those children who are uninsured, and what the President is proposing now is to expand the kids' care initiative so that the parents of those uninsured kids can also sign up for insurance using the State and the Federal subsidy that is provided with additional funds that he is going to include in his budget. I think that is a great idea. We need to make sure that we get all the kids, but if we can get those parents in that will help.

Then the other thing the gentleman talked about is to try to build on the private sector. Because the main way people traditionally obtained health insurance and still do in this country was through their employer, and if we can create financial incentives for employers when they hire people to make sure that they provide a health insurance option, that will go a long way as well. This is a major issue.

The other thing, too, is I am sure the gentleman heard that during the break a lot of the States are really worried about this now and they do not know what to do. I know New York and Wisconsin and other States are trying to come up with ways that the States can provide for the uninsured, but they are never going to be able to do it effectively without some Federal initiative. I think it is important to have that Federal initiative.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. One of the things I want to share with the gentleman and one of the concerns that I have and I will share with the gentleman the Texas experience in that the legislature moved for pretty good coverage overall but it is only funded at 55 to 65 percent, which means that even if they cover all the kids they are supposed to they are only going to cover half of the need that is out there.

One of the things that the gentleman mentioned that I would like to stress is that there were very little resources that were actually allocated for allowing individuals to educate people as to the fact that those monies were even available and so that if people do not take advantage of that it is not going to do any good. It can be out there, but that is one of the problems that we encounter in Texas is that they did it and they passed it, but if they do begin to utilize it only half of the people are going to be able to have access to it.

I wanted to share one other thing I think that is very important. I sit on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. From a veterans' perspective, and I have seen a lot of the documentation for veterans where they were promised access to health care and were not given that access to health care and there is a real need and we are pushing for it this time around to try to make something happen to provide access to health care for our veterans. Last year we moved on providing them additional monies for the ones that are in military raises as well as the pensions. This year we also want to concentrate on health care for our veterans, and we are looking at providing up to $5 billion that is needed to make sure that those individuals are covered.

Last year, we had a big fight on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs when we tried to add up to $3 billion for access to our existing services. We were able to add up to $1.5 billion, but that was after a big fight and only after that money came from future resources. So it is kind of like giving a raise right now with the intent that next year that that money was coming out of future years. So we are in a deeper hole and we find ourselves in a problem and we have an obligation to our veterans to provide them access to health care, and throughout this country we have a multitude of veterans and the services have not been there. It has been poor access, and the quality also leaves a lot to be desired.

So we are hoping that as we move along this year that we look at access to health care for our veterans and also look at what we can do with TRICARE for our people that are in the military.

I have people that are in the border areas that will have to travel 200 miles to San Antonio to have access if they wanted to. Those are some of the areas that we really need to kind of look at a little more seriously and pay a little more attention to. Those veterans deserve what we have promised. We have gone back on our word as a Congress. We can blame the administration, but we as congressmen also have an obligation, and that obligation is to make sure that we hold up to our word to make sure that those veterans who served our country and protected us and have protected our democracy that we also assure that they would have access to health care.

I am hoping that we will also move in that direction.

Mr. PALLONE. I totally agree. It is interesting because I remember 6 years ago when President Clinton first talked about his universal health care plan, he had a very important proposal in there to expand programs for veterans as well. Again, we have not been able to fulfill that, and we need to. We need to make sure that the veterans' health care system is adequately funded and that we look at new technologies and new ways to do things for the next millennium because otherwise we are not meeting the commitment to them.

So I want to thank the gentleman again.

I yield now to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON). I have not been back here for some time now, but I am glad to be back and hear from the gentlewoman.

Ms. NORTON. I would like to welcome the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) back personally and to welcome all of my colleagues back. We have missed the gentleman, and we are ready for a very productive year.

I would especially like to commend and thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for his initiative. He has been so much on the case for these issues for a number of years now, so I am not surprised that he would come to the floor and offer others of us an opportunity to come to the floor before the State of the Union speech this evening. I want to thank him for all of his hard work on the issues that face this House. There is no one more indefatigable in forcing us to face the issues than the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

I think it is a very good idea for us to look, pick out, among the many issues that the President will raise this evening, some which deserve to be highlighted. I must say that as I look down the subjects that are likely to be covered I see a very bipartisan agenda that the President will offer. This may be his last year in office, but it is a year that the Congress will be under the microscope as well to see if we can do better than we did last year by coming up with some substance to take home to the American people.

The President of the United States in this very Chamber last year put on the

table what became the mantra for the entire country: Save Social Security, reduce the deficit. That now, as I hear both sides of the aisle, is no longer the mantra of the President, or maybe our side, but everybody, the whole country, is saying save Social Security first; pay down the debt. We don't hear other issues rising to the level that we hear those issues, and I think that the President deserves credit because that is what a President is supposed to do. That is what the State of Union speech is for. He did that last year, and this year I am sure that will be a major part of his theme.

As I look down this extraordinary list, I will choose only two issues to comment upon. I must say that I see so many items on this list that I think can rally the support of Members on both sides: Doing more, as our country and only our country can do, to prevent the global spread of AIDS and to prevent the spread of AIDS in our country which is increasingly becoming a disease of the poor, the black and the brown; expanding the EITC, one of the great bipartisan programs, especially now when so many people are reaching the limits in their own States of their ability to stay on welfare.

□ 1400

There is creating smaller schools, so that there is less of a critical mass of large numbers of students anonymous enough so that we have other Columbines.

And of course there are the rising issues that were raised last year that I do not think we can go home without. I do not think anybody can face their seniors without prescription drugs this year. And of course, HMO reform or the Patients' Bill of Rights is so much overdue that I see the two sides coming together on those.

There are many other new issues that the President has put on his agenda such as the smart gun technology initiative, but I would like to focus on two issues that the President has raised. One is investing in modernization of schools. The other is increasing support for civil rights enforcement.

Let me say a word about investing in new and modernized schools. This issue has been on the agenda 3 to 4 years now. It is dangerously overripe. The President wants a tax credit to modernize over 6,000 schools, and $1.3 billion in funding for 8,300 renovation projects in high-poverty, high-need school districts that do not have any capacity to make these repairs themselves over the next 5 years. We have children in trailers. We have children going to school in slums.

But I say to the gentleman from New Jersey that I want to draw to the attention of the body how our government, this Congress, has dealt with urgent matters like this affecting how we house students. In the sixties and seventies we poured, what amounts to ''poured'', billions of dollars into public and private colleges and universities to allow them to borrow from banks to obtain funds to construct classrooms and dorms. That is what we did for people going on to higher education.

So Members of this body went to school, slept in dormitories, took classes in classrooms that essentially were funded out of a Federal program, an old loan program, that subsidized interest payments during the lifetime of payments so that the effective interest rate of those who borrowed to build classrooms and dormitories was 3 percent less than the actual rate.

Something close to that notion is what has been on the agenda for the last several years. The President has now switched to a tax credit instead, because we were not able to get a subsidy for the interest payments. What this would mean, for example, to colleges and universities, where they were mostly middle class folks, is that if the colleges, for example, borrowed at 10 percent, then the effective interest rate was 7 percent. What that meant was that a lot of us were able to go to school and classrooms and dormitories that were decent, and decent only because of this.

In other words, the Congress saw that there was a real need, and they did not say, look, go to your State legislature do that. They knew that enough money to do it was not going to come from the States. We in fact found a way to subsidize this.

I ask Members, I ask the gentleman from New Jersey, does he not think if we could do this in the sixties and seventies for college students, then in the nineties, and as we are now in a new century, we can do something similar for kids in school who go to school with leaky roofs, who go to school where there are rats, who go to school in trailers?

This is essentially the kind of moderate proposal that the President has offered, recognizing that he is dealing with a Congress which has people of many different points of view, so he does not come in and say, give them the money. He says, allow a tax credit to modernize up to 6,000 schools.

Can we possibly go home again without a proposal similar to this, I ask the gentleman from New Jersey?

Mr. PALLONE. The answer, obviously, is yes, we need to do it. I am trying today not to start out with a partisan statement, but the bottom line, we know that when the President has tried over the last 2 years to come up with some kind of way to help with school modernization, the different bond proposals, the different ways of helping the local municipalities, the Republicans have just opposed all these things. So he just keeps coming up with innovative ways of trying to get this across.

I think this is a great idea, and I have to say, I was listening to what the gentlewoman said about the need for smaller schools, modernization. Every district has this problem with either crumbling schools or overcrowded classrooms and the need for money to build new schools.

I have the combination. My district is one where we have some smaller urban areas where I have seen crumbling schools that need new roofs and new gyms and all that, and other, more suburban towns that I represent where they are in trailers and they talk about how they may have to go to split sessions because there has been so much of an influx of new people, and they have not been able to keep up with it.

I think the school modernization program is crucial. Of course, we have not mentioned the fact that the president has been and we have been somewhat successful in getting the Republicans to provide funding to reduce class size at the lower levels, because the gentlewoman talked about smaller schools. Smaller schools to me means not only smaller schools physically, but also smaller classes, so there is more individual attention.

Even that was opposed by the Republicans. We had to go tooth and nail until we finally got more money to reduce class size and hire more teachers.

The other idea that the President came up with with regard to higher education is so crucial. Again, when people talk to me about education, their biggest concern is the ability, whether they are going to be able to send their kids off to college. The costs are just skyrocketing.

In New Jersey, where we send most of our students out of State because we do not have enough slots in-State for them, it is a particular crisis. So what the President has proposed in terms of helping parents and students to pay for higher education I think is crucial. The gentlewoman is right on point.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman. I want to say a word about one other issue.

Of course, as a former chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I am always pleased to see something on the agenda that relates to civil rights enforcement. A few weeks ago I was at the White House with a 101-year-old woman from the District of Columbia who had lived through reconstruction, through Jim Crow, all here in this city, which had legal segregation.

The President announced that he would be submitting money for civil rights enforcement, at $695 million for civil rights enforcement. This of course is an issue that by now should bring us all together. This is not about affirmative action, which is an issue where we are in some substantial disagreement with some on the other side. This is about sheer enforcement, as more and more people come forward not only to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, but to many of the civil rights agencies.

I have been able to find common cause with Members from the other side on these issues. In fact, I can recall amendments in the appropriation process where we worked together. I

certainly hope this money to increase civil rights enforcement will in fact be forthcoming.

The President announced just this week a special appropriation to bolster the Equal Pay Act and equal pay enforcement and opportunity. The gentleman may remember that in this very Chamber, not a very bipartisan Chamber, at this time last year when the President mentioned equal pay for equal work, somehow everybody in the Chamber got off her and his bottom to applaud, and that is because this issue has now become an American issue, it is no longer a woman's issue, because men have seen that their wives, who have the same education that they have, somehow bring home less money.

It is time we stopped talking about it, stopped sloganizing it, and do something about it. So the President has put in $27 million for an equal pay initiative for enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and for other purposes related to enforcement.

I like and I hope all of us will like the part that says, to teach business how to meet the legal requirements. We think that one of the reasons that there continues to be unequal pay is that business has not been well educated on this important section that has been in the law since 1963. It was passed before the laws barring discrimination on the basis of race were passed.

If in fact we use the traditional apparatus, we can come together on the widely-hailed notion of equal pay. I believe that the President's proposal will help us.

There are other things in his equal pay proposal that go to helping, for example, the Labor Department to improve its own work on training women for nontraditional posts, because once women are in nontraditional posts the pay begins to come up automatically.

We have huge equal pay problems in this country still, stemming largely from the fact that women are pouring into the work force. They still continue to go disproportionately into traditional jobs. We still see women seriously undervalued, even in those jobs.

If we look at women in my profession at all, we will see women earning less money than men who enter the profession. There is lots of work to be done there. When the President takes initiative on civil rights enforcement, on equal pay, then we are putting our money where our mouth has been for a long time.

I want to thank the gentleman for his work on this special order and for allowing me to highlight some of the issues of special importance to me.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman. I share her praise for the President's equal pay initiative.

If I could just say one thing about the additional funds for civil rights enforcement, one of the things that I worry about, and having been back in the district for the last two months now, my district, not the District of Columbia, is that I just see a lot of cynicism on the part of my constituents over commitments, if you will, or promises that they see the government making in sort of general terms that when it gets to the specific do not happen.

That is why I think it is important. If a civil rights violation occurs, there has to be enforcement. Otherwise it is meaningless. That is true whether it is the environment or whatever it happens to be.

So many people will say to me, the law says this, but in reality, it does not mean anything. That is why I think it is so important that there be increased enforcement, and obviously there will not be unless we provide the money up front to hire the people to do the work. So I think that is crucial, and I appreciate the gentlewoman bringing it to our attention.

I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I just want to share, I know the gentlewoman is here from the District of Columbia, and I was appalled to see the condition of our schools here in the District of Columbia. It is embarrassing to the Congress and it should be embarrassing to all of us, because that is one school district that we are held responsible for and obligated to have to provide resources for. I am ashamed that we still have those conditions.

The gentleman talked also about our schools throughout the United States. One responsibility we have is to make sure that we provide that construction money to make sure that we allocate those resources. A lot of those schools, in all honesty, were built prior to the microwave. If anyone lives in an old home like I do, they know they have to go back and redo the wiring, if nothing else. So there is a real need for us to reinvest in our infrastructure as it deals with education. So I am very pleased that the President is pushing forward on new construction.

I also want to add a little bit in terms of the importance of the digital divide. The administration, President Clinton has been in the forefront in allowing additional resources for new technology. Without that technology, a lot of our youngsters in our country would also fall back. There is a real need for us to prepare ourselves, not only our students but our adults, our mid-management throughout the country, to make sure we are well-trained in the new technology.

I know a lot of resources are needed for us to go back to school. That includes a lot of the Congressmen, to make sure we can work with the new computers. But doing that is going to be key in order for us to compete as a country. I think it is going to be very important that we allocate some resources in that technology and that we prepare our youngsters. Part of that is having access.

□ 1415

Most of our poor communities throughout this country do not have a computer at home. But if they could, we could provide it to them in our libraries, in our schools, in our universities; and we have started to do that, but a lot more needs to be done. We still have a lot of schools that are not computerized and do not have the new technology, and I think that that is one of the things that we need. Not only do we need it in terms of ourselves, but I really see, as a way of leading this world, if we are going to continue to be the leading country, we are going to have to be in the forefront.

One of those indicators is going to be the level of our education. I sit on the Committee on Armed Services; and when it comes to our national defense that should be our first priority, making sure that we educate our constituency, making sure that everyone is well prepared. Because that is part of our defense, and that is part of a showing that we are going to be in the forefront when it comes to economics. So I am hoping that we will continue to do that with President Clinton in his last year.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from Texas. I was thinking when I saw the gentlewoman from Washington, D.C. (Ms. NORTON) there that I remember, I do not know if it was 6 months or a year ago, the memory fades now, but there was an occasion when she asked us, and we marched from the Capitol to a nearby school, it was within walking distance of the Capitol, and I cannot remember the name of the school, and we had a march.

When we went there, she showed us this very innovative public school within the District of Columbia. I could not believe the enthusiasm that existed in that school. One of the things that they had, which I think is somewhat unique, is that all the kids were wearing school uniforms, which is something that I know that the President has proposed. I do not mean to just dwell on that. But there was just a lot of excitement in that place.

But one of the things I kept thinking about is we keep talking about innovation, and one can put school uniforms in schools and one can come up with other things, but one cannot function, one cannot be very innovative if the place is falling apart literally.

I think it is incumbent upon us to provide the resources so that schools are modernized. Modernization and the President's program for modernization is not just bricks and mortar, it is also for the Internet and for the electronic and the technologically innovative things that the infrastructure for those kinds of things are included in that modernization program as well.

As my colleague says, what good is it? We cannot expect kids to use the Internet if they do not have the computers. They are not going to be able to have the money to do it at home, so we

need to make sure that it is available in the schools. The school modernization program deals with that as well as providing the funding so that the town can build it, put a new roof on the school as well.

I was amazed. I went to a school district, a school a few years ago in New Brunswick, which is one of the urban towns that I represent. Their roof was leaking. The walls were crumbling. It was unbelievable. I think a lot of people think that the school buildings generally are in good shape. But if they take a look and they go to some of the schools where these kids are being educated, they would be surprised, even the parents sometimes, to learn how bad it is.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, sometimes people do not realize, also, that the demographics have changed. Just like we needed a lot of construction, a lot of new schools in the 1950s and 1960s because of the baby boomers, now we are experiencing what we call, what I like to call, the baby echo. That baby echo is a larger number. So there is a need, also, for additional classrooms because of that large number of youngsters in our schools.

So there is a real need for us to go back and do what these individuals did back in the 1950s and 1960s, and that was invest in our kids. We need to do the same. We need to invest in our future by investing in our kids and also investing in our adults. I really feel very strongly that we need to come up with new technological centers so that people in mid-management and people that are 40, 50 can go back to school and learn about computers and be able to go forward.

I also wanted to take this opportunity, if possible, to talk to my colleague, and I know he is well aware of the issue of safety in our schools. We have experienced a lot of violence, and we have had some difficulty. There is a need for us to kind of look at the issue of safety. I know that when we look at the violence that is occurring, there is a need for us to reach out.

The President does have a program that he is going to be looking at promoting safe schools. I recall when I did my town hall meeting with school safety I had someone stand up and say, ''Congressman RODRIGUEZ, you cannot even control our prisons, and you expect to control our schools?'' There was a lot to be said when that was indicated.

Our prison systems, the way they are run now, if one goes in there, unfortunately, if one is white, one better join one of the white supremacist groups there. If one is Mexican, one better be part of the Mexican Mafia.

I recall the individual who committed that atrocity in Texas that dragged that African American. I remember people talking about that young man. They used to say, when he was in school, he never indicated or showed that he was that kind. But after he had come out of prison, he had come out worse. In so doing, we have got to make sure that our society does not even perpetuate more of that.

So we need to reach out to those schools and do whatever we can to make sure that those youngsters feel safe, and part of that is through counseling, part of that is through having social workers reaching out, because I feel real strongly that schools are only a reflection of our community.

If there are gangs or problems, those gangs exist in those communities. That is why we need to reach out and work, and those resources in our schools are drastically needed to making sure that we can provide that education. Because if the child is not safe, they are not going to learn.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for allowing me this opportunity to be here with him.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, one of the things that I want to mention, because sometimes I think that when we talk about these national education initiatives, that some of our constituents worry and say, well, education traditionally has been locally based, and the Federal Government has not really taken that much of a role, and what does all this mean if the Federal Government gets involved.

I just want to stress we are really not changing anything in terms of local control of education. I mean, we are not suggesting in any way that the Federal Government dictate what teachers are hired or what textbooks are used in the classroom or what their curriculum is. All we are really doing with this school modernization initiative, the school safety initiative, the gentleman from Texas mentioned the effort to provide more money to hire teachers so that class sizes can be reduced, all we are really doing is helping the local towns afford some of these things because they cannot afford them now.

I am sure the gentleman has the same situation in Texas that I face in New Jersey, where the funding for education is primarily locally based. The towns just cannot afford these things anymore. Believe me, it does not matter if they are an urban area or if they are a suburban area. They cannot keep raising the local property taxes to put up the new school, to put in to hire people to monitor the hallways for safety reasons, to hire extra teachers, to reduce the class size.

By providing funding for these types of things, which is what the Democrats want to do, all we are really doing is helping the local taxpayer. Because either they are going to have to bond for these things and will not have the money to do it or going to have to raise taxes, which is very difficult and creates more problems.

So all we are really saying is we want to take some of the Federal dollars and send it back to the towns for these purposes. We are not dictating to them what they do. They have to apply for these things. But we are making it easier for them to fund it.

I do not know a town, no matter how affluent in my district, that is not in favor of that. Every mayor, every board of education tells me that they would love to see some of this happen.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, when I started politics, I started on the issue of school finance and the fact that the only money one has to build one's schools is from one's local community. So if one lives in a poor community, one is going to have less resources. If one lives in a rich community, there is going to be a lot more resources to educate one's child. That is why I got involved in politics, because I saw the disparity.

The gentleman from New Jersey is right. Most Americans a lot of times do not realize that the construction of that campus comes from only local resources. Just in the last few years has the State of Texas decided to help out a little bit. Prior to that, every single building in the State of Texas was only through local resources.

So it varies from district to district, from county to county in terms of how much they have and whether they can build more classrooms or not. Some decide to splurge and do things that they should not be doing.

But the reality is, yes, a lot of communities throughout this country need assistance. They need new technology. They need new wiring. I think it is going to be important for us to be there in the forefront to provide that technology and that infrastructure that will pay for the next generation and our future for this country.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas. I think we are running out of time so I want to kind of summarize and say that and I see that some of our colleagues are getting ready already for the State of the Union Address here tonight. But the bottom line is, with the State of the Union, is there is a real opportunity for us to work on a bipartisan basis on some of these issues.

I just hope that this year, unlike last year, we see the cooperation of the Republican majority in the Congress working with the President and with the Democrats to get some of these things done. Because if we do not, I think that the American people are going to be very disappointed.

They clearly want HMO reform. They want a prescription drug benefit for Medicare. They want the Federal Government to do more to help those who do not have health insurance. They want us to work on some of these education initiatives.

If we do not come through, we only have ourselves to blame. I am just really doing nothing more, as I am sure the President will do tonight, but to call on the Republicans and the majority in the Congress to work with us this year

and not have the negative attitude towards the President's proposals that, unfortunately, we had in the last year.

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RETURN ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I recently returned from Cuba with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and had the chance, while in Cuba, to talk with many people regarding Elian Gonzalez.

As a trained social worker, as a mother, and as a grandmother, my concern is that the child be in a loving environment, free of abuse. My concern is for his well-being, his mental and physical health and that he has a stable family environment.

We met with Mr. Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, and his great grandmother and other members of his family. This meeting and discussions with many people in Cuba who know the family have convinced me unequivocally that Elian does have a loving, fit, and equipped family, and that he should be returned to his father immediately.

There is no way that a child should not be with his or her parents because of material things that we value in this country. In our own country, for example, 18.9 percent of our children under 18 live in poverty. In Florida, 22.3 percent of the children live in poverty. In my own home state of California, over 23 percent of California's children live in poverty. I say this to say that we cannot evaluate Elian's situation in material terms because there is nothing more valuable than the love of a father and the support of a family unit.

Now, I am greatly concerned that, in addition to the traumatic experiences of losing his mother, being shipwrecked, and nearly losing his own life, that Elian is now caught in an international custody battle. The constant barrage of questioning, interviews, protests, and the relentless exposure to the media, that has really only exacerbated the already extremely stressful and disorienting circumstances. Elian's health and his welfare must be our first priority. We must consider the potentially damaging and adverse impact of all of this negative activity.

I urge for Elian's expeditious return to his family, his father, his community, and his familiar environment. It is my fear that the longer that this battle continues, the more Elian and his family will be harmed emotionally. The decision of whether to return Elian to his family in Cuba should not be a political decision. It should be a decision that exclusively supports the best interest of the child and his need to be reunited with his father.

The time that I spent with Elian's father and his family has assured me in no uncertain terms that this reunification is a moral imperative and the right thing to do. I am appalled by the manner in which the rights of Elian's father, Mr. Gonzalez, continue to be threatened. To continue this policy which excludes Elian's father from participation in his son's life in his home sets a very dangerous precedent.

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In no way would we allow our young people who do not have a lot of material things at home to be placed in homes that have more wealth. That is just unacceptable.

Please, let us do the right thing for Elian and please let us send him back home to his father and his family.

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PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, tonight, as I sit in the Chamber with our colleagues, it will be my 14th opportunity and honor to sit in this room as the President of the United States delivers the State of the Union address for this Nation for the year 2000, the beginning of the new millennium.

I have had the pleasure of sitting through speeches by Ronald Reagan, by George Bush and, most recently, by President Clinton. We are going to hear a lot tonight, and I want to talk tonight about some of the things that we will likely hear and will not hear, and I want to talk about some foreign policy issues relative to a trip that I had the pleasure of leading with a bipartisan delegation of Members in November of last year to Russia.

Madam Speaker, what we know we are going to hear tonight, because of the huge surplus that is being generated with our economic upturn and the balanced budget that we are now in the midst of securing, we are going to hear the President basically recreate Christmas all over again. The American people will hear litany after litany of new programs, new ideas, new ways to spend money that has been generated because of our surplus.

And, believe me, Madam Speaker, there is going to be something for everyone. There will be a new program for everyone in the country. And Madam Speaker, it kind of amazes me because the American people have to understand, they can send us any amount of money they want, and we will find a way to spend it in Washington. But is that really what we are here for? Is our goal here to find new ways to create new programs with fancy sounding titles, with new bureaucracies, that are for the most part run by political appointees that are going to better tell the people locally how to run their lives or better solve the problems locally than if we gave the money back to the American people and then let them make those basic and fundamental decisions?

Believe me, tonight, if there is one thing we know we will hear it will be a Christmas tree list of goodies that the President wants to give out all across this Nation. And he will try to hit every group in America there is. Every group.

Madam Speaker, we have done some good things over the past 6 years. And, yes, many of them have been with the bipartisan effort in this body and the other body. But, yes, some of the times we have had to fight the administration every step of the way.

I can recall when the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH), our distinguished Committee on the Budget chairman, first proposed balancing the budget 6 years ago. The President got caught and he did not know what to say. In fact, I remember the famous commercials where he would say we are going to balance the budget in 8 years, 7, 6, 5, 4. He really did not know because he had no plan. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) stuck his neck out and said we will submit a plan for a balanced budget, when no one else believed him, including some on the Republican side. The gentleman from Ohio persevered and eventually we accomplished what many thought was impossible.

Now, the President will take credit for the balanced budget. But in fact if we look back over the past 7 years, I can recall a couple of years where the President's budget he submitted to us got no votes in the House. Not one vote. Because no Member from either side would support the President's budget plan. Yet tonight President Clinton will take credit for the balanced budget that we are now enjoying which has helped to promoted our economic success.

Our Congress, our leadership here, with the support of some Democrats, has tried to give back as much money from the surplus as possible to the American people. But here the President has fought us every step of the way. He has rather desired to keep the money in Washington where the bureaucracy can better decide how to spend funds than allowing the American people to get that money back for themselves. There are some in this city who think that the money we collect from the taxpayers of America really is our money as opposed to their money.

Here tonight we will hear the President talk about welfare reform. What we will not hear about tonight, Madam Speaker, is the President saying that he made a mistake twice and vetoed the welfare reform bill. Because two times over the past 7 years the Congress, bipartisan, Democrats and Republicans, passed welfare reform in both bodies. Two times. And in both of those cases the President vetoed welfare reform.

It was not until he read the polls and he saw that the American people wanted welfare reform that he finally signed the welfare reform bill the third time, and then announced after he signed it he was going to make substantive changes to the bill that we had passed that he signed in the following fiscal year. And then good things happened with welfare reform, as we said they would, for the past 5 years, 6 years, and the President now will take credit for that tonight. He will say look at how many people are working as opposed to being on welfare. Where were those President's comments when he vetoed both welfare reform bills that the Congress passed with bipartisan votes over the past 5 years?

We will hear the President talk about protecting Social Security tonight. But, Madam Speaker, we will not hear about the President last year wanting to use 60 percent of the Social Security surplus for other programs. We will not hear him talk about that. We will not hear him talk about the fact that Congress resisted and said, oh, no, Mr. President, we are not going to spend any of the Social Security Trust Fund money. We are going to protect all of that for our senior citizens. So the President will talk about protecting Social Security, but he will not talk about the fact that he originally wanted to use a significant portion of those dollars.

Now, we are going to hear the President talk a lot about education tonight, Madam Speaker. And being a teacher by profession, and one of the 25 Members of Congress who used to be a classroom teacher, education is very important to me. The President is going to come out with a lot of grandiose plans to spend a lot of money that is controlled by Washington, to keep those strings attached so that the bureaucrats in this city control how local school boards and how local superintendents decide how to best meet the needs of their people.

One of the things that this Congress has done for the past 5 years has been to allocate more resources to local schools, attempting every step of the way to remove the bureaucracy in Washington and allow local school boards and local parents to make decisions about where local education money could best be spent. Now the President will talk a good game there, but again it has been the Congress who has led the way, many times with the President finally signing our legislation into law to give local school boards and local taxpayers more control in terms of education. And that is where the focus should be.

As a classroom teacher for 7 years, I understand the importance of allowing local teachers to decide how to best motivate kids. As someone who worked in a chapter 1 and Title I program for 3 years, I understand the importance of allowing local school districts to set the policy priorities and objectives for local students to meet.

Now, we are going to hear the President make a few comments about defense tonight, Madam Speaker, but in last year's State of the Union I brought a stopwatch with me because I wanted to see if my hunch was correct regarding the President's focus on national security. My hunch was correct. The President spoke for 1 hour and 17 minutes last January. The amount of time he focused on security issues was 90 seconds. Ninety seconds out of an hour and 17 minutes. And part of that 90 seconds was when he looked up in the audience and thanked a B–52 pilot who was flying those bombing missions over in Iraq.

What he did not tell the American people, which was even more important, was that that B–52 pilot was flying an airplane that will be 75 years old because we do not have the money to replace it. And what he did not talk to the American people about, and I will guarantee he will not mention it tonight, is the fact that we have 20,000 young Americans who are on food stamps today, who are serving their country and yet who have to use food stamps to take care of their families' needs.

And what the President will not talk about tonight, Madam Speaker, is the fact that he has deployed our troops in more instances than any administration in the last century. In fact, Madam Speaker, if we take all the presidents who served from the end of World War II until 1991, all of those Presidents combined deployed our troops 10 times. This President has now deployed our troops for the 34th time. And none of those deployments were paid for. He has put the troops in harm's way and allowed the Congress to come up with a way to pay for those costs by cutting other parts of our already decreasing defense budget.

No, the President is not going to talk about the fact that our Navy is now going down to about 200 ships. He will not talk about the fact that a couple of our Army divisions have been declared not fit to handle the kinds of missions that they are being asked to perform. He is not going to talk about the fact that General Schwarzkopf and other generals have said we could not complete another Desert Storm if it occurred. He will not talk about the fact that morale in the military is as low today as it has been since the end of World War II; that our reenlistment rate for pilots is down below 15 percent; that none of the services, except for the Marine Corps, can get young people to join.

The President will not talk about any of that tonight, Madam Speaker, because in his mind that is not the State of the Union. In fact, Madam Speaker, his State of the Union is a Disney-like State of the Union, where we only talk about positive things, where there is room for both parties to share, but not focus on the negative things that have come about in some cases by the Congress but in my opinion largely by the failure of leadership in the White House.

Madam Speaker, this President will not talk about security with any definitive plan in tonight's speech, we can rest assured on that. Because he took James Carville's advice very well when he was elected 7 years ago, when James Carville told him, ''It's the economy, stupid. Focus on the economy and don't worry about anything else.'' So by not talking about threats around the world, by not talking about the realities of what is occurring in Russia and China and the Middle East, between India and Pakistan, by not talking about those areas where trouble is brewing on a regular basis, the American people do not think we have to spend any more money on supporting our military.

In fact, Madam Speaker, I would be surprised tonight if the President told the real story about our relations with Russia and China. Things were going well 7 years ago. In fact, we had a new era, with Russia becoming a free democracy. Both our government and the Russian government declared the two countries to be strategic partners.

Where are we today, Madam Speaker? Russia's new strategic partner, as defined by the new President of Russia, Mr. Putin, is China, not the U.S. In fact, Madam Speaker, our relationship with Russia has never been worse than it is today. And in fact we have now seen over the past 12 months meeting after meeting between senior Russian leaders and senior Chinese leaders where they are now exchanging technology and both of whom are looking to the U.S. as their enemy. Why is that happening, Madam Speaker? It is happening because of our failed foreign policy.

Now, the President has had some successes. He deserves to take credit for his work in helping settle the situation in involving Ireland and Great Britain, and I will give him the credit for that. But I must say that, while taking the credit for those successes, he also needs to accept the blame for the failures of our policy in regard to China and Russia.

Madam Speaker, the delegation that I led to Moscow, in fact to Ukraine, Moldova, and Moscow this past November, saw firsthand the failures of this administration. Our delegation consisted of 10 Members of Congress, 7 Republicans and 3 Democrats. The purpose of our trip was threefold, Madam Speaker: It was to travel to Ukraine at the invitation of the Ukrainian Rada and President Kuchma, and to set up a formal relationship between the Rada, the parliament of Ukraine, and the U.S. Congress. This new relationship is to be modeled after the relationship that I started with Russia 6 years ago.

Because of late votes in November, we had to cancel the formal part of the trip to Ukraine. However, three members of our delegation broke away and went to Ukraine and did have the meetings to begin the process of this

new relationship. And I am pleased and happy that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER), have agreed to co-chair this new inter-parliamentary relationship between the Ukrainian Rada and the U.S. Congress, and our trip solidified that relationship as we started the process off in November of last year.

And by the way we will have another trip of Ukrainian Rada members to the U.S. sometime in the first quarter of this year. We moved on from Ukraine to Moldova, a country that is strategically important to America's interest and to the future of Russia and to the people in that part of the world. We were there at the request and invitation of the President of Moldova as well as the Parliament.

It was heartwarming, Madam Speaker, that the Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament, because we could not arrive there during a weekday but had to postpone our visit until Saturday, convened a special session of the Parliament on Saturday morning. It was heartwarming to see every member of the Moldovan Parliament sitting in the chamber as our delegation walked in. And I had the high honor and privilege of addressing the session of the Parliament to talk about the relationship between the Moldovan people and the people of the United States.

While in Moldova, in meetings with the President, meetings with the leadership of the Moldovan government and the majority and opposition leadership of the Parliament, we also challenged them to establish an interparliamentary relationship with the Congress, which they have accepted. And I am pleased to announce, Madam Speaker, that the two cochairs of the Moldovan Parliament-U.S. Congress interchange are in fact the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

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So again the Congress, in a bipartisan way, made significant contributions to improve relations with both of those nations.

Then finally, Madam Speaker, we traveled on to Moscow. Our trip to Moscow was a special trip because we were traveling to Moscow at the invitation of the Duma, the parliament in Russia. The Duma, back in September of last year, formally invited our interparliamentary exchange program, cochaired by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and myself, to establish a bilateral relationship of elected parliamentarians to help the Russians uncover the scandal involving the finances of the Russian Government. We accepted the request of the Russians to bring a bipartisan delegation to Moscow to begin formal talks of how we could work with the Russian side to uncover the reasons and the causes of billions of dollars being stolen by Russian Government officials, by people surrounding the Yeltsin government and by Russian banking institutions, in some cases with the cooperation of American institutions. So our trip was to solidify that relationship that they had asked us to get involved with.

Madam Speaker, our meetings in Moscow were extensive. We met with everyone, from the mayor of Moscow, Mayor Luzhkov, who is himself a new party official in the fatherland party, which did very well in the Duma elections in December, to leadership of the Duma, the vice-speaker of the Duma, the number two person in the state Duma, all the faction leaders, as well as leadership of Russia involving housing, helping them with their mortgage programs, which is just starting out, meetings with former Russian officials who were responsible for programs like biological weapons, so that we can learn more about the instability that exists within Russia today.

But, Madam Speaker, I want to talk about one meeting that was especially important because I think this meeting and what happened around this meeting is symbolic of this administration's policies which I think have caused many of the problems that Russia is experiencing today and has caused the freezing of the relationship between the U.S. and Russia unlike at any time since the days of the Cold War.

Madam Speaker, knowing that our bipartisan delegation was going to Moscow at the request of the Russian Duma, the 26 members of the Duma anti-corruption task force, I thought in advance that besides meeting with the Duma our bipartisan delegation should also meet with a man by the name of Skuratov. Mr. Skuratov is roughly the equivalent to Janet Reno in our government, the top law enforcement official in Russia.

Mr. Skuratov is to weed out corruption, to investigate instances of abuse of power, and to find out if and where money is being used for illegal purposes that should have been going to the Russian people.

So, Madam Speaker, as I have done in the past on previous trips to Moscow, I officially asked our State Department to set up three meetings for us in Moscow with the rest of the meetings being set up through our own contacts.

The three meetings were with the defense minister of Russia, Mr. Sergeyev, whom I have met before, with the new at that time the prime minister, and the new president of Russia, President Putin, who was out of the country when we arrived and we, understandably, could not meet with him. But the third and perhaps most important meeting was the request that we made to meet with Mr. Skuratov.

Now, Mr. Skuratov is somewhat of a controversial figure. Besides being the chief prosecutor in Russia, he was found to have been involved in and, at least, filmed in what appeared to be on the Russian TV an escapade with a prostitute, or a woman, in a Moscow hotel. After that little bit of film footage was played by the Russian Government on national TV, Boris Yeltsin fired Skuratov.

Now, it just so happens, Madam Speaker, that he was fired the day before he was about to indict senior Russian elected officials who he had found were involved in ripping off hundreds of millions and billions of dollars that were supposed to go to the Russian people.

In fact, Madam Speaker, when Boris Yeltsin fired Skuratov the first time, the elected parliament in Russia, the upper council equivalent to our Senate, the Federation Counsel, overrode Mr. Yeltsin by a wide margin and said, you will not fire Skuratov; we, in fact, endorse him.

So then President Yeltsin fired Skuratov a second time, and the Federation Counsel reinstated Skuratov a second time. So Yeltsin fired him a third time, and the Federation Counsel reinstated him a third time.

Now, Yeltsin says all along the time period here that he kept firing Skuratov because he was an immoral person. Now, I do not know whether Mr. Skuratov is an immoral person or not, Madam Speaker, but I can tell my colleagues this, not only was he fired by President Yeltsin three times even though the Senate in Russia supported him, but over 25 deputy prosecutors that were working with Skuratov on the corruption in Russia were fired along with him.

Now, the hotel film footage only showed one man, it did not show 25 other prosecutors, involved in immoral acts. Yet all 25 of these prosecutors working for and with Skuratov were relieved at the same time.

Now, why would they be relieved? What was so significant that Yeltsin found it important to fire them? Well, that is why I felt it was important for us to meet with Skuratov and to hear what he had to say. So, Madam Speaker, we requested through our State Department the opportunity to meet with Skuratov.

Some strange things occurred, Madam Speaker, that I want our colleagues to hear, which is the reason why I have taken the floor tonight, which I am sure President Clinton will not talk about tonight in the State of the Union speech because it has been a part of our policy toward Russia for the past 7 years. We do not like to see or hear bad things coming from nations where our relationship is based on personalities, like President Clinton to President Yeltsin.

When we arrived in Moscow, my staff asked the State Department if the meeting had been set up with Mr. Skuratov. The State Department said, no, we could not arrange the meeting with Mr. Skuratov. We were very disappointed, to say the least.

The Monday morning we arrived at the Duma headquarters, equivalent to our Capitol building, we were brought into the committee room where the chairman of the security committee

for the Duma was about to host us, Mr. Ilyukhin, and that was to be followed in a large hearing room for a public hearing hosted by the chairman of the anti-corruption task force involving over 20 members of the Russian Duma.

During our meeting with all the Members of Congress, both parties, and Mr. Ilyukhin, a couple of deputies said to him, do you think it would be possible for us to have a meeting with Mr. Skuratov? Upon which Mr. Ilyukhin said, sure, that is easy. We can set that up for you whenever you like.

I looked over at the State Department official in the room with us and I said, well, that is interesting because our State Department said they could not reach Mr. Skuratov. The members of the Duma said, no problem, we will arrange the meeting for you.

The irony of the request and the fact that the Duma members would set up the meeting was, Madam Speaker, that the State Department then requested of me if they could attend the meeting with Mr. Skuratov which they had failed to set up.

On Tuesday evening, after our meetings with the Russian leadership, with Mayor Luzhkov, with the leaders of the Duma, the Federal Counsel, and with agencies of the Russian Government, at 6 o'clock in the evening in a secret room in our hotel Mr. Skuratov was seated waiting for Members of Congress to arrive.

I was surprised when we arrived in the meeting room that there was a State Department employee at the end of the table. I asked him to identify himself, which he did; and he said he was there at the suggestion of our Ambassador Jim Collins.

So I began the meeting. It was ironic, Madam Speaker, that the State Department that could not set up the meeting for Members of Congress with Mr. Skuratov would want to have an official present at the table to monitor what was going to take place.

So I thought I would ask Mr. Skuratov how he found out about the meeting. I said, Mr. Skuratov how did you know to be here today? He said, some of my friends that you met with asked me to come over and meet with you, and I told them I was more than happy to meet with Members of the U.S. Congress.

I said, Mr. Skuratov, when did our State Department contact you to tell you that Members of Congress wanted to meet with you? He said, Oh, Congressman, your State Department never contacted me. In fact, I did not know you wanted to meet with me until Monday night late there was a message on my phone machine at my home asking me to call the embassy back in Moscow.

That was the evening after we had gotten a commitment from the Duma members that we would get a meeting with Mr. Skuratov.

Madam Speaker, it is obvious what was going on here. Our State Department did not want the 10 Members of Congress on the trip to meet face to face with Mr. Skuratov.

Well, at that I was very upset, along with our colleagues who were with me. We asked the State Department official to leave because we felt he did not have a purpose in being at the meeting with us except to take notes and perhaps report back to the Yeltsin government.

Then something strange happened, Madam Speaker, almost like it was out of a James Bond movie. Here we are in Moscow, in the National Hotel on the third floor in a private room, and the Members of Congress, including myself, have just kicked out our State Department official who was in this meeting; and a woman knocks on the door and she has got a fur coat on and a fur hat and a purse. And she comes in; and I say, excuse me, this is a private meeting. Would you mind leaving, stepping out of the room? She said, oh, I was sent here by the U.S. State Department, by our American Embassy in Moscow. I said, well, this is a private meeting. Would you please leave?

Upon which, Madam Speaker, she took off her fur coat, took off her fur hat and placed her hat, coat, and pocketbook on the table we were meeting at and walked out of the room.

Now, Madam Speaker, I have met a lot of women in my life and I do not know of any women that go around leaving their pocketbooks in a room full of strangers. And I just wonder, Madam Speaker, if that pocketbook had something inside it that will allow someone else to listen or monitor what Skuratov was telling the Members of Congress that were in that meeting.

Sounds like a James Bond thriller. Well, sometimes I think this administration gets involved in James Bond types of activities, especially when someone is about to say something that might embarrass this administration in terms of our policy toward Russia.

Well, Madam Speaker, with the consent of the Members of Congress with me, I told the staff to remove the purse, remove the coat, remove the hat so that we could continue our meeting. And we did.

Madam Speaker, for 2½ hours Members of Congress and senior committee staff from the Committee on Banking and Financial Affairs, the Joint Economic Committee, and the Committee on Armed Services sat and listened to Skuratov tell an unbelievable story.

Now, Madam Speaker, I have the notes from both the trip and the meeting, which are available to any Member of Congress who wants them, which we have already given to our FBI about what Skuratov said. Let me just give my colleagues a few highlights, Madam Speaker, because I think the American people would have liked to have heard this tonight as a part of the State of the Union, why our relationship with Russia has turned so sour.

It is because, while we were reinforcing Yeltsin, the Russian people knew that Yeltsin and his cronies were ripping off hundreds of millions and billions of dollars of money that was supposed to go to help the Russian economy. This is what Skuratov said. He said that he had evidence not just to indict Yeltsin's daughter, Tatianna, but to even lead to Yeltsin himself that Skuratov was about to indict the senior members of Yeltsin's family and the senior leaders of the Russian Government when he was brought down and when the prosecutors with him were fired.

He said he also had evidence that up to 700 senior Russian officials, 700, were involved in insider GKO bond trading, meaning they were making money off of Russia's economic problems. While the U.S. and the West were bailing out Russia's economy with money from the IMF and the World Bank, 700 Russian officials were reaping the financial benefits of insider trading of GKO bonds.

□ 1500

He gave us one example. He said the foreign minister in Russia during his investigation he found was making an annual salary of between 4 to 5,000 rubles a month. That is not much money when we convert it to U.S. dollars. The foreign minister was making 4 to 5,000 rubles a month. Yet Skuratov had evidence that he was involved in insider bond trading in the millions of U.S. dollars. We have to ask the question, how could a person making 4 to 5,000 rubles a month get access to millions of U.S. dollars? He said that was the norm in the Russian government of Boris Yeltsin. He also told us that in the most recent IMF tranche of money that this country guaranteed to go into Russia, it was over $4 billion, that he could only account for about $300 million that went through the normal banking process in Russia, that over $4 billion of that IMF money did not go through the normal banking process that IMF funds would go through.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Skuratov went through a whole litany of the details of the investigation that he was in the midst of when he was fired. He told us that there is evidence in Russia and evidence available to document the ties to Russian criminal elements and in some cases U.S. institutions. We asked him, ''Well, what kind of cooperation did you get from our government?'' He said he had had one brief meeting with FBI Director Louis Freeh but no further subsequent meetings with the FBI. We have since met with the FBI, we have given them the information, and because I have the highest confidence in Director Freeh and his agency, we are convinced that he will use that information and pursue further information that Mr. Skuratov has identified for us. But, Madam Speaker, my point is a simple one. We will not hear that story tonight in the State of the Union. We will not hear the story about the instability in Russia. We will not hear the story, Madam

Speaker, about the billions of dollars of U.S. money that has been ripped off while we sat back and reinforced Yeltsin every step of the way with the Russian people losing confidence in its relationship between Russia and the U.S. We also will not hear this story, Madam Speaker, that I would like to see the President tell, the story of Lieutenant Jack Daley, a 15-year naval intelligence officer who was lasered 3 years ago by a Russian spy trawler called the Kapitan Man. Jack Daley was flying a surveillance mission monitoring Russian spy ships that were spying on our submarine fleet out in Puget Sound. During the mission where he was flying in a helicopter with a Canadian pilot, they both had a sensation in their eyes as they were taking photographs of this spy vessel. When they landed, they were taken to the base infirmary and were told that they had been lasered by a high-powered laser generator.

Madam Speaker, what we will not hear the President talk about tonight is the fact that our State Department interfered with our Defense Department and would not allow our DOD personnel to go on board that Russian ship until we had notified the embassy in Moscow that they had done something wrong. In fact, Bill Gertz in his book ''Betrayal'' revealed for the first time the classified cables that were sent between our embassy and the Moscow embassy, our State Department and our Department of Defense. So instead of protecting our own naval intelligence officer who had been lasered by a Russian spy ship, we were trying to make sure again, like we were with the money laundering, that Boris Yeltsin was not embarrassed. Then something terrible happened with Jack Daley's career. For 15 years he had been an outstanding sailor, given the highest awards that one can get in the Navy. But because he questioned why his government was not supporting him but instead protecting Russia and Boris Yeltsin's leadership, Jack Daley's career was almost brought to a grinding halt. In fact, Madam Speaker, he was bypassed for a promotion until bipartisan Members of Congress, people like the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and people like myself and others got involved, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), in Jack Daley's case and we said to this administration, ''You can't get away with ignoring harm done to an American soldier because you don't want to embarrass Boris Yeltsin and his relationship with Bill Clinton.''

When Jack Daley was bypassed this past summer a second time for his promotion, those of us in the Congress on both sides of the aisle following the case were livid and we demanded that our Defense Department protect our own military officer. In September of this year, finally, John Hamre, our Deputy Secretary of Defense, called me and he said, ''Congressman, I think you'll be happy. We had a special Navy panel review the Jack Daley case and he is being given his promotion.''

Madam Speaker, the point is that what we will not hear the President talk about tonight are the multitude of times that we have pretended reality was not what it is in Russia or in China, when we ignored arms control violations, 17 by the Russians, 20 by the Chinese over the past 7 years, when we had the hard evidence of deliberate arms control violations by both countries we pretended it did not happen because we did not want to upset the relationship between Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin or Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin. We will not hear that story tonight, Madam Speaker, because the President will only talk about the glitz, he will only talk about the economy going well, he will pretend the world is safe, there are no problems.

He will not talk about the fact that he reversed himself on missile defense because the bipartisan Congress for 6 years every year passed overwhelmingly bipartisan measures demanding that this administration move to protect our troops and our people. He will not talk about the fact tonight that the day after last year's State of the Union speech when he did not talk about missile defense at all, he had Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen give a major foreign policy speech when he announced that we were in fact changing our position and now supportive of missile defense as a Nation. He probably will not talk about the fact that in last year's State of the Union speech he did not talk to any great length about the increasing threats from weapons of mass destruction or cyberterrorism but in fact the week after the State of the Union speech, he gave two speeches, one was on cyberterrorism and he said he would request billions of new dollars, and the second was on weapons of mass destruction and he again said he would request billions of dollars.

My point, Madam Speaker, is we are going to hear a good speech tonight. It is going to give the President a good bump in the polls. It is going to make the American people feel good because there is going to be something in it for everybody. We are going to praise people in the audience, we are going to applaud our troops as the best that have ever existed in the history of the country, we are going to talk about the economy and we are going to say everything is rosy, but we are not going to hear the kinds of things that I have outlined in my 1-hour special order today, Madam Speaker.

Again, there are things this President can take credit for and can share jointly with the success this Congress has had. But it is not just accepting success. He also has to be honest with the American people about problems we have not yet solved, about the failed relationships our country now has with China and Russia, about the fact that we are not properly funding the men and women serving our country and still have up to 20,000 young military men and women who have to receive food stamps because we do not pay them enough to take care of their families. These are the kinds of stories, as well as some of the others that I have talked about, that I would have hoped to hear from the State of the Union.

Madam Speaker, in going over these highlights tonight, I have focused every step of the way on the fact that our successes have been bipartisan in this body and the other body. None of our successes that I have outlined today, welfare reform, balanced budget, protecting Social Security, pushing education funds to local schools, trying to increase funds for our military, dignity in the way we enforce arms control agreements, none of those successes were Republican successes alone. Sure, the Republican majority allowed those bills to come to the floor, but in most cases, if not all, it was support from the Democrat side that helped those bills become reality and become the law of the land. We will not hear those stories tonight.

We are going to hear a one-word standup session about how great Bill Clinton has been for America for the past 7 years. And there are going to be those around the country who are going to say, if we just had control of the Congress, these are the Democrats now, we could do so much more.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to remind the American people of a simple basic fact that is irrefutable. For the past 50 years, since 1952, the party of President Clinton, the Democrat Party, has had a chance to govern America time and time again. Let us look at the history of this country. Under JFK, we had a Democrat President and a Democrat Congress. Under LBJ, we had a Democrat President and a Democrat Congress. Under Jimmy Carter, we had a Democrat President and a Democrat Congress. Under Bill Clinton, for the first 2 years, we had a Democrat President and a Democrat Congress. Madam Speaker, every American and every colleague needs to ask themselves, how many times in the last 50 years has the Republican Party had the President and the Congress? The answer, Madam Speaker, is zero. The Republican Party has not controlled the White House and the Congress since 1952.

Our message, Madam Speaker, is we have done good things over the past 5 years. Yes, the President will take credit for many of them tonight, from the balanced budget to welfare reform, to saving Social Security, to helping boost up our defense. He will take credit for all of them. But, Madam Speaker, imagine if the Republican Party for once in the next election cycle, after 50 years of not having a chance, had a chance to control the House, the Senate and the White House, something the Democrats have had time and again. Remember, Madam Speaker, when the Democrats controlled the

Congress and the White House, they did not protect Social Security. They did not reform welfare. They created bigger programs, out-of-control programs. They had the opportunity time and time again, and they drove this country into a massive deficit because they always controlled the Congress until 6 years ago.

So I would only hope tonight as we listen to the President's last State of the Union, and I know my colleagues will give him the respect that he is due as our Commander in Chief and as our President, while I may disagree with his policies and may disagree with some of his decisions, I respect the fact that he is our leader and he is our President and so I would hope, and I know that our colleagues will give him that respect tonight, but I only wanted to share, Madam Speaker, some thoughts of things that maybe could have been said, should have been said but will not be said tonight in this State of the Union speech for America for the new millennium.

Madam Speaker, I will include one further item. During our trip to Moscow, the leader of the Kurchatov Institute and a good friend of mine, Yevgeny Velikhov, gave a speech in our honor at a luncheon he hosted. It is important to understand who Yevgeny Velikhov is. He is the director of one of the largest institutes in Russia called Kurchatov Institute in Moscow. It is the institute that developed all of Russia's nuclear programs, their nuclear technology. Yevgeny gave a speech about relations between the U.S. and Russia that is absolutely unbelievable. My point in placing this speech in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the end of my comments today, Madam Speaker, is that Yevgeny Velikhov represents mainstream Russia. Russian people want to be our friends. Russian leaders want to work with us. But we cannot have a policy as we have had over the past 7 years of being so enamored with Boris Yeltsin, or a personality, that we ignore the reality of what is occurring in that country, because if we do that again, the Russian people will have the same feeling toward us then as they have toward us now.

They have seen us ignore the corruption, they have seen us ignore the involvement of Yeltsin's own family and his friends in stealing money from the Russian people. They have seen America turn its back when we had evidence of the selling off of technology from Russian criminal elements to foreign nations. We have got to change that policy. People like Yevgeny Velikhov understand that. The future of our relationship with Russia I think can be bright as I think our relationship with China can be bright. There, as this past weekend I had a chance to speak to the Mid-Atlantic Monte Gade Society of Chinese Scientists, I said it is an absolute tragedy that this administration is blaming the whole fiasco over the Chinese technology transfer on one man who they claim stole technology. Instead of focusing on a Chinese or Asian American, this administration should look to itself and to its failed policies of allowing proliferation to occur and technology to be transferred legally to anyone who would pay the price.

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Madam Speaker, I would hope that as I close this special order today our colleagues will think beyond the rhetoric of what we are going to hear tonight and put our minds together to work, as we did in the last year of this session of the Congress, on some good initiatives, the kinds of things that we have passed, the kinds of foreign policy actions that we have taken, and drag the President along for the good of America into the new millennium and the 21st Century.

Madam Speaker, at this point I would enter into the RECORD another speech of Yevgeny Velikhov.

E.P. VELIKHOV'S SPEECH AT THE MEETING OF KURCHATOV INSTITUTE'S SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY WITH A GROUP OF USA CONGRESSMEN

Ladies and Gentlemen, we gathered in a memorable time when the ages are changing. This calendar event is being reinforced by one of the also important circumstance for the whole mankind: 2000 years of Christ's birthday.

His teaching changed our world. When the mankind was keeping to his commandments it progressed, but as soon as they were forgotten the mankind became sunken into deep crisis. And we, having achieved this century border, have got into this no way state.

Practically all the XX century beginning from 1917 and ending by 1990 year, we were living behind the ''iron curtain'' in the state of ideological confrontation. And all these years the idea to conquer the world has dominated as in the Soviet Union as well in the United States of America. But reasonable people from both sides (and their number was not small) understood that there are on the both sides of the ''iron curtain'' the real alive people, who were ready for cooperation. And overwhelming ideological barriers we were going toward each other creating step by step a bridge of confidence and understanding.

When almost 10 years ago the ''iron curtain'' has broken we hoped for a strengthening of this bridge, for the sound forces going through it in both direction. Unfortunately this has not happened. The ideology has broken, but in the result of this powerful ideological burst a foam appeared, which has flowed from us to the USA and from the USA to us.

Americans have felt on themselves what is the Russian crime, corruption, they saw ''new Russians'', our bankers, oligarchs, who have ''green cards'', huge amounts of money for villa construction, wealthy holidays. Exactly they became to represent the Russian face in the West. And the West has shuddered.

But we also have shuddered. Flow of the people, representing wrong side of American life, started into Russia. We have seen here your expert—economists, whose ideas have not been accepted in the USA as they were not perspective and harmful, but they have found a fertile soil in the Russia. We have seen in our space also American businessmen, who tried to involve us into adventure projects. I personally confronted one of such so called businessman, who proposed to cooperate in a major project on unlawful ground.

Certainly, the roots of many vices such as corruption, stealing, unlawful privatization, drags, pornography, prostitution, are situated also in our ground, but in many respect the people's awareness connect them to America and the USA is not accepted in Russia now as a prospering and educated society.

It seems that we have forgotten 10 Christian commandments. It appears on the border of centuries that a huge charge of mutual good will, which we have had at the end of 80-ty years, has been almost used up. And instead of the ''iron curtain'' we begin to construct a ''stinking trench'' behind the rusted barbed wire. Lets look at today's time: as earlier we threaten each other by nuclear restriction and think up limitations, sanctions. We appeared to be in a situation dangerous for the world at the end of XX century.

Meantime the USA and the Russia are playing today a huge role in the establishment of a stable and secure peace, democratic order. It is clear, that being in confrontation we can only negatively influence as on our countries as well on the world as a whole.

I would not like to be a pessimist. We have way out and we can see it if we return with open face to our youth. It is a new growing force of Russia, it is that base on which we can build the world and the order.

''Junior Achievements of Russia'' is gaining power by us. One million of young men and girls from 80 regions of Russia, who study economics, business and management are today in its ranks. After 5 years they will be 5 millions. And this is a great power, which is ready for democratic transformation in the country.

Altruism is laying in the base of their activity—one of the best features of Americans which the Russian youth has accepted and absorbed. As many Americans members of ''Junior Achievements'' see the highest sense to serve to the society.

Finally, we can learn in our new construction against our businessmen, who are heading this movement. They are those people who a faithful to the principles of ''pure business'' and they are true to their duty. They are ready to invest into creation of new society.

The resume from my speech suggests itself: experience which has come from ''the top'' appears to be not quite satisfactory. It came to us with the people who have forgotten the Christ's commandments. But we have sound forces, who not only accept them but they are leaving in accordance with them. We connect the Russia's future with them and the future of Russian-American relations.

I call upon to support the people who have the life principle to serve to the society.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.)

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.

JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 241 TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Jim Varey, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY); and

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES);

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND);

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG);

The Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER);

The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN);

The Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN); and

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG).

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Jesse B. Marehalau, Ambassador to the United States from Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

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THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our Nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis and so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity and, therefore, such a profound obligation to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs; the fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record; the first back-to-back surpluses in 42 years.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

We have built a new economy.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 20 percent, to its lowest level in 25 years. Teen births down 7 years in a row. Adoptions up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years.

My fellow Americans, the state of our union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, the real credit belongs to the American people.

My gratitude also goes to those of you in this Chamber who have worked with us to put progress over partisanship.

Eight years ago, it was not so clear to most Americans there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Then our Nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock. The title of a best-selling book that year asked: ''America: What Went Wrong?''

In the best traditions of our Nation, Americans determined to set things right. We restored the vital center, replacing outmoded ideologies with a new vision anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all Americans.

We reinvented government, transforming it into a catalyst for new ideas that stress both opportunity and responsibility, and give our people the tools they need to solve their own problems.

With the smallest Federal workforce in 40 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We cut crime: with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals.

We ended welfare as we knew it, requiring work while protecting health care and nutrition for children, and investing more in child care, transportation, and housing to help their parents go to work. We have helped parents to succeed at home and at work with family leave, which 20 million Americans have now used to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one. We have engaged 150,000 young Americans in citizen service through AmeriCorps, while helping them earn money for college.

In 1992, we just had a roadmap. Today, we have results. Even more important, America again has the confidence to dream big dreams. But we must not let this confidence drift into complacency. For we, all of us, will be judged by the dreams and deeds we pass on to our children. And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great.

My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st century. Now, we must shape a 21st-century American revolution, of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be now, as we were in the beginning, a new Nation.

At the dawn of the last century, Theodore Roosevelt said, ''The one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight. It should be the growing nation with a future that takes the long look ahead.''

Tonight, let us take our long look ahead and set great goals for our Nation.

To 21st century America, let us pledge these things:

Every child will begin school ready to learn and graduate ready to succeed.

Every family will be able to succeed at home and at work, and no child will be raised in poverty. We will meet the challenge of the aging of America. We will assure quality, affordable health care at last for all Americans. We will make America the safest big country on earth. We will pay off our national debt for the first time since 1935. We will bring prosperity to every American community. We will reverse the course of climate change and leave a safer, cleaner planet. America will lead the world toward shared peace and prosperity, and the far frontiers of science and technology. And we will become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago: One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

These are great goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year. Not even in this decade. But we will reach them. Let us remember that the first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single year. The lesson of our history, and the lesson of the last 7 years, is that great goals are reached step by step: always building on our progress, always gaining ground.

Of course, you cannot gain ground if you are standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. So let us begin tonight with them.

Again, I ask you to pass a real Patients' Bill of Rights. I ask you to pass common sense gun safety legislation. I ask you to pass campaign finance reform. I ask you to vote up or down on judicial nominations and other important appointees; and, again, I ask you, I implore you, to raise the minimum wage.

Now, let me try to balance the seesaw here. Two years ago, as we reached across party lines to reach our first balanced budget, I asked that we meet our responsibility to the next generation by maintaining our fiscal discipline. Because we refused to stray from that path, we are doing something that would have seemed unimaginable 7 years ago. We are actually paying down the national debt.

Now, if we stay on this path, we can pay down the debt entirely in just 13 years now and make America debt-free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President in 1835.

In 1993, we began to put our fiscal house in order with the Deficit Reduction Act, which you will all remember won passages in both Houses by just a single vote. Your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, led that effort and sparked our long boom. He is here with us tonight. Lloyd Bentsen, you have served America well; and we thank you.

Beyond paying off the debt, we must ensure that the benefits of debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important guarantees we make to every American, Social Security and Medicare. Tonight I ask you to work with me to make a bipartisan down payment on Social Security reform by crediting the interest savings from debt reduction to the Social Security Trust Fund so that it will be strong and sound for the next 50 years.

But this is just the start of our journey. We must also take the right steps toward reaching our great goals.

First and foremost, we need a 21st century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every single child can learn. Because education is more important than ever, more than ever the key to our children's future, we must make sure all of our children have that key. That means quality preschool and afterschool, the best trained teachers in the classroom and college opportunities for all our children.

For 7 years now, we have worked hard to improve our schools, with opportunity and responsibility: Investing more, but demanding more in return.

Reading, math and college entrance scores are up. Some of the most impressive gains are in schools in very poor neighborhoods. But all successful schools have followed the same proven formula: higher standards, more accountability and extra help so children who need it can get it to reach those standards.

I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula. It holds States and school districts accountable for progress and rewards them for results. Each year our national government invests more than $15 billion in our schools. It is time to support what works and stop supporting what does not.

Now, as we demand more from our schools, we should also invest more in our schools. Let us double our investment to help States and districts turn around their worst-performing schools, or shut them down. Let us double our investment in afterschool and summer school programs which boost achievement and keep people off the street and out of trouble. If we do this, we can give every single child in every failing school in America, everyone, the chance to meet high standards.

Since 1993, we have nearly doubled our investment in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I ask you for another $1 billion for Head Start, the largest increase in the history of the program.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For 2 years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new qualified teachers to lower class size in the early grades. I thank you for that, and I ask you to make it three in a row.

And to make sure all teachers know the subjects they teach, tonight I propose a new teacher quality initiative, to recruit more talented people into the classroom, reward good teachers for staying there and give all teachers the training they need.

We know charter schools provide real public school choice. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today, thanks to you, there are 1,700. I ask you now to help us meet our goal of 3,000 charter schools by next year.

We know we must connect all our classrooms to the Internet, and we are getting there. In 1994, only 3 percent of our classrooms were connected. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, more than half of them are; and 90 percent of our schools have at least one Internet connection.

But we cannot finish the job when a third of all our schools are in serious disrepair. Many of them have walls and wires so old they are too old for the Internet. So tonight I propose to help 5,000 schools a year to make immediate and urgent repairs and again to help build or modernize 6,000 more, to get students out of trailers and into high-tech classrooms.

I ask all of you to help me double our bipartisan GEAR UP program, which provides mentors for disadvantaged young people. If we double it, we can provide mentors for 1.4 million of them. Let us also offer these kids from disadvantaged backgrounds the same chance to take the same college test-prep courses wealthier students use to boost their test scores.

Thank you.

To make the American dream achievable for all, we must make college affordable for all. For 7 years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken action toward that goal: larger Pell grants, more affordable student loans, education IRAs and our HOPE scholarships which have already benefited 5 million young people. Now, 67 percent of high school graduates are going on to college. That is up 10 percent since 1993. Yet millions of families still strain to pay college tuition. They need help.

So I propose a landmark $30 billion college opportunity tax cut, a middle-class tax deduction for up to $10,000 in college tuition costs. The previous actions of this Congress have already made 2 years of college affordable for all. It is time to make 4 years of college affordable for all.

If we take all of these steps, we will move a long way toward making sure every child starts school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

We also need a 21st century revolution to reward work and strengthen families by giving every parent the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all, raising children. That means making sure every family has health care and the support to care for aging parents, the tools to bring their children up right and that no child grows up in poverty.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1997, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, so that workers who do not have coverage through their employers at least can get it for their children. So far, we have enrolled 2

million children. We are well on our way to our goal of 5 million, but there are still more than 40 million of our fellow Americans without health insurance, more than there were in 1993.

Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President Gore's suggestion to make low-income parents eligible for the insurance that covers their children. Together with our children's initiative, think of this, together with our children's initiative, this action would enable us to cover nearly a quarter of all the uninsured people in America.

Again, I want to ask you to let people between the ages of 55 and 65, the fastest growing group of uninsured, buy into Medicare. And this year I propose to give them a tax credit to make that choice an affordable one. I hope you will support that, as well.

When the Baby Boomers retire, Medicare will be faced with caring for twice as many of our citizens. Yet, it is far from ready to do so. My generation must not ask our children's generation to shoulder our burden. We simply must act now to strengthen and modernize Medicare.

My budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform Medicare to make it more efficient and more competitive. And it dedicates nearly $400 billion of our balanced budget surplus to keep Medicare solvent past 2025; and, at long last, it also provides funds to give every senior a voluntary choice of affordable coverage for prescription drugs.

Lifesaving drugs are an indispensable part of modern medicine. No one creating a Medicare program today would even think of excluding coverage for prescription drugs. Yet, more than three in five of our seniors now lack dependable drug coverage which can lengthen and enrich their lives. Millions of older Americans who need prescription drugs the most pay the highest prices for them.

In good conscience, we cannot let another year pass without extending to all our seniors this lifeline of affordable prescription drugs.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. It is a loving but a difficult and often very expensive choice. Last year, I proposed a $1,000 tax credit for long-term care. Frankly, it was not enough. This year, let us triple it to $3,000, but this year, let us pass it.

We also have to make needed investments to expand access to mental health care. I want to take a moment to thank the person who led our first White House Conference on Mental Health last year, and who for 7 years has led all our efforts to break down the barriers to decent treatment of people with mental illness. Thank you, Tipper Gore.

Taken together, these proposals would mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since Medicare was created, the largest investment in 35 years. That would be a big step toward assuring quality health care for all Americans, young and old, and I ask you to embrace them and pass them.

We must also make investments that reward work and support families. Nothing does that better than the earned income tax credit, the EITC. The E in the EITC is about earning, working, taking responsibility, and being rewarded for it. In my very first address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand this credit, and you did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way out of poverty toward the middle class. That is double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion of the EITC, to reduce the marriage penalty, to make sure it rewards marriage as it rewards work, and also to expand the tax credit for families that have more than two children. It punishes those with more than two children today. Our proposal would allow families with three or more children to get up to $1,100 more in tax relief. These are working families. Their children should not be in poverty.

We also cannot reward work and family unless men and women get equal pay for equal work. Today the female unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in 46 years. Yet, women still only earn about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. We must do better by providing the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, training more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs, and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Many working parents spend up to a quarter, a quarter of their income on child care. Last year we helped parents provide child care for about 2 million children. My child care initiative before you now, along with funds already secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 400,000 children. I ask you to pass that. They need it out there in America.

For hard-pressed middle-income families, we should also expand the child care tax credit, and I believe strongly we should take the next big step and make that tax credit refundable for low-income families. For people making under $30,000, that could mean up to $2,400 for child care costs. We all say we are pro-work and pro-family. Passing this proposal would prove it.

Tens of millions of Americans live from paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still do not have the opportunity to save. Too few can make use of IRAs and 401(k) plans. We should do more to help all working families save and accumulate wealth. That is the idea behind the so-called Individual Development Accounts, the IDAs.

I ask you to take that idea to a new level, with new retirement savings accounts that enable every low- and moderate-income family in America to save for retirement, a first home, a medical emergency, or a college education. I propose to match their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. And I propose to give a major new tax credit to any small business that will provide a meaningful pension to its workers. Those people ought to have retirement as well as the rest of us.

Nearly one in three American children grows up without a father. These children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Clearly, demanding and supporting responsible fatherhood is critical to lifting all of our children out of poverty. We have doubled child support collections since 1992, and I am proposing to use tough new measures to hold still more fathers responsible.

But we should recognize that a lot of fathers want to do right by their children, but need help to do it. Carlos Rosas of St. Paul, Minnesota, wanted to do right by his son, and he got the help to do it. Now he has a good job and he supports his little boy. My budget will help 40,000 more fathers make the same choices Carlos Rosas did. I thank him for being here tonight. Stand up, Carlos. Thank you.

If there is any single issue on which we should be able to reach across party lines, it is in our common commitment to reward work and strengthen families. Let us remember what we did last year. We came together to help people with disabilities keep their health insurance when they go to work. I thank you for that.

Thanks to overwhelming bipartisan support from this Congress, we have improved foster care. We have helped those young people who leave it when they turn 18, and we have dramatically increased the number of foster care children going into adoptive homes. I thank all of you for all of that.

Of course, I am forever grateful to the person who has led our efforts from the beginning, and who has worked so tirelessly for children and families for 30 years now: my wife, Hillary. Thank you, Hillary.

If we take the steps I have just discussed, we can go a long, long way toward empowering parents to succeed at home and at work, and ensuring that no child is raised in poverty. We can make these vital investments in health care, education, support for working families, and still offer tax cuts to help pay for college, for retirement, to care for aging parents, to reduce the marriage penalty. We can do these things without forsaking the path of fiscal discipline that got us here tonight.

Indeed, we must make these investments and these tax cuts in the context of a balanced budget that strengthens and extends the life of social security and Medicare and pays down the national debt.

Crime in America has dropped for the past 7 years. That is the longest decline on record, thanks to a national consensus we helped to forge on community police, sensible gun safety laws, and effective prevention.

But nobody, nobody here, nobody in America, believes we are safe enough.

So again, I ask you to set a higher goal. Let us make this country the safest big country in the world.

Now, last fall Congress supported my plan to hire, in addition to the 100,000 community police we have already funded, 50,000 more, concentrated in high crime neighborhoods. I ask your continued support for that.

Soon after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun legislation to require Brady background checks at the gun shows, child safety locks for new handguns and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage, and a tie-breaking vote for the Vice President, the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

Now, we have all seen what happens when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lose their children, his father, Tom, has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow he has found the strength to honor his son by transforming his grief into action.

Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will at long last move this Congress to make common-sense gun legislation the very next order of business. Tom Mauser, stand up. We thank you for being here tonight, Tom. Thank you, Tom.

We must strengthen our gun laws and enforce those already on the books better. Federal gun crime prosecutions are up 16 percent since I took office, but we must do more. I propose to hire more Federal and local gun prosecutors and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers and we must give them the enforcement tools that they need. Tools to trace every gun and every bullet used in every gun crime in the United States. I ask you to help us do that.

Every State in this country already requires hunters and automobile drivers to carry a license. I think they ought to do the same thing for handgun purchases. Now, specifically, I propose a plan to ensure that all new handgun buyers must first have a photo license from their State showing they passed the Brady background check and a gun safety course before they get the gun. I hope you will help me pass that in this Congress.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than in the other 25 industrialized countries combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that could only be fired by the adults who own them. I ask Congress to fund research into Smart Gun technology to save these children's lives. I ask responsible leaders in the gun industry to work with us on smart guns and other steps to keep guns out of the wrong hands and keep our children safe.

Every parent I know worries about the impact of violence in the media on their children. I want to begin by thanking the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. But, frankly, the ratings are too numerous, diverse and confusing to be really useful to parents. So tonight I ask the industry to accept the First Lady's challenge, to develop a single voluntary rating system for all children's entertainment that is easier for parents to understand and enforce.

The steps I outline will take us well on our way to making America the safest big country in the world.

Now, to keep our historic economic expansion going, the subject of a lot of discussion in this community and others, I believe we need a 21st century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, hire new workers right here in America. In our inner-cities, poor, rural areas and Native American reservations.

Our Nation's prosperity has not yet reached these places. Over the last 6 months I have traveled to a lot of them, joined by many of you and many farsighted businesspeople, to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in communities from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta, from Watts to the Pine Ridge Reservation. Everywhere I have gone I have met talented people eager for opportunity and able to work. Tonight I ask you: Let us put them to work.

For business, it is the smart thing to do. For America, it is the right thing to do. And let me ask you something. If we do not do this now, when in the wide world will we ever get around to it?

So I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets they now have to invest in markets overseas. Tonight, I propose a large New Markets Tax Credit and other incentives to spur $22 billion in private sector capital to create new businesses and new investments in our inner-cities and rural areas.

I also, because empowerment zones have been creating these opportunities for 5 years now, I also ask you to increase incentives to invest in them and to create more of them. And let me say to all of you again what I have tried to say at every turn: This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. Giving people a chance to live their dreams is an American issue.

Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined the Reverend Jesse Jackson and me in your home State of Illinois and committed to working toward our common goal by combining the best ideas from both sides of the aisle. I want to thank you again and to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you. This is a worthy joint endeavor. Thank you.

I also ask you to make special efforts to address the areas of our Nation with the highest rates of poverty, our Native American reservations and the Mississippi Delta. My budget includes a $110 million initiative to promote economic development in the Delta; and $1 billion to increase economic opportunity, health care, education and law enforcement for our Native American communities.

Now, in this new century, we should begin this new century by honoring our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans. And I want to thank tonight the leaders and the Members from both parties who have expressed to me an interest in working with us on these efforts. They are profoundly important.

There is another part of our American community in trouble tonight, our family farmers. When I signed the Farm Bill in 1996, I said there was great danger it would work well in good times but not in bad. Well, droughts, floods and historically low prices have made these times very bad for the farmers. We must work together to strengthen the farm safety net, invest in land conservation, and create some new markets for them by expanding our programs for bio-based fuels and products. Please, they need help. Let us do it together.

Opportunity for all requires something else today: having access to a computer and knowing how to use it. That means we must close the digital divide between those who have the tools and those who do not.

Connecting classrooms and libraries to the Internet is crucial, but it is just a start. My budget ensures that all new teachers are trained to teach 21st century skills and it creates technology centers in 1,000 communities to serve adults. This spring, I will invite high-tech leaders to join me on another New Markets tour to close the digital divide and open opportunity for our people.

I want to thank the high-tech companies that already are doing so much in this area, and I hope the new tax incentives I have proposed will get all the rest of them to join us. This is a national crusade. We have got to do this and do it quickly.

Now, again, I say to you these are steps, but step by step we can go a long way toward our goal of bringing opportunity to every community.

To realize the full possibilities of this economy, we must reach beyond our own borders to shape the revolution that is tearing down barriers and building new networks among nations and individuals, economies, and cultures: Globalization. It is the central reality of our time.

Of course, change this profound is both liberating and threatening to people. But there is no turning back. And our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other if we understand and act on the realities of interdependence. We have to be at the center of every vital global network as

a good neighbor and a good partner. We have to recognize that we cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

The first thing we have got to do is to forge a new consensus on trade. Those of us who believe passionately in the power of open trade, we have to ensure that it lifts both our living standards and our values, never tolerating abusive child labor or a race to the bottom in the environment and worker protection. But others must recognize that open markets and rules-based trade are the best engines we know of for raising living standards, reducing global poverty and environmental destruction, and assuring the free flow of ideas.

I believe as strongly tonight as I did the first day I got here, the only direction for America on trade is to keep going forward. I ask you to help me forge that consensus.

We have to make developing economies our partners in prosperity. That is why I would like to ask you again to finalize our ground-breaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives.

But globalization is about more than economics. Our purpose must be to bring together the world around freedom, democracy, and peace and to oppose those who would tear it apart.

Here are the fundamental challenges I believe America must meet to shape the 21st century world:

First, we must continue to encourage our former adversaries, Russia and China, to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic nations. Both are being held back today from reaching their full potential, Russia by the legacy of communism, an economy in turmoil, a cruel and self-defeating war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much has changed in the past decade. Five thousand former Soviet nuclear weapons taken out of commission, Russian soldiers actually served with us in the Balkans, Russian people electing their leaders for the first time in 1,000 years. In China, an economy more open to the world than ever before. Of course no one, not a single person in this Chamber tonight, can know for sure what direction these great nations will take. But we do know for sure that we can choose what we do. We should do everything in our power to increase the chance that they will choose wisely, to be constructive members of our global community.

That is why we should support those Russians who are struggling for a democratic, prosperous future, continue to reduce both our nuclear arsenals and help Russia to safeguard weapons and materials that remain.

That is why I believe Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO by passing permanent normal trade relations with China as soon as possible this year.

I think you ought to do it for two reasons. First of all, our markets are already open to China. This agreement will open China's markets to us. Second, it will plainly advance the cause of peace in Asia and promote the cause of change in China.

No, we do not know where it is going. All we can do is decide what we are going to do. But when all is said and done, we need to know we did everything we possibly could to maximize the chance that China will choose the right future.

A second challenge we have got is to protect our own security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war and threaten our common humanity. We cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we should be and we must be peacemakers.

We should be proud of our role in bringing the Middle East closer to a lasting peace, building peace in Northern Ireland, working for peace in East Timor and Africa, promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey and in Cyprus, working to defuse these crises between India and Pakistan and defending human rights and religious freedom.

We should be proud of our men and women in our armed forces and those of our allies who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, enabling a million people to return to their homes.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror on Kosovo, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. When another American plane was shot down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Thanks to our armed forces' skill and bravery, we prevailed in Kosovo without losing a single American in combat.

I want to introduce Captain Cherrey to you. We honor Captain Cherrey. We promise you, Captain, we will finish the job you began. Stand up so we can see you.

A third challenge we have is to keep this inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and potentially hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses. Keep in mind the same technological advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat by making effective agreements to restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea, curbing the flow of lethal technology to Iran, preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors, increasing our preparedness against chemical and biological attack, protecting our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals, and developing a system to defend against new missile threats while working to preserve our ABM missile treaty with Russia.

We must do all these things. I predict to you, when most of us are long gone but sometime in the next 10 to 20 years, the major security threat this country will face will come from the enemies of the nation's state, the narcotrafficers, the terrorists and organized criminals who will be organized together, working together with increasing access to ever more sophisticated chemical and biological weapons.

I want to thank the Pentagon and others for doing what they are doing right now to try to help protect us and plan for that so our defenses will be strong. I ask for your support so that they can succeed.

I also want to ask you for a constructive bipartisan dialogue this year to work to build a consensus which I hope will eventually lead to the ratification of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

I hope we can also have a constructive effort to meet the challenge that is presented to our planet by the huge gulf between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy and the rest live on the bare edge of survival. I think we have to do our part to change that with expanded trade, expanded aid, and the expansion of freedom.

This is interesting. From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people fought for the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989 when the Berlin Wall fell. We have got to stand by these democracies, including, and especially tonight, Colombia, which is fighting narcotraffickers for its own people's lives and for our children's lives.

I have proposed a strong 2-year package to help Colombia win this fight. I want to thank the leaders and both parties in both Houses for listening to me and the President of Colombia about it. We have got to pass this. I want to ask your help. A lot is riding on it. It is so important for the long-term stability of our country and for what happens in Latin America.

I also want you to know I am going to send you new legislation to go after what these drug barons value the most, their money. And I hope you will pass that as well.

Now, in a world where over a billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we also have got to do our part in the global endeavor to reduce the debts of the poorest countries so they can invest in education, health care and economic growth. That is what the Pope and other religious leaders have urged us to do. Last year, Congress made a down payment on America's share. I ask you to continue that. I thank you for what you did and ask you to stay the course.

I also want to say that America must help more nations to break the bonds of disease. Last year, in Africa, 10 times as many people died from AIDS as were killed in wars, 10 times. The budget I give you invests $150 million more in the fight against this and other infectious killers. Today, I propose a tax credit to speed the development of vaccines to diseases like malaria, TB, and AIDS. I ask the private

sector and our partners around the world to join us in embracing this cause. We can save millions of lives together, and we ought to do it.

I also want to mention our final challenge which, as always, is the most important. I ask you to pass a national security budget that keeps our military the best trained and best equipped in the world, with heightened readiness and 21st century weapons, which raises salaries for our service men and women, which protects our veterans, which fully funds the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war, which makes good on our commitment to our UN dues and arrears. I ask you to pass this budget.

I also want to say something, if I might, very personal tonight. The American people watching us at home, with the help of all the commentators, can tell from who stands and who sits and who claps and who does not that there is still modest differences of opinion in this room.

But I want to thank you for something, every one of you. I want to thank you for the extraordinary support you have given, Republicans and Democrats alike, to our men and women in uniform. I thank you for it.

I also want to thank especially two people. First, I want to thank our Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen for symbolizing our bipartisan commitment to national security. Thank you so much. Even more, I want to thank his wife Janet who, more than any other American citizen, has tirelessly traveled this world to show the support we all feel for our troops. Thank you, Janet Cohen. I appreciate it. Thank you.

These are the challenges we have to meet so that we can lead the world toward peace and freedom in an era of globalization.

I want to tell you that I am very grateful for many things as President. But one of the things I am grateful for is the opportunity that the Vice President and I have had to finally put to rest the bogus idea that you cannot grow the economy and protect the environment at the same time.

As our economy has grown, we have rid more than 500 neighborhoods of toxic waste, ensured cleaner air and water for millions of people. In the past 3 months alone, we have helped preserve 40 million acres of roadless lands in the National Forests, created three new national monuments.

But as our communities grow, our commitment to conservation must continue to grow. Tonight I propose creating a permanent conservation fund to restore our wildlife, protect coastlines, save natural treasures, from the California redwoods to the Florida Everglades. This Lands Legacy endowment would represent by far the most enduring investment and land preservation ever proposed in this House.

I hope we can get together with all the people with different ideas and do this. This is a gift we should give to our children and grandchildren for all time across party lines. We can make an agreement to do this.

Last year, the Vice President launched a new effort to make communities more liberal—livable. Liberal, I know. No. Wait a minute. I have got a punch line now. That is this year's agenda. Last year was livable, right? That is what Senator LOTT is going to say in the commentary afterwards.

To make our communities more livable. This is big business. This is a big issue. What does that mean? You ask anybody that lives in an unlivable community, and they will tell you. They want their kids to grow up next to parks, not parking lots. The parents do not want to have to spend all their time stalled in traffic when they can be home with their children.

Tonight I ask you to support new funding for the following things to make American communities more liberal—livable. I have done pretty well with this speech, but I cannot say that right.

One, I want to help us to do three things. We need more funding for advanced transit systems. We need more funding for saving open spaces in places of heavy development. And we need more funding, this ought to have bipartisan appeal, we need more funding for helping major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life. We need these things, and I want you to help us.

Now, the greatest environmental challenge in the new century is global warming. The scientists tell us the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium. If we fail to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, deadly heatwaves and droughts will become more frequent, coastal areas will flood, and economies will be disrupted. That is going to happen unless we act.

Many people in the United States, some people in this Chamber, and lots of folks around the world still believe you cannot cut greenhouse gas emissions without slowing economic growth.

In the Industrial Age that may well have been true. But in this digital economy, it is not true anymore. New technologies make it possible to cut harmful emissions and provide even more growth.

For example, just last week, automakers unveiled cars that get 70 to 80 miles a gallon, the fruits of a unique research partnership between government and industry. Before you know it, efficient production of biofuels will give us the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gasoline.

To speed innovation in these kinds of technologies, I think we should give a major tax incentive to business for the production of clean energy and the families for buying energy saving homes and appliances and the next generation of super-efficient cars when they hit the showroom floor.

I also ask the auto industry to use the available technologies to make all new cars more fuel efficient right away. And I ask this Congress to do something else. Please help us make more of our clean energy technology available to the developing world. That will create cleaner growth abroad and a lot more new jobs here in the United States of America.

Now, in the new century innovations in science and technology will be key not only to the health of the environment but to miraculous improvements in the quality of our lives and advances in the economy.

Later this year, researchers will complete the first draft of the entire human genome, the very blueprint of life. It is important for all our fellow Americans to recognize that Federal tax dollars have funded much of this research and that this and otherwise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease.

For example, researchers have identified genes that cause Parkinson's, diabetes, and certain kinds of cancer. They are designing precision therapies that will block the harmful effects of these genes for goods.

Researchers already are using this new technique to target and destroy cells that cause breast cancer. Soon we may be able to use it to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's.

Scientists are also working on an artificial retina to help many blind people to see. And listen to this. Microchips that would actually directly stimulate damaged spinal cords in a way that could allow people now paralyzed to stand up and walk.

These kinds of innovations are also propelling our remarkable prosperity. Information technology only includes 8 percent of our employment. But now it accounts for a third of our economic growth, along with jobs that pay, by the way, about 80 percent above the private sector average.

Again, we ought to keep in mind government funded research brought supercomputers to the Internet and communication satellites into being. Soon researchers will bring us devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can talk; materials 10 times stronger than steel at a fraction of the weight; and this is unbelievable to me, molecular computers the size of a teardrop with the power of today's fastest supercomputers.

To accelerate the march of discovery across all these disciplines of science and technology, I ask you to support my recommendation of an unprecedented $3 billion in the 21st century research fund, the largest increase in civilian research in a generation. We owe it to our future.

Now, these new breakthroughs have to be used in ways that reflect our values. First and foremost, we have to safeguard our citizens' privacy.

Last year, we proposed to protect every citizen's medical records. This year we will finalize those rules. We have also taken the first steps to protect the privacy of banks and credit

card records and other financial statements. Soon I will send legislation to you to finish that job.

We must also act to prevent any genetic discrimination whatever by employers or insurers. I hope you will support that.

These steps will allow us to lead toward the far frontiers of science and technology. They will enhance our health, the environment, the economy in ways we cannot even imagine today.

But we all know that at a time when science technology and the forces of globalization are bringing so many changes into all our lives, it is more important than ever that we strengthen the bonds that root us in our local communities and in our national community. No tie binds different people together like citizen service.

There is a new spirit of service in America, a movement we try to support with AmeriCorps, expanded Peace Corps, unprecedented new partnerships with businesses, foundations, community groups, partnerships, for example, like the one that enlisted 12,000 companies which have now moved 650,000 of our fellow citizens from welfare to work, partnerships to battle drug abuse, AIDS, teach young people to read, save America's treasures, strengthen the arts, fight teen pregnancy, prevent violence among young people, promote racial healing.

The American people are working together. But we should do more to help Americans help each other. First, we should help faith-based organizations to do more to fight poverty and drug abuse and help people get back on the right track with initiatives like second chance homes that do so much to help unwed teen mothers.

Second, we should support Americans who tithe and contribute to charities but do not earn enough to claim a tax deduction for it.

Tonight I propose new tax incentives that would allow low- and middle-income citizens who do not itemize to get that deduction. It is nothing but fair, and it will get more people to give.

We should do more to help new immigrants to fully participate in our community. That is why I recommend spending more to teach them civics and English. And since everybody in our community counts, we have got to make sure everyone is counted in this year's census.

Now, within 10 years, just 10 years, there will be no majority race in our largest State of California. In a little more than 50 years, there will be no majority race in America. In a more interconnected world, this diversity can be our greatest strength.

Just look around this Chamber, look around. We have Members in this Congress from virtually every racial, ethnic, and religious background. And I think you would agree that America is stronger because of it. But you will also have to agree that all those differences you just clapped for all too often spark hatred and division, even here at home.

Just in the last couple of years, we have seen a man dragged to death in Texas just because he was black. We saw a young man murdered in Wyoming just because he was gay. Last year we saw the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children just because of who they were.

This is not the American way, and we must draw the line. I ask you to draw that line by passing without delay the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. And I ask you to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

Finally, tonight I propose the largest ever investment in our civil rights laws for enforcement because no American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Protections in law should be protections in fact.

Last February, because I thought this was so important, I created the White House Office of One America to promote racial reconciliation. That is what one of my personal heroes, Hank Aaron, has done all his life. From his days as our all-time homerun king to his recent acts of healing, he has always brought people together. We should follow his example. We are honored to have him with us tonight. Stand up, Hank Aaron.

I just want to say one more thing about this, and I want every one of you to think about this the next time you get mad at one of your colleagues on the other side of the aisle. This fall, at the White House, Hillary had one of her millennium dinners and we had this very distinguished scientist there who was an expert in this whole work in the human genome; and he said that we are all, regardless of race, genetically 99.9 percent the same.

Now, you may find that uncomfortable when you look around here. But it is worth remembering. We can laugh about this, but you think about it. Modern science has confirmed what ancient fates has also taught us, the most important fact of life is our common humanity. Therefore, we should do more than just tolerate our diversity. We should honor it and celebrate it.

Thank you.

My fellow Americans, every time I prepare for the State of the Union, I approach it with hope and expectation and excitement for our Nation. But tonight is very special, because we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us, we can look back and see the great expanse of American achievement, and before us we can see even greater, grander frontiers of possibility. We should, all of us, be filled with gratitude and humility for our present progress and prosperity. We should be filled with awe and joy at what lies over the horizon, and we should be filled with absolute determination to make the most of it.

You know, when the framers finished crafting our Constitution in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin stood in Independence Hall and he reflected on the carving of the sun. It was on the back of a chair he saw. The sun was low on the horizon, so he said this. He said, I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting. Today, Franklin said, I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun.

Today, because each succeeding generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning brightly, lighting those frontiers of possibility, we all still bask in the glow and the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun. After 224 years, the American revolution continues. We remain a new Nation. And as long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our moment.

Thank you, God bless you. And God bless America.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m. the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

□

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

The motion was agreed to.

□

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. RIVERS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of inclement weather.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. SHAYS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of illness.

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of official business.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of official business in the district.

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of inclement weather.

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SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELLER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

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SENATE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS REFERRED

Bills and Concurrent Resolutions of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 244. An act to authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, for the planning and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 276. An act for the relief of Sergio Lozano; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 302. An act for the relief of Kerantha Poole-Christian; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 348. An act to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 366. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 439. An act to amend the National Forest and Public Lands of Nevada Enhancement Act of 1988 to adjust the boundary of the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 486. An act to provide for the punishment of methamphetamine laboratory operators, provide additional resources to combat methamphetamine production, trafficking, and abuse in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary; in addition to the Committee on Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 501. An Act to address resource management issues in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska; to the Committee on Resource.

S. 624. An Act to authorize construction of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System in the State of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 692. An Act to prohibit Internet gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 698. An Act to review the suitability and feasibility of recovering costs of high altitude rescues at Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 710. An Act to authorize a feasibility study on the preservation of certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 711. An Act to allow for the investment of joint Federal and State funds from the civil settlement of damages from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 734. An Act entitled ''National Discovery Trails Act of 1999''; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 748. An Act to improve Native hiring and contracting by the Federal Government within the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 769. An Act to provide a final settlement on certain debt owed by the city of Dickinson, North Dakota, for construction of the bascule gates on the Dickinson Dam; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 961. An Act to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve shared appreciation arrangements; to the Committee on Agriculture.

S. 964. An Act to provide for equitable compensation for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 986. An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Griffith Project to the Southern Nevada Water Authority; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1019. An act for the relief of Regine Beatie Edwards; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1030. An act to provide that the conveyance by the Bureau of Land Management of the surface estate to certain land in the State of Wyoming in exchange for certain private land will not result in the removal of the land from operation of the mining laws; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1088. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites in national forests in the State of Arizona, to convey certain land to the City of Sedona, Arizona for a wastewater treatment facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1117. An act to establish the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park, in the vinicity of the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1119. An act to amend the Act of August 9, 1950, to continue funding of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1211. An act to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to authorize additional measures to carry out the control of salinity upstream of Imperial Dam in a cost-effective manner; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1236. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for commencement of the construction of the Arrowrock Dam Hydroelectric Project in the State of Idaho; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 1243. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the prostate cancer preventive health program; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 1268. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide support for the modernization and construction of biomedical and behavioral research facilities and laboratory instrumentation; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 1275. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to produce and sell products and to sell publications relating to the Hoover Dam, and to deposit revenues generated from the sales into the Colorado River Dam fund; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1288. An act to provide incentives for collaborative forest restoration projects on National Forest System and other public lands in New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1295. An act to designate the United States Post Office located at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago, Indiana, as the ''Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 1296. An act to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1324. An act to expand the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Wills House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1329. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Nye County, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1330. An act to give the city of Mesquite, Nevada, the right to purchase at fair market value certain parcels of public land in the city; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1349. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resource studies to determine the national significance of specific sites as well as the suitability and feasibility of their inclusion as units of the National Park System; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1374. An act to authorize the development and maintenance of a multiagency campus project in the town of Jackson, Wyoming; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1453. An act to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan; to the Committee on International Relations.

S. 1488. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for recommendations of the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the placement of automatic external defibrillators in Federal buildings in order to improve survival rates of individuals who experience cardiac arrest in such buildings, and to establish protections from civil liability arising from the emergency use of the devices; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 1508. An act to provide technical and legal assistance to tribal justice systems and members of Indian tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources; in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1515. An act to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 1516. An act to amend title III of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.) to reauthorize the Federal Emergency Management Food and Shelter Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Finance.

S. 1569. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1599. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part

of certain administrative sites and other land in the Black Hills National Forest and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire replacement sites and to acquire or construct administrative improvements in connection with the Black Hills National Forest; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1707. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to provide that certain designated Federal entities shall be establishments under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 1733. An act to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to provide for a national standard of interoperability and portability applicable to electronic food stamp benefit transactions; to the Committee on Agriculture.

S. 1813. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional support for and to expand clinical research programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 1877. An act to amend the Federal Report Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995; to the Committee on Government Reform; in addition to the Committees on House Administration and Budget for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1937. An act to amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for sales of electricity by the Bonneville Power Administration to joint operating entities; to the Committee on Resources; in addition to the Committee on Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1971. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Milton Friedman, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to individual freedom and opportunity in American society through his exhaustive research and teaching of economics, and his extensive writings on economics and public policy; to the Committee on Budget; in addition to the Committee on the Budget for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1996. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to clarify provisions relating to the content of petitions for compensation under the vaccine injury compensation program; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued by the United States Postal Service honoring the members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that Miami, Florida, and not a competing foreign city, should serve as the permanent location for the Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) beginning in 2005; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED SUBSEQUENT TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA).

On December 2, 1999:

H.R. 3419. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3443. An act to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide States with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to help children make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2466. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

On December 6, 1999:

H.R. 1180. An act to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, January 31, 2000, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

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EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5566. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Trade Options on the Enumerated Agricultural Commodities (RIN: 3038–AB43) received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5567. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revised Procedures for Listing New Contracts (RIN: 3038–AB42) received November 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5568. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mexican Haas Avocado Import Program [Docket No. 99–020–2] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5569. A letter from the Administrator and Executive, Farm Service Agency, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—1999 Marketing Quota and Price Support for Flue-Cured Tobacco (RIN: 0560–AF49) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5570. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Generic E. coli Testing for Sheep, Goats, Equines, Ducks, Geese, and Guineas [Docket No. 97–004F] (RIN: 0583–AC32) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5571. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rules of Practice [Docket No. 95–025F] (RIN: 0583–AC34) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5572. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Tobacco Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tobacco Inspection; Subpart B-Regulations [Docket No. TB–99–10] (RIN: 0581–AB65) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5573. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Changes to Pack Requirements [Docket No. FV99–906–3 FIR] received December 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5574. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Avocados Grown in South Florida; Relaxation of Container and Pack Requirements [Docket No. FV00–915–1 IFR] received December 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5575. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Modification of Procedures for Limiting the Volume of Small Red Seedless Grapefruit [Docket No. FV99–905–4 FIR] received December 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5576. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterinary Services User Fees [Docket No. 98–004–1] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5577. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterinary Services User Fees; Biosecurity Level Three Laboratory Inspection Fee [Docket No. 98–052–2] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5578. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Kansas [Docket No. 99–051–2] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5579. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation From Europe of Rhododendron Established in Growing Media [Docket No. 89–154–5] (RIN: 0579–AB00) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5580. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fee Increase for Meat and Poultry Inspection Services [Docket No. 99–045F] received January 13, 2000, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5581. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Ingredients and Sources of Radiation Listed or Approved for Use in the Production of Meat and Poultry Products [Docket No. 88–026F] (RIN: 0583–AB02) received January 13, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5582. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Scale Requirements for Accurate Weights, Repairs, Adjustments, and Replacement After Inspection [Docket No. 99–016F] received January 12, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5583. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule— Exemption of Retail Operations from Inspection Requirements [Docket No. 99–055R] received January 13, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5584. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Portugal Because of African Swine Fever [Docket No. 99–096–1] received January 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5585. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Export Certification; Heat Treatment of Solid Wood Packing Materials Exported to China [Docket No. 99–100–1] received January 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5586. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Changing the Term of Office and Nomination Deadlines [Docket No. FV00–955 2 IFR] received January 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5587. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Fiscal Period Change [Docket No. FV99–955–1 FIR] received January 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5588. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid; Re-establishment of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP–300952; FRL–6396–3] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5589. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clomazone; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP–300939; FRL–6388–4] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5590. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—N-Acyl Sarcosines and Sodium N-acyl sarcosinates; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [FRL–6386–6] received December 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5591. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tetraconazole [(+/—)-2-(2,4-dicholorop eny)-3-(1H–1, 2, 4-triazol-1-yl) propyl 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethyl ether]; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP–300931; FRL–6384–1] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received December 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5592. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tebufenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP–300947; FRL–6390–9] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5593. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Evironmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Myclobutanil; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP–300957; FRL–6398–2] (RIN: 2070–AB78) received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5594. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the designation of the Department of Defense request as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; (H. Doc. No. 106–165); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5595. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the request to transfer funds from the Information Technology Systems and Related Expenses; (H. Doc. No. 106–170); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5596. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the Department of Defense Budget Request; (H. Doc. No. 106–171); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5597. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting designating the emergency budget requests as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; (H. Doc. No. 106–172); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5598. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Department of Defense Budget Request; (H. Doc. No. 106–173); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5599. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the transfer of property to the Republic of Panama under the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3784(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5600. A letter from the Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—TRICARE; Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Nonavailability Statement Requirement for Maternity Care—received January 9, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5601. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the approved retirement and advancement to the grade of lieutenant general of Lieutenant General Jack P. Nix Jr.; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5602. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the approved retirement and advancement to the grade of general on the retired list of General John H. Tilelli, Jr.; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5603. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the approved retirement and advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list of Lieutenant General Frank B. Campbell, United States Air Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5604. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Comptroller of the Currency, Administrator of National Banks, transmitting the Comptroller's final rule—''Loans in Areas Having Special Flood Hazards''—received December 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5605. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety and Soundness Standards [Docket No. 99–50] (RIN: 1550–AB27) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5606. A letter from the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Development Corporations, Community Development Projects, and Other Public Welfare Investments [Docket No. 99–20] (RIN: 1557–AB69) received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5607. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Technical Amendments [No. 99–79] received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5608. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program; Clarification of the Nature of Required CDBG Expenditure Documentation [Docket No. FR–4449–F–02] (RIN: 2506–AC00) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5609. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Up-Front Grants and Loans in the Disposition of Multifamily Projects [Docket No. FR–4310–F–02] (RIN: 2502–AH12) received January 5, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5610. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program-Contract Rent Annual Adjustment Factors, Fiscal Year 2000—received January 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5611. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fair Market Rents for the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program-Fiscal Year 2000 [Docket No. FR–4496–N–03] received January 5, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5612. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing, Department of

Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Civil Penalties for Fair Housing Act Violations [Docket No. FR–4302–F–03] (RIN: 2529–AA83) received January 5, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5613. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Public Housing Agency Plans; Option To Extend First Submission Due Date for Certain Public Housing Agencies [Docket No. FR–4420–N–05] (RIN: 2577–AB89) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5614. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Housing Choice Voucher Program; Amendment [Docket No. FR–4428–F–05] (RIN: 2577–AB91) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5615. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement with respect to the following transaction involving U.S. exports to Venezuela, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5616. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement regarding the following transaction involving a U.S. export to Lithuania; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5617. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting the semiannual report on tied aid credits, pursuant to Public Law 99—472, section 19 (100 Stat. 1207); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5618. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting the transaction involving U.S. exports to the Republic of Panama; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5619. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting the annual report to Congress on the operations of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635g(a); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5620. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Safety and Soundness Standards (RIN: 3064–AC18) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5621. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Insured State Nonmember Banks Which Are Municipal Securities Dealers (RIN: 3064–AC19) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5622. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Credit Union Service Organizations—received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5623. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Management Official Interlooks—received January 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

5624. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Local Agency Expenditure Reports (RIN: 0584–AC74) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5625. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Insurance Company Accounts (RIN: 1210–AA58) received January 13, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5626. A letter from the Director, Coporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Payment of Premiums (RIN: 1212–AA82) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5627. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Disclosure to Participants; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-employer Plans—received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5628. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age—received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5629. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits—received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5630. A letter from the Department of Agriculture, transmitting the annual Horse Protection Enforcement Report for fiscal year 1998, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1830; to the Committee on Commerce.

5631. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Implementation of Fiscal Year 2000 Legislative Plans—received December 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5632. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Implementation of Fiscal Year 2000 Legislative Provisions—received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5633. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 95F–0150] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5634. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Animal Drug Availability Act; Medicated Feed Mill Licenses [Docket No. 97N–0276] (RIN: 0910–AB18) received November 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5635. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F–0825] received November 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5636. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Listing of Color Additives for Coloring Bone Cement; FD&C Blue No. 2–Aluminum Lake on Alumina; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No. 92C–0348] received November 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5637. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 99F–1170] received November 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5638. A letter from the NIH Regulation Officer, Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Institutes of Health Construction Grants (RIN: 0925–AA04) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5639. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F–0492] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5640. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Progestational Drug Products for Human Use; Requirements for Labeling Directed to the Patient [Docket No. 99N–0188] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5641. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Biological Products Regulated Under Section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; Implementation of Biologics License; Elimination of Establishment License and Product License [Docket No. 98N–0144] (RIN: 0910–AB29) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5642. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Sunscreen Drug Products For Over-The-Counter Human Use; Final Monograph [Docket No. 78N–0038] (RIN: 0910–AA01) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5643. A letter from the Attorney, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Consumer Information Regulations; Utility Vehicle Label [Docket No. NHTSA–98–3381, Notice 3] (RIN:

2127–AH68) received August 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5644. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Approval Under Section 112(1); State of Iowa [084–1084; FRL–6483–4] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5645. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; VOC Regulations and RACT Determinations [RI–028–01–6974a; A–1–FRL–6483–8] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5646. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, South Coast Air Quality Management District and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [CA 217–0192; FRL–6480–4] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5647. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Removal of Oxygenated Gasoline Requirement for the Connecticut Portion of the New York—N. New Jersey—Long Island Area (the ''Southwest Connecticut Area'') [CT060–7219a; A–1–FRL–6479–4] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5648. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the Underground Injection Control Regulations for Class V Injection Wells [FRL–6482–2] (RIN: 2040–AB83) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5649. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of New Mexico; Approval of Revised Maintenance Plan for Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Carbon Monoxide [NM39–1–7416a; FRL–6504–9] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5650. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval of Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerator State Plan For Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Indiana [IN 109–1a; FRL–6507–5] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5651. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Ethylene Oxide Commercial Sterilization and Fumigation Operations [AD–FRL–6500–2] (RIN: 2060–A137) received December 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5652. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Halogenated Solvent Cleaning [AD-FRL–6500–1] received December 1, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5653. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Superfund Redevelopment Pilot Program [FRL- 6506–5] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5654. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds, Miscellaneous Industrial Sources, Cut back Asphalt [FRL–6504–4] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5655. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Road Saltying and Sanding, Control of Installations, Revisions to Saltying and Sanding Requirements and Deletion of Non-Ferrous Smelter Orders, Incorporation by Reference, and Substantive Changes [FRL–6482–9] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5656. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Emergency Episode Plan, Columbia Falls; Butte and Missoula Particulate Matter State Implementation Plans, Missoula Carbon Monoxide State Implementation Plan [FRL–6482–6] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5657. A letter from the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Approval of Definitions for the New Source Review Regulations [FRL–6500–7] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5658. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Correction [Region VII Tracking No. 088–1088; FRL–6501–4] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5659. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Policy on Cutoff Dates for Submitting Data to SDWIS/FED—received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5660. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—The Data Sharing Committee's Review of the Surface Water Treatment Rule Data Needs and Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) Reporting Requirements—received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5661. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revised Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) Inventory Reporting Requirements—Technical Guidance—received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5662. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program Policy Announcement: Eligibility of Reimbursement of Incurred Costs for Approved Projects [FRL–6217–9] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5663. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Section 112(l) Approval of the State of Florida's Rule Adjustment to the National Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards for Dry Cleaning Facilities [FRL–6514–5] received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5664. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Massachusetts; Interim Final Determination that Massachusetts has Corrected the Deficiencies of its I/M SIP Revision [MA073–7207A; A–1–FRL–6481–2] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5665. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Project XL Site-specific Rulemaking for Imation Corp. Camarillo Plant [CA 236–0197; FRL–6481–8] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5666. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, and Yolo-Solano County Air Quality Management District [CA 126–0190a FRL–6477–7] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5667. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants and Revisions to Laboratory Certification Requirements [WH-FRL–6481–7] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5668. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—OMB Approval Numbers Under the Paperwork Reduction Act Relating to the Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices [FRL–6481–3] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5669. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of

Emissions of Air Pollution from New CI Marine Engines at or above 37 kW (RIN: 2060–AI17) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5670. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Findings of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking on Section 126 Petitions for Purposes of Reducing Interstate Ozone Transport (final stay extension) [FRL–6484–2] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5671. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Program, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Allegheny County Portion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Operating Permits Program, and Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit Program [Siptrax No. PA138; FRL–6500–8] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5672. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Parts 2 and 90 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate the 5.850–5.925 GHz Band to the Mobile Service for Dedicated Short Range Communications of Intelligent Transportation Services [ET Docket No. 98–95 RM–9096] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5673. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Prescription Drug Marketing Act of 1987; Prescription Drug Amendments of 1992; Policies, Requirements, and Administrative Procedures [Docket Nos. 92N–0297 and 88N–0258] (RIN: 0910–AA08) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5674. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Functional Equivalence of Headlamp Concealment with European Regulations (RIN: 2127–AH18) received August 27, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5675. A letter from the Attorney, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Head Impact Protection [Docket No. NHTSA–98–3421] (RIN: 2127–AH60) received December 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5676. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the draft policy statement and notice of public meeting concerning NRC's prescription of decommissioning criteria for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and the West Valley site; to the Committee on Commerce.

5677. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Voluntary Submission of Performance Indicator Data [NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 99–06] received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5678. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Adoption of Amendments to the Intermarket Trading System Plan to Expand the ITS/Computer Assisted Execution System to all Listed Securities (RIN: 3235–AH49) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5679. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Audit Committee Disclosure [Release No. 34–42266; File No. S7–22–99] (RIN: 3235–AH83) received January 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5680. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Temporary Exemption for Certain Investment Advisers [Release Nos. IC–24177, IA–1846; File No. S7–22–98] (RIN: 3235–AH02) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

5681. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Taliban, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 106–169); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5682. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a continuation of the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 106–174); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5683. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a 6-month report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 106–175); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5684. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the emergency declared with Libya is to continue in effect beyond January 7, 2000, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 106–176); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5685. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 106–177); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5686. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma declared by Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 106–178); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5687. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1 to November 30, 1999, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(c); (H. Doc. No. 106–180); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5688. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 16–99 which constitutes a Request for Final Approval for Amendment Number 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and France concerning the Intercooled Recuperated (ICR) Gas Turbine Engine, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

5689. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

5690. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a Statement of Justification; (H. Doc. No. 106–166); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5691. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the supplemental report on continued contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo; (H. Doc. No. 106–179); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5692. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the quarterly reports in accordance with Sections 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

5693. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Expansion of License Exception CIV Eligibility for ''Microprocessors'' Controlled by ECCN 3A001 and Graphics Accelerators Controlled by ECCN 4A003 [Docket No. 990701179–9301–02] (RIN: 0694–AB90) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

5694. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report entitled, ''Report of U.S. Citizen Expropriation Claims and Certain Other Commercial and Investment Disputes''; to the Committee on International Relations.

5695. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a ''Report on Withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces and Military Equipment''; to the Committee on International Relations.

5696. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Agency's annual report entitled ''Report to Congress on Arms Control, Nonproliferation and Disarmament Studies Completed in 1998,'' pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2579; to the Committee on International Relations.

5697. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Executive Summary and Compliance Annexes to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency's 1998 Annual Report; to the Committee on International Relations.

5698. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the report on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council; (H. Doc. No. 106–163); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5699. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Semiannual Report covering the period ending September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5700. A letter from the Inspector General-Education, Department of Education, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General of the Department of Education for the six-month period ending September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5701. A letter from the Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period ended September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app.

(Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5702. A letter from the Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Legal Services Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5703. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5704. A letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5705. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5706. A letter from the Inspector General-Health and Human Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report for the period April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5707. A letter from the Administrator, Agency For International Development, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5708. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5709. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions and Deletions—received December 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5710. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions—received November 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5711. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Semiannaul Report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5712. A letter from the General Counsel, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Rules Implementing the Government in Sunshine Act (RIN: 3045–AA21) received December 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5713. A letter from the Chairman, Corporation For Public Broadcasting, transmitting The Corporation's Semiannual Report for the period ending September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5714. A letter from the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the determination to allow the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to place a contract with Resources for the Future as earmarked in the Conference Committee Report (H.R. 106–379) on EPA's Fiscal Year 2000 Appropriations Act; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5715. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the report in compliance with the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5716. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's annual commercial activities inventory list; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5717. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5718. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Privacy Act Regulations—received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5719. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Agency Records Centers (RIN: 3095–AA81) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5720. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Storage of Federal Records (RIN: 3095–AA86) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5721. A letter from the Inspector General, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5722. A letter from the Chairman, National Science Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period of April 1, 1999, through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5723. A letter from the Writer and Editor, National Science Foundation, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5724. A letter from the Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the FY 1999 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5725. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled ''Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2000,'' pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5726. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting an accounting statement covering Federal stewardship property, investments, and responsibilities that was recently recommended by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) and approved in its entirety by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Comptroller General, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3511; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5727. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Miscellaneous Changes in Compensation Regulations (RIN: 3206–AH11) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5728. A letter from the Acting Director, Peace Corps, transmitting The semi-annual report of the Inspector General for the period of April 1, 1999 through September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5729. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Fiscal Year 1999 Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act Report Status of Material Weaknesses; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5730. A letter from the Office of the Under Secretary, SMITHsonian Institution, transmitting the Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5731. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board's (MSPB) strategic plan for FY 2000–2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5732. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Postlease Operations Safety (RIN: 1010–AC32) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5733. A letter from the Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover (RIN: 1018–AD10) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5734. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Louisiana Regulatory Program [SPATS No. LA–018–FOR] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5735. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species od Wild Fauna and Flora (CITIES); Carrying Out the Inclusion of all Species of the Order Acipenseriformes (Sturgeon and Paddlefish) in the Appendices to CITES (RIN: 1018–AF66) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5736. A letter from the Director, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Virginia Regulatory Program [VA–113–FOR] received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5737. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oklahoma Regulatory Program [SPATS No. OK–026–FOR] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5738. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations On Federal Lands; State-Federal Cooperative Agreements; Indiana [SPATS No. IN–142–FOR] received December 13, 1999, pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5739. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations; Permanent Regulatory Program; Compliance with Court Order (RIN: 1029–AB69) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5740. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Interpretative Rule Related to Subsidence Due to Underground Coal Mining (RIN: 1029–AB82) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5741. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule To List Two Cave Animals from Kauai, Hawaii, as Endangered (RIN: 1018–AE39) received January 13, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5742. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List the Sierra Nevada District Population Segment of the California Bighorn Sheep as Endangered (RIN: 1018–AF59) received January 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5743. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Illinois Regulatory Program [SPATS No. IL–097–FOR, PART I] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5744. A letter from the Deputy Asst. Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies and Monkfish Fisheries; Monkfish Fishery Management Plan [Docket No. 981223319–9167–02; I.D. 112598B] (RIN: 0648–AJ44) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5745. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Commercial and Recreational Inseason Adjustments and Reopening from Cape Flattery to Leadbetter Point, WA [Docket No. 99040113–01; I.D. 092199D] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5746. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Maximum Retainable Bycatch Percentages, Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 990720198–9307–02; I.D. 070799B] (RIN: 0648–AM36) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5747. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Winter II Period [Docket No. 981014259–8312–02; I.D. 122299B] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5748. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 990304063–9063–01; I.D. 111299B] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5749. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Commercial Haddock Harvest [Docket No. 990318076–9109–02; I.D. 110499A] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5750. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Commercial Reopening from Cape Flattery to Leadbetter Point, WA [Docket No. 99040113–01; I.D. 093099B] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5751. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustments; Correction [Docket No. 981231333–8333–01; I.D. 092999C] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5752. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary [Docket No. 990914255–9255–01] (RIN: 0648–AN28) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5753. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements [Docket No. 980331080–9269–02; I.D. 091799A] (RIN: 0648–AK66) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5754. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements [Docket No. 950427117–9271–10] (RIN: 0648–AN30) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5755. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Sea Turtle Conservation; Summer Flounder Trawling Requirements [Docket No. 991007270–9270–01; I.D. 090399E] (RIN: 0648–AM89) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5756. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Designated Critical Habitat: Revision of Critical Habitat for Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon [Docket No. 990525143–9277–02; I.D. 120197A] (RIN: 0648–AM41) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5757. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Definition of ''Harm'' [Docket No. 980414094–9287–02; I.D. No. 091797A] (RIN: 0648–AK55) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5758. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Clarification of Patent and Trademark Copy Fees [Docket No. 99–1020282–9282–01] (RIN: 0651–AB08) received November 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5759. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Patent and Trademark Fees for Fiscal Year 2000 [Docket No. 991105297–9297–01] (RIN: 0651–AB01) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5760. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Civil Penalties for Fair Housing Act Violations [Docket No. FR–4302–F–03] (RIN: 2529–AA83) received January 5, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5761. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the U.S. Department of Justice's prision impact assessment (PIA) for 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5762. A letter from the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule— Extension of 25–Mile Limit at Select Arizona Ports-of-Entry [INS No. 2026–99] (RIN: 1115–AF60) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5763. A letter from the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, transmitting the Department's final rule—Adjustments of Small Volume Application Fees of the Immigration Examinations Fee Account [INS No. 1933–98; AG Order No. 2282–99] (RIN: 1115–AF10) received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5764. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting notification that funding under title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, will exceed $5 million for the response to the emergency declared on November 17, 1999 as a result of Hurricane Lenny which severely impacted the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands beginning November 17, 1999 and continuing, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5765. A letter from the Inland Waterway Users Board, Department of the Army, transmitting the Board's thirteenth annual report of its activities; recommendations regarding

construction, rehabilitation priorities and spending levels on the commercial navigational features and components of inland waterways and harbors, pursuant to Public Law 99—662, section 302(b) (100 Stat. 4111); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5766. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations: Puerto Rico International Cup, Fajardo, Puerto Rico [CGD07–99–057] (RIN: 2115–AE46) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5767. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; New Year's Celebration Fireworks, Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD [CGD 05–99–089] (RIN: 2115–AE46) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5768. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Approaches to Annapolis Harbor, Spa Creek, and Severn River, Annapolis, Maryland [CGD 05–99–096] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5769. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Raccoon Creek, New Jersey [CGD05–99–095] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5770. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Acushnet River, Annisquam River, Fore River, and Taunton River, MA [CGD01–99–187] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5771. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations: China Basin, Mission Creek, CA [CGD11–99–017] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5772. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Keweenaw Waterway, MI [CGD09–99–082] (RIN: 2115–AE47) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5773. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29884; Amdt. No. 419] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5774. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of VOR Federal Airways; AK [Airspace Docket No. 98–AAL–14] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5775. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29843; Amdt. No. 418] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5776. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Part 91 Amendment [Docket No. 29833; Amendment No. 91–258] (RIN: 2120–AA66) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5777. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation of Class E and Class D Airspace, EL Toro MCAS, CA [Airspace Docket No. 99–AWP–19] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5778. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29852; Amdt. No. 1963] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5779. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29851; Amdt. No. 1962] received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5780. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model L–1011–385 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–122–AD; Amendment 39–11436; AD 99–24–12] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5781. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB–135 and EMB–145 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–340–AD; Amendment 39–11437; AD 99–24–13] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5782. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model BAe.125 Series 1000A and 1000B, and Model Hawker 1000 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–176–AD; Amendment 39–11444; AD 99–25–01] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5783. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS–350B, B1, B2, B3, BA, and D and AS–355E, F, F1, F2, and N Helicopters [Docket No. 99–SW–41–AD; Amendment 39–11443; AD 99–24–18] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5784. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –300, –400, and –500 Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–332–AD; Amendment 39–11445; AD 99–25–02] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5785. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–197–AD; Amendment 39–11442; AD 99–24–17] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5786. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Model EC135 P1 and T1 Helicopters [Docket No. 99–SW–59–AD; Amendment 39–11439; AD 99–22–01] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5787. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757–200 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–89–AD; Amendment 39–11435; AD 99–24–11] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5788. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–46–AD; Amendment 39–11441; AD 99–24–16] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5789. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Precise Flight, Inc. Model SVS III Standby Vacuum Systems [Docket No. 98–CE–87–AD; Amendment 39–11434; AD 99–24–10] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5790. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 95–ANE–39; Amendment 39–11440; AD 99–24–15] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5791. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Update of Standards from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) [USCG–1999–5151] (RIN: 2115–AF80) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5792. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone; Chesapeake Bay, Whitehall Bay, Annapolis, MD [CGD 05–99–094] (RIN: 2115–AA97) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5793. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC–7 and DHC–8 Series Airplanes [Docket

No. 99–NM–152–AD; Amendment 39–11307; AD 99–19–18] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5794. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Certification Requirements: Aircraft Dispatchers [Docket No. FAA–1998–4553; Amendment No. 65–40] (RIN: 2120–AG04) received December 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5795. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Removal of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Territory and Airspace of Sudan [Docket No. 29317; Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 82] (RIN: 2120–AG67) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5796. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives: Mitsubishi Model YS–11 and YS–11A Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–140–AD; Amendment 39–11295; AD 99–19–06] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5797. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Jetstream Model BAe ATP Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–145–AD; Amendment 39–11300; AD 99–19–11] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5798. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, and 700 series airplanes and Model F27 Mark 050 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–153–AD; Amendment 39–11308; AD 99–19–19] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5799. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Point Lay, AK [Airspace Docket No. 99–AAL–12] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5800. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Fort Wayne, IN [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–46] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5801. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Batesville, IN [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–44] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5802. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Maple Lake, MN [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–45] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5803. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Koliganek, AK [Airspace Docket No. 99–AAL–15] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5804. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class D and Establishment of Class E2 Airspace, Fort Rucker, AL [Airspace Docket No. 99–ASO–14] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5805. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lewiston, ID; Establishment of Class E Airspace, Grangeville, ID [Airspace Docket No. 99–ANM–01] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5806. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Hartzell Propeller, Inc. Model HD-E6C–3() Propellers [Docket No. 99–NE–18–AD; Amendment 39–11448; AD 99–25–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5807. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC–12 and PC–12/45 Airplanes [Docket No. 99–CE–54–AD; Amendment 39–11433; AD 99–24–09] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 2, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5808. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule— Revised Docket Filing Procedures for Federal Railroad Administration Rulemaking and Adjudicatory Dockets; [Docket No. FRA–99–6625, Notice No. 1] (RIN: 2130–AB37) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5809. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Revision of Chapter Heading; Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration [FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA–2000–6629] (RIN: 2126–AA48) received December 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5810. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Inspection and Maintenance Standards for Steam Locomotives [Docket No. RSSL–98–1, Notice No. 3] received October 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5811. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Right-of-Way Program Administration [FHWA Docket No. FHWA–98–4315] (RIN: 2125–AE44) received December 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5812. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6–80E1A2 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 99–NE–52–AD; Amendment 39–11438; AD 99–24–14] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5813. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –300, –400, and –500 Series Airplanes; and Model 727–100 and –200 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–18–AD; Amendment 39–11430; AD 99–24–06] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5814. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–100, –200, –300, –400, and –500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–260–AD; Amendment 39–11432; AD 99–24–08] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5815. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model HS 748 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–147–AD; Amendment 39–11302; AD 99–19–13] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5816. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes [Docket No. 98–NM–296–AD; Amendment 39–11449; AD 99–25–06] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5817. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; BFGoodrich Main Brake Assemblies as Installed on Airbus Model A319 and A320 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99–NM–341–AD; Amendment 39–11450; AD 99–25–07] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5818. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model 382 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98–NM–371–AD; Amendment 39–11447; AD 99–25–04] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received December 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5819. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Caledonia, MN [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–49] received December 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5820. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Winfield/Arkansas City, KS [Airspace Docket No. 99–ACE–44] received December 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5821. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Pine River, MN [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–47] received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5822. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Marquette, MI; revocation of Class E Airspace; Sawyer, MI, and K.I. Sawyer, MI [Airspace Docket No. 99–AGL–42] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5823. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Funding the Development and Implementation of Watershed Restoration Action Strategies under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5824. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—NEP FY 1997 Budget and Selected Guidance Topics—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5825. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Availability of Action Plan Demonstration Projects (APDP) Funds for Tier IV and NEPs—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5826. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—NEP FY 1998 Budget and Selected Guidance Topics—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5827. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Estuary Program Travel Funds Special Conditions—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5828. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Estuary Program FY 1999 Budget and Funding Guidelines—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5829. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Bienial Review of Post-CCMP NEPs-Final Guidance—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5830. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Biennial Review of Post-CCMP NEPs-FY 1999 Guidelines—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5831. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cover Memorandum and Wetland Program Development Grants-FY2000 Grant Guidance—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5832. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidance for Fiscal Year 1997 and Future Years—received Novemeber 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5833. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Process and Criteria for Funding State and Territorial Nonpoint Source Management Programs FY 1999—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5834. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Effluent Limitations Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Source Performance Standards for the Landfills Point Source Category [FRL–6503–5] (RIN: 2040–AC23) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5835. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Commercial Hazardous Waste Combustor Subcategory of the Waste Combustors Point Source Category [FRL–6503–6] (RIN: 2040–AC23) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5836. A letter from the Deputy Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Announcement of Availability of Funds for a Competition—Advanced Technology Program (ATP) [Docket No. 991109300–9300–01] (RIN: 0693–ZA35) received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

5837. A letter from the Deputy Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Notice of Availability of Funds for Six Grants; Physics, MSEL, and MEL, SURF Programs; MSEL Grants Program; and Fire Research Grants Program [Docket No. 990907248–9248–01] (RIN: 0693–ZA32) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

5838. A letter from the Deputy Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Partnership for Advancing Technologies in Housing Cooperative Research Program (PATH-CoRP)-Notice of Availability of Funds [Docket No. 991019280–9280–01] (RIN: 0693–ZA34) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

5839. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled, ''The Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation Program: Annual Report to Congress FY 1998''; to the Committee on Science.

5840. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Office of Research and Applications Ocean Remote Sensing Program Notice of Financial Assistance [Docket No. 991028291–9291–01] (RIN: 0648–ZA75) received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

5841. A letter from the the Executive Secretary, the Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the 1999 National Convention proceedings of the Disabled American Veterans, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 90i and 44 U.S.C. 1332; (H. Doc. No. 106—167); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

5842. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Per Diem for Nursing Home Care of Veterans in State Homes (RIN: 2900–AE87) received January 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5843. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—VA Acquisition Regulation: Simplified Acquisition Procedures (RIN: 2900–AJ16) received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5844. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Rules of Practice: Title Change (RIN: 2900–AJ57) received January 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5845. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting an updated report concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(b); (H. Doc. No. 106—164); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

5846. A letter from the Acting Chief, Regulations Branch, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Import Restrictions Imposed On Certain Khmer Stone Archaeological Material of the Kingdom of Cambodia [T.D. 99–88] (RIN: 1515–AC52) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5847. A letter from the Acting Chief, Regulations Branch, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Export Certificates For Lamb Meat Subject To Tariff-Rate Quota [T.D. 99–87] (RIN: 1515–AC54) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5848. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Taxation of DISC Income to Shareholders—received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5849. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Treatment of Changes in Elective Entity Classification [TD 8844] (RIN: 1545–AV16) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5850. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Interest Rate [Rev. Rul. 99–53] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5851. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Section 705 Special Basis Rules [Notice 99–57] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5852. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting

the Service's final rule—Annual section 415(d) cost of living adjustments [Notice 99–55] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5853. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Disposition by a corporation of its own capital stock [Rev. Rul. 99–57] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5854. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tax Avoidance Using Distributions of Encumbered Property [Notice 99–59] received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5855. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Special Rules for Certain Transactions Where Stated Principal Amount Does Not Exceed $2,800,000 [Rev. Rul. 99–50] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5856. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Treatment of Loans with Below-Market Interest Rates [Rev. Rul. 99–49] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5857. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Last-in; First-out Inventories [Rev. Rul. 99–55] received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5858. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Adequate Disclosure of Gifts [TD 8845] (RIN: 1545–AW20) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5859. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Adjustments Following Sales of Partnership Interests [TD 8847] (RIN: 1545–AS39) received December 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5860. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Automatic Consent to Change a Method of Accounting [Rev. Proc. 99–49] received December 16, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5861. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct tax liability [Rev. Proc. 2000–9] received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5862. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Combined Information Reporting [Rev. Proc. 99–50] received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5863. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Low Income Housing Credit [Rev. Rul. 99–54] received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5864. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property [Rev. Rul. 2000–1] received December 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5865. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Effective Date of Proposed Regulations under 1.368–2(d)(4) [Notice 2000–1] received January 5, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5866. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Information reporting with respect to certain foreign corporations (RIN: 1545–AV69) [TD 8850] received January 5, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5867. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Returns of Information of Brokers and Barter Exchanges [Notice 2000–6] received January 5, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5868. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 99–54] received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5869. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Duke Energy Natural Gas Corporation v. Commissioner—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5870. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Conway v. Commissioner—received November 29, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5871. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Duplicate Benefits [Rev. Rul. 99–51] received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5872. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Information Reporting on Amounts Paid Under the General Allotment Act [Notice 99–60] received December 13, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5873. A letter from the Acting Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Extension of Expiration Date for Several Body System Listings [Regulations No. 4] (RIN: 0960–AF15) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5874. A letter from the the Director, the Congressional Budget Office, transmitting CBO's final sequestration report for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. section 904(b); (H. Doc. No. 106—168); to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

5875. A letter from the Lieutenant General, USA Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Authorizing the transfer of up $100M in defense articles and services to the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina—received December 10, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

5876. A letter from the Deputy Executive Secretary to the Department, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Programs Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) [HCFA–1903–IFC] (RIN: 0938–AJ63) received December 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. S. 430. An act to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to provide for a land exchange between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Kake Tribal Corporation, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106–489). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

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PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DAVIS of Virginia (for himself and Mr. MORAN of Virginia):

H.R. 3518. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide that the Act will not apply to employment performed with an electronic device in a workplace located in the employee's residence; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LEACH:

H.R. 3519. A bill to provide for negotiations for the creation of a trust fund to be administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the International Development Association to combat the AIDS epidemic; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 3520. A bill to designate segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. MCINTOSH:

H.R. 3521. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for a report by the General Accounting Office to Congress on agency regulatory actions, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 3522. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish certain rules regarding motor vehicle inspection and maintenance in States that have contracted out vehicle testing and inspection services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 3523. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for expedited rescissions of budget authority and of limited tax benefits; referred to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 3524. A bill to phase out the incineration of solid waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation

and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OXLEY (for himself, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. RILEY, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. METCALF, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DELAY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. LINDER, Mr. HYDE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. TALENT, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. HILL of Montana, and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H.R. 3525. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to follow normal rulemaking procedures in establishing additional requirements for noncommercial educational television broadcasters; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 3526. A bill to amend the Egg Products Inspection Act to improve the safety of shell eggs; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 3527. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to limit the amount of any increase in the payments required by health insurance issuers for health insurance coverage provided to individuals who are guaranteed an offer of enrollment under individual health insurance coverage relative to other individuals who purchase health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 3528. A bill to provide health benefits for workers and their families; referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, Ways and Means, Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 3529. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access to health insurance and Medicare benefits for individuals ages 55 to 65 to be fully funded through premiums and antifraud provisions, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide financial assistance for those individuals who are too poor to afford the premiums, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. WAMP, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GOSS, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. EWING, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 3530. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide that the Act will not apply to employment performed in a workplace located in the employee's residence; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. MOAKLEY):

H. Con. Res. 240. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Elian Gonzalez should be reunited with his father, Juan Gonzalez of Cuba; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

295. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relative to House Resolution memorializing the Congress and the President of the United States to direct the health care financing administration to adjust medicare managed care reimbursement rates in Massachusetts in order to provide equal access to medicare services; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

□

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 3531. A bill for the relief of Elian Gonzalez-Brotons; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 3532. A bill for the relief of Elian Gonzalez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 488: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 670: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 730: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 742: Mr. HALL of Texas.

H.R. 914: Mr. MASCARA, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 960: Mr. OWENS, Mr. LARSON, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1422: Mr. WU.

H.R. 1612: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. RIVERS.

H.R. 1816: Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 1871: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1895: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1967: Mr. SANDERS and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 2222: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2457: Mrs. MORELLA.

H.R. 2544: Mr. HUTCHINSON.

H.R. 2662: Mr. GILMAN.

H.R. 2776: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2966: Mr. BACA, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. DUNN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORD, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. HAYWORTH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KIND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. QUINN, Mr. REYES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. TALENT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WEYGAND, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 3087: Mr. REYES.

H.R. 3115: Mr. SANDERS.

H.R. 3142: Mr. CLEMENT and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 3144: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. SHOWS.

H.R. 3256: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 3439: Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. GOODE, Mr. STUMP, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. SALMON, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. BASS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SANDLIN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. PETRI, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. TALENT, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. COMBEST, Mrs. WILSON, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. NEY, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. EVERETT.

H.R. 3494: Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. COSTELLO, and Ms. LEE.

H.J. Res. 48: Mr. HORN and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.J. Res. 53: Mr. NETHERCUTT.

H. Res. 377: Mr. MCINTOSH.

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PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

78. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson of Austin, TX, relative to urging the Congress of the United States to vote and approve legislation to make employment discrimination against an applicant based upon the applicant's actual, or perceived, sexual orientation unlawful; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, House Administration, Government Reform, and the Judiciary.

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PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. LAZIO):

H.R. 3533. A bill to provide the Secretary of Energy with authority to draw down the Strategic Petroleum Reserve when oil and gas prices in the United States rise sharply because of anticompetitive activity, and to require the President, through the Secretary of Energy, to consult with Congress regarding the sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

H.R. 3534. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to treat certain aircraft as amateur-built aircraft for the purposes of issuing experimental certificates for the operation of such aircraft; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr.

KUYKENDALL, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mrs. MORELLA):

H.R. 3535. A bill to amend the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to eliminate the wasteful and unsportsmanlike practice of shark finning; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey:

H.R. 3536. A bill to provide for a study regarding the potential health effects of ingesting and inhaling MTBE, to provide for research regarding methods for the removal of MTBE from water supplies, and to require public water systems to monitor for the presence of MTBE in public water systems; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey:

H.R. 3537. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for State and local real property taxes paid by certain taxpayers aged 65 or older who do not itemize their deductions and to provide for the establishment of senior citizen real property tax accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. MEEKS of New York):

H.R. 3538. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the use of public transportation systems by allowing individuals a credit against income tax for expenses paid to commute to and from work or school using public transportation, and to reduce corporate welfare; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HAYWORTH (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 3539. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide that the Act will not apply to employment performed in a workplace located in the employee's residence; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

H.R. 3540. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit the issuance of a certificate for subminimum wages for individuals with impaired vision or blindness; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

H.R. 3541. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,5-dichloroanthraquinone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DIXON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LEE, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. BOYD):

H.R. 3542. A bill to provide greater access to high quality distance education programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LARSON (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. HOLT):

H.R. 3543. A bill to provide the Secretary of Energy with authority to draw down the Strategic Petroleum Reserve when oil and gas prices in the United States rise sharply because of anticompetitive activity, and to require the President, through the Secretary of Energy, to consult with Congress regarding the sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. LEACH:

H.R. 3544. A bill to authorize a gold medal to be awarded on behalf of the Congress to Pope John Paul II in recognition of his many and enduring contributions to peace and religious understanding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 3545. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to achieve full funding by 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. COOK, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. BORSKI):

H.R. 3546. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a uniform dollar limitation for all types of transportation fringe benefits excludable from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MEEK of Florida:

H.R. 3547. A bill to amend title 18 of the United States Code to clarify the provisions respecting forfeiture for alien smuggling; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 3548. A bill to redesignate the mud dump site located approximately 6 miles east of Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and known as the ''Historic Area Remediation Site'', as the ''Albert Gore, Jr., Mud Dump Site''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 3549. A bill to amend the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 relating to the dumping of dredged material in the Historic Area Remediation Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of Michigan:

H.R. 3550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction in determining adjusted gross income for travel expenses of State legislators away from home; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ARMEY:

H. Con. Res. 241. A concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President on the State of the Union; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GEJDENSON (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DANNER, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FROST, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KING, Mr. LARSON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. VENTO, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE):

H. Con. Res. 242. A concurrent resolution to urge the Nobel Commission to award the year 2000 Nobel Prize for Peace to former United States Senator George J. Mitchell for his dedication to fostering peace in Northern Ireland; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. MEEKS of New York):

H. Con. Res. 243. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of mental health awareness, mental disorders, and early detection of mental illnesses to facilitate entry into treatment; to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. NEY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MICA, Mr. EWING, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FROST, Mr. CANNON, and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H. Con. Res. 244. A concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ARMEY:

H. Res. 401. A resolution providing for a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ARMEY:

H. Res. 402. A resolution to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ARMEY:

H. Res. 403. A resolution providing for the hour of meeting of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GALLEGLY:

H. Res. 404. A resolution congratulating the people and Governments of Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, and Uruguay for completing their recent and successful democratic national elections; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. GILLMOR, and Mr. GEJDENSON):

H. Res. 405. A resolution recognizing the recent natural disaster in Venezuela, commending the people and Government of Venezuela for its disaster recovery efforts, and calling on the United States Government and the international community to consider providing additional disaster assistance; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. MCCOLLUM):

H. Res. 406. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Pakistan should be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. THOMAS:

H. Res. 407. A resolution permitting official photographs of the House of Representatives to be taken while the House is in actual session; to the Committee on House Administration.

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PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. MARTINEZ introduced A bill (H.R. 3551) for the relief of Gui Di Chen; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 40: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 49: Mrs. ROUKEMA.

H.R. 50: Mr. BILBRAY and Mr. NORWOOD.

H.R. 61: Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

H.R. 82: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. PETRI, Mr. WAMP, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 220: Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska.

H.R. 303: Mr. SISISKY, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. POMBO, Ms. DANNER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 323: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 443: Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 444: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

H.R. 483: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 528: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 664: Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 725: Mr. FARR of California.

H.R. 745: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 762: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. HORN.

H.R. 783: Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WISE, Mr. MINGE, and Mr. DEMINT.

H.R. 860: Mr. MASCARA, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. FOLEY.

H.R. 896: Mr. DEMINT.

H.R. 920: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. DOLYE.

H.R. 1111: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. WAMP, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. FOLEY.

H.R. 1115: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1168: Mr. VITTER, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RILEY, Mr. WAMP, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.

H.R. 1188: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 1190: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1367: Mr. GANSKE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. KLECZKA, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1413: Mr. NETHERCUTT.

H.R. 1443: Ms. RIVERS.

H.R. 1485: Mr. LARSON.

H.R. 1486: Mr. SUNUNU, Ms. MCKINNEY, and Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

H.R. 1494: Mr. SHADEGG.

H.R. 1495: Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mr. WISE.

H.R. 1515: Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1525: Mr. VISCLOSKY and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1584: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1621: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MINGE, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. CLEMENT.

H.R. 1622: Mr. NADLER, Ms. ESCOO, Mr. FROST, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H.R. 1671: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1705: Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 1706: Mr. SHADEGG.

H.R. 1708: Mr. BOEHLERT.

H.R. 1798: Mrs. MALONEY of New York and Mr. DIXON.

H.R. 1839: Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. LARSON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. KELLY, and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 1899: Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BACA, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1926: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. KUYKENDALL, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.

H.R. 2059: Mr. WYNN, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2121: Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. PASCRELL, AND Mr. MARTINEZ.

H.R. 2175: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2200: Mr. FORBES and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2228: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. THURMAN.

H.R. 2229: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 2265: Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 2308: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 2382: Ms. RIVERS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. WAMP, Mr. NETHERCUT, and Ms. DANNER.

H.R. 2451: Mr. TURNER, and Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 2498: Mr. SABO, Mr. BENTSEN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GIBBONS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 2553: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 2562: Mr. GILCHREST.

H.R. 2564: Mr. BRYANT, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. SAXTON.

H.R. 2569: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2573: Mr. DIXON and Mr. GEJDENSON.

H.R. 2586: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2623: Mr. GEPHARDT, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.

H.R. 2655: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. COMBEST, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, and Mr. BAKER.

H.R. 2691: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2697: Mr. WISE, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. BAKER.

H.R. 2722: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. WATT of North Carolina.

H.R. 2741: Mr. FROST, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2765: Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FORD, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2776: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 2784: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2807: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2827: Mr. MCINTOSH.

H.R. 2868: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 2870: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 2892: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 2895: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 2901: Mr. BAKER and Mr. LARGENT.

H.R. 2965: Mr. WU.

H.R. 2966: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. BOYD, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LAFALCE, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H.R. 3082: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 3105: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 3107: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 3141: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 3185: Mr. GILCHREST.

H.R. 3193: Mr. SNYDER, Mr. FORD, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MINGE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. HILL of Indiana, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. GORDON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. Sanders, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 3224: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. NEY, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 3235: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. SISISKY.

H.R. 3244: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 3252: Mr. SUNUNU and Mr. COMBEST.

H.R. 3293: Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARGENT, Ms. LEE, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. FARR of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GEJDENSON, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3308: Mr. SHOWS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KING, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 3331: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 3439: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 3444: Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3514: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BOEHLERT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. STARK, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. GEJDENSON.

H.R. 3518: Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. EHRLICH, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 3525: Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MICA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. HILLEARY, and Mr. WAMP.

H.J. Res. 41: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.J. Res. 55: Mr. COLLINS and Mr. EHLERS.

H.J. Res. 56: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. BORSKI.

H.J. Res. 60: Mr. BOEHLERT.

H.J. Res. 77: Mr. VITTER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, and Mr. HALL of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 62: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Mr. EVANS.

H. Con. Res. 77: Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. TANNER, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LARGENT, and Mr. DELAY.

H. Con. Res. 119: Mr. BORSKI.

H. Con. Res. 139: Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. TURNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. ROUKEMA, and Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

H. Con. Res. 162: Mr. GIBBONS.

H. Con. Res. 220: Ms. NORTON and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H. Con. Res. 238: Ms. LEE, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FARR of California, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. SABO.

H. Con. Res. 240: Ms. WATERS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. VITTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BARRET of Wisconsin, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. WEINER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. CARSON, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROEMER, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. EWING, and Mr. SABO.

H. Res. 16: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H. Res. 187: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H. Res. 347: Mr. NEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mrs. LOWEY.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2000 No. 4

Senate

The Senate met at 8:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore, STROM THURMOND, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Lloyd J. Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, Lord of our lives, and the source of our unity, we meet together in preparation for joining the Members of the House of Representatives for the State of the Union Address by our President. Bless him as he speaks and the Members of Congress as they listen. Draw us up to You by Your majesty, to one another by shared patriotism, and to the challenges ahead by mutual commitment to discern and do what is best for America, In Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will momentarily proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the President's State of the Union Address. However, we have a few housekeeping items to consider prior to our departure.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS ASSEMBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to House concurrent resolution 241 authorizing the address for this evening.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 241) that the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, January 27, 2000, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 241) was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. this evening, Thursday, January 27, 2000.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2006

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a second time and an objection having been heard for further consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. As a reminder to Members, the Senate will not be in session on Friday. We will reconvene Monday at 12 noon, and at 2 p.m. resume consideration of the bankruptcy bill. Several amendments are scheduled to be debated; however, no votes will occur during Monday's session of the Senate. The next votes will occur on Tuesday at a time to be determined by the two leaders. I emphasize that there will be votes on Tuesday. We will notify Members as to the time some time during the day on Monday.

I yield the floor so that Members can assemble to proceed to the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session, the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States, transmitting a nomination, which was referred to the appropriate committee.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 78

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to lie on the table:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests,

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

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my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity—and, therefore, such a profound obligation—to build the more perfect union of our founders? dreams.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

We have built a new economy.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 20 percent, to its lowest level in 25 years. Teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years.

My fellow Americans, the state of our Union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, the credit belongs to the American people.

My gratitude also goes to those of you in this chamber who have worked with us to put progress above partisanship.

Eight years ago, it was not so clear to most Americans there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Then our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock. The title of a best-selling book asked: ''America: What went wrong?'' In the best traditions of our nation, Americans determined to set things right. We restored the vital center, replacing outdated ideologies with a new vision anchored in basic, enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and a community of all Americans.

We reinvented government, transforming it into a catalyst for new ideas that stress both opportunity and responsibility, and give our people the tools to solve their own problems.

With the smallest federal workforce in 40 years, we turned record deficits into record surpluses, and doubled our investment in education. We cut crime: with 100,000 community police and the Brady Law, which has kept guns out of the hands of half a million criminals.

We ended welfare as we knew it—requiring work while protecting health care and nutrition for children, and investing more in child care, transportation, and housing to help their parents go to work. We have helped parents to succeed at work and at home—with family leave, which 20 million Americans have used to care for a newborn child or a sick loved one. We have engaged 150,000 young Americans in citizen service through AmeriCorps—while also helping them earn their way through college.

In 1992, we had a roadmap. Today, we have results. More important, American again has the confidence to dream big dreams. But we must not let our renewed confidence grow into complacency. We will be judged by the dreams and deeds we pass on to our children. And on that score, we will be held to a high standard, indeed. Because our chance to do good is so great.

My fellow Americans, we have crossed the bridge we built to the 21st Century. Now, we must shape a 21st-Century American revolution—of opportunity, responsibility, and community. We must be, as we were in the beginning, a new nation.

At the dawn of the last century, Theodore Roosevelt said, ''the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight . . . It should be the growing nation with a future which takes the long look ahead.'' Tonight let us take our look long ahead—and set great goals for our nation.

To 21st Century America, let us pledge that: Every child will begin school ready to learn and graduate ready to succeed. Every family will be able to succeed at home and at work—and no child will be raised in poverty. We will meet the challenge of the aging of America. We will assure quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans. We will make America the safest big country on Earth. We will bring prosperity to every American community. We will reverse the course of climate change and leave a cleaner, safer planet. America will lead the world toward shared peace and prosperity, and the far frontiers of science and technology. And we will become at last what our founders pledged us to be so long ago—one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

These are great goals, worthy of a great nation. We will not reach them all this year. Not even in this decade. But we will reach them. Let us remember that the first American revolution was not won with a single shot. The continent was not settled in a single year. The lesson of our history—and the lesson of the last seven years—is that great goals are reached step by step: always building on our progress, always gaining ground.

Of course, you can't gain ground if you're standing still. For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities. Let's begin with them.

I ask you again to pass a real patient's bill of rights. Pass commonsense gun-safety legislation. Pass campaign finance reform. Vote on long overdue judicial nominations and other important appointees. And, again, I ask you to raise the minimum wage.

Two years ago, as we reached our first balanced budget, I asked that we meet our responsibility to the next generation by maintaining our fiscal discipline. Because we refused to stray from that path, we are doing something that would have seemed unimaginable seven years ago: We are actually paying down the national debt. If we stay on this path, we can pay down the debt entirely in 13 years and make America debt-free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was president in 1835.

In 1993, we began to put our fiscal house in order with the Deficit Reduction Act, winning passage in both houses by just one vote. Your former colleague, my first Secretary of the Treasury, led that effort. He is here tonight. Lloyd Bentsen, you have served America well.

Beyond paying off the debt, we must ensure that the benefits of debt reduction go to preserving two of the most important guarantees we make to every American—Social Security and Medicare. I ask you tonight to work with me to make a bipartisan down payment on Social Security reform by crediting the interest savings from debt reduction to the Social Security Trust Fund to ensure that it is strong and sound for the next 50 years.

But this is just the start of our journey. Now we must take the right steps toward reaching our great goals.

OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

First and foremost, we need a 21st Century revolution in education, guided by our faith that every child can learn. Because education is more than ever the key to our children's future, we must make sure all our children have that key. That means quality preschool and afterschool, the best trained teachers in every classroom, and college opportunities for all our children.

For seven years, we have worked hard to improve our schools, with opportunity and responsibility: Investing more, but demanding more in return.

Reading, math, and college entrance scores are up. And some of the most impressive gains are in schools in poor neighborhoods.

All successful schools have followed the same proven formula: higher standards, more accountability, so all children can reach those standards. I have sent Congress a reform plan based on that formula. It holds states and school districts accountable for progress, and rewards them for results. Each year, the national government invests more than $15 billion in our schools. It's time to support what works and stop supporting what doesn't.

As we demand more than ever from our schools, we should invest more than ever in our schools.

Let's double our investments to help states and districts turn around their worst-performing schools—or shut them down.

Let's double our investment in afterschool and summer school programs—boosting achievement, and keeping children off the street and out of trouble. If we do, we can give every child in every failing school in America the chance to meet high standards.

Since 1993, we've nearly doubled our investment in Head Start and improved its quality. Tonight, I ask for another $1 billion to Head Start, the largest increase in the program's history.

We know that children learn best in smaller classes with good teachers. For two years in a row, Congress has supported my plan to hire 100,000 new, qualified teachers, to lower class sizes in the early grades. This year, I ask you to make it three in a row.

And to make sure all teachers know the subjects they teach, tonight I propose a new teacher quality initiative—to recruit more talented people into the classroom, reward good teachers for staying there, and give all teachers the training they need.

We know charter schools provide real public school choice. When I became President, there was just one independent public charter school in all America. Today there are 1,700. I ask you to help us meet our goal of 3,000 by next year.

We know we must connect all our classrooms to the Internet. We're getting there. In 1994, only three percent of our classrooms were connected. Today, with the help of the Vice President's E-rate program, more than half of them are; and 90 percent of our schools have at least one connection to the Internet.

But we can't finish the job when a third of all schools are in serious disrepair, many with walls and wires too old for the Internet. Tonight, I propose to help 5,000 schools a year make immediate, urgent repairs. And again, to help build or modernize 6,000 schools, to get students out of trailers and into high-tech classrooms.

We should double our bipartisan GEAR UP program to mentor 1.4 million disadvantaged young people for college. And let's offer these students a chance to take the same college test-prep courses wealthier students use to boost their test scores.

To make the American Dream achievable for all, we must make college affordable for all. For seven years, on a bipartisan basis, we have taken action toward that goal: larger Pell grants, more-affordable student loans, education IRAs, and our HOPE scholarships, which have already benefited 5 million young people. 67 percent of high school graduates now go on to college, up almost 10 percent since 1993. Yet millions of families still strain to pay college tuition. They need help.

I propose a landmark $30-billion college opportunity tax cut—a middle-class tax deduction for up to $10,000 in college tuition costs. We've already made two years of college affordable for all. Now let's make four years of college affordable for all.

If we take all these steps, we will move a long way toward making sure every child starts school ready to learn and graduates ready to succeed.

REWARDING WORK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We need a 21st Century revolution to reward work and strengthen families—by giving every parent the tools to succeed at work and at the most important work of all—raising their children. That means making sure that every family has health care and the support to care for aging parents, the tools to bring their children up right, and that no child grows up in poverty.

From my first days as President, we have worked to give families better access to better health care. In 1997, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program—CHIP—so that workers who don't have health care coverage through their employers at least can get it for their children. So far, we've enrolled 2 million children, and we're well on our way to our goal of 5 million.

But there are still more than 40 million Americans without health insurance, more than there were in 1993. Tonight I propose that we follow Vice President GORE's suggestion to make low income parents eligible for the insurance that covers their kids. Together with our children's initiative, we can cover nearly one quarter of the uninsured in America.

Again, I ask you to let people between 55 and 65—the fastest growing group of uninsured—buy into Medicare. And let's give them a tax credit to make that choice an affordable one.

When the Baby Boomers retire, Medicare will be faced with caring for twice as many of our citizens—and yet it is far from ready to do so. My generation must not ask our children's generation to shoulder our burden. We must strengthen and modernize Medicare now.

My budget includes a comprehensive plan to reform Medicare, to make it more efficient and competitive. And it dedicates nearly $400 billion of our budget surplus to keep Medicare solvent past 2025; and, at long last, to give every senior a voluntary choice of affordable coverage for prescription drugs.

Lifesaving drugs are an indispensable part of modern medicine. No one creating a Medicare program today would even consider excluding coverage for prescription drugs. Yet more than three in five seniors now lack dependable drug coverage which can lengthen and enrich their lives. Millions of older Americans who need prescription drugs the most pay the highest prices for them.

In good conscience, we cannot let another year pass without extending to all seniors the lifeline of affordable prescription drugs.

Record numbers of Americans are providing for aging or ailing loved ones at home. Last year, I proposed a $1,000 tax credit for long-term care. Frankly, that wasn't enough. This year, let's triple it to $3,000—and this year, let's pass it.

And we must make needed investments to expand access to mental health care. I want to thank the person who has led our efforts to break down the barriers to the decent treatment of mental illness: Tipper Gore.

Taken together, these proposals would mark the largest investment in health care in the 35 years since the creation of Medicare—a big step toward assuring health care for all Americans, young and old.

We must also make investments that reward work and support families. Nothing does that better than the Earned Income Tax Credit, the EITC. The 'E' in 'EITC' is about earning; working; taking responsibility and being rewarded for it. In my first Address to you, I asked Congress to greatly expand this tax credit; and you did. As a result, in 1998 alone, the EITC helped more than 4.3 million Americans work their way out of poverty and toward the middle class—double the number in 1993.

Tonight, I propose another major expansion. We should reduce the marriage penalty for the EITC, making sure it rewards marriage just as it rewards work. And we should expand the tax credit for families with more than two children to provide up to $1,100 more in tax relief.

We can't reward work and family unless men and women get equal pay for equal work. The female unemployment rate is the lowest in 46 years. Yet women still earn only about 75 cents for every dollar men earn. We must do better by providing the resources to enforce present equal pay laws, training more women for high-paying, high-tech jobs, and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Two-thirds of new jobs are in the suburbs, far away from many low-income families. In the past two years, I have proposed and Congress has approved 110,000 new housing vouchers—rent subsidies to help working families live closer to the workplace. This year, let us more than double that number. If we want people to go to work, they have to be able to get to work.

Many working parents spend up to a quarter of their income on child care. Last year, we helped parents provide child care for about two million children. My child care initiative, along with funds already secured in welfare reform, would make child care better, safer, and more affordable for another 400,000 children.

For hard-pressed middle-income families, we should also expand the child care tax credit. And we should take the next big step. We should make that tax credit refundable for low-income families. For those making under $30,000 a year, that could mean up to $2,400 for child-care costs. We all say we're pro-work and pro-family. Passing this proposal would prove it.

Tens of millions of Americans live from paycheck to paycheck. As hard as they work, they still don't have the opportunity to save. Too few can make use of IRAs and 401–K retirement plans. We should to more to help working families save and accumulate wealth. That's the idea behind so-called Individual Development Accounts. Let's take that idea to a new level, with Retirement savings Accounts that enable

every low- and moderate-income family in America to save for retirement, a first home, a medical emergency, or a college education. I propose to match their contributions, however small, dollar for dollar, every year they save. And to give a major new tax credit for any small business that provides a meaningful pension to its workers.

Nearly one in three American children grows up in a home without a father. These children are five times more likely to live in poverty than children with both parents at home. Clearly, demanding and supporting responsible fatherhood is critical to lifting all children out of poverty.

We have doubled child support collections since 1992, and I am proposing tough new measures to hold still more fathers responsible. But we should recognize that a lot of fathers want to do right by their children—and need help to do it. Carlos Rosas of St. Paul, Minnesota, got that help. How he has a good job and he supports his son Ricardo. My budget will help 40,000 fathers make the choices Carlos did. And I thank him for being here.

If there is any issue on which we can reach across party lines it is in our common commitment to reward work and strengthen families. Thanks to overwhelming bipartisan support from this Congress, we have improved foster care, supported those who leave it when they turn eighteen, and dramatically increased the number of foster children going to adoptive homes. I thank you for that. Of course, I am especially grateful to the person who has led our efforts from the beginning, and who has worked tirelessly for children and families for thirty years now: my wife, Hillary.

If we take all these steps, we will move a long way toward empowering parents to succeed at home and at work and ensuring that no child is raised in poverty. We can make these vital investments in health care, education and support for working families—and still offer tax cuts to help pay for college, for retirement, to care for aging parents and reduce the marriage penalty—without forsaking the path of fiscal discipline that got us here. Indeed, we must make these investments and tax cuts in the context of a balanced budget that strengthens and extends the life of Social Security and Medicare and pays down the national debt.

RESPONSIBILITY AND CRIME

Crime in America has dropped for the past seven years—the longest decline on record, thanks to a national consensus we helped to forge on community police, sensible gun safety laws, and effective prevention. But nobody believes America is safe enough. So let's set a higher goal: let's make America the safest big country in the world.

Last fall, Congress supported my plan to hire—in addition to the 100,000 community police we have already funded—50,000 more, concentrated in high-crime neighborhoods. I ask your continued support.

Soon after the Columbine tragedy, Congress considered common-sense gun safety legislation to require Brady background checks at gun shows, child safety locks for all new handguns, and a ban on the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. With courage—and a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President—the Senate faced down the gun lobby, stood up for the American people, and passed this legislation. But the House failed to follow suit.

We've all seen what happens when guns fall into the wrong hands. Daniel Mauser was only 15 years old when he was gunned down at Columbine. He was an amazing kid, a straight-A student, a good skier. Like all parents who lost their children his father Tom has borne unimaginable grief. Somehow Tom has found the strength to honor his son by transforming his grief into action. Earlier this month, he took a leave of absence from his job to fight for tougher gun safety laws. I pray that his courage and wisdom will move this Congress to make common-sense gun safety legislation the very next order of business. Tom, thank you for being here tonight.

We must strengthen gun laws and better enforce laws already on the books. Federal gun crime prosecutions are up 16 percent since I took office. But again, we must do more. I propose to hire more federal and local gun prosecutors, and more ATF agents to crack down on illegal gun traffickers and bad-apple dealers. And we must give law enforcement the tools to trace every gun—and every bullet—used in a crime in America.

Listen to this: the accidental gun death rate of children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than in the other 25 industrialized nations—combined. Technologies now exist that could lead to guns that can only be fired by the adults who own them. I ask Congress to fund research in Smart Gun technology. I also call on responsible leaders in the gun industry to work with us on smart guns and other steps to keep guns out of the wrong hands and keep our children safe.

Every parent I know worries about the impact of violence in the media on their children. I thank the entertainment industry for accepting my challenge to put voluntary ratings on TV programs and video and Internet games. But the ratings are too numerous, diverse, and confusing to be really useful to parents. Therefore, I now ask the industry to accept the First Lady's challenge—to develop a single, voluntary rating system for all children's entertainment, one that is easier for parents to understand and enforce.

If we take all these steps, we will be well on our way to making America the safest big country in the world.

OPENING NEW MARKETS

To keep our historic economic expansion going, we need a 21st Century revolution to open new markets, start new businesses, and hire new workers right here in America—in our inner cities, poor rural areas, and on Indian reservations.

Our nation's prosperity has not yet reached these places. Over the last six months, I have traveled to many of them—joined by many of you, and many far-sighted business people—to shine a spotlight on the enormous potential in communities from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta, from Watts to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Everywhere I've gone, I've met talented people eager for opportunity, and able to work. Let's put them to work.

For business, it's the smart thing to do. For America, it's the right thing to do. And if we don't do it now, when will we ever get around to it? I ask Congress to give businesses the same incentives to invest in America's new markets that they now have to invest in foreign markets. Tonight, I propose a large New Markets Tax Credit and other incentives to spur $22 billion in private-sector capital—to create new businesses and new investments in inner cities and rural areas.

Empowerment Zones have been creating these opportunities for five years now. We should also increase incentives to invest in them and create more of them.

This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. It is an American issue. Mr. Speaker, it was a powerful moment last November when you joined me and the Reverend Jesse Jackson in your home state of Illinois, and committed to working toward our common goal, by combining the best ideas from both sides of the aisle. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you.

We must maintain our commitment to community development banks and keep the community reinvestment act strong so all Americans have access to the capital they need to buy homes and build businesses.

We need to make special efforts to address the areas with the highest rates of poverty. My budget includes a special $110 million initiative to promote economic development in the Mississippi Delta; and $1 billion to increase economic opportunity, health care, education and law enforcement for Native American communities. In this new century, we should honor our historic responsibility to empower the first Americans. I thank leaders and members from both parties who have already expressed an interest in working with us on these efforts.

There's another part of our American community in trouble today—our family farmers. When I signed the Farm Bill in 1996, I said there was a great danger it would work well in good times but not in bad. Well, droughts, floods, and historically low prices have made times very bad for our farmers. We must work together to strengthen the farm safety net, invest in land conservation, and create new markets by expanding our program for bio-based fuels and products.

Today, opportunity for all requires something new: having access to a computer and knowing how to use it. That means we must close the digital divide between those who have these tools and those who don't.

Connecting classrooms and libraries to the Internet is crucial, but it's just a start. My budget ensures that all new teachers are trained to teach 21st Century skills and creates technology centers in 1,000 communities to serve adults. This spring, I will invite high-tech leaders to join me on another New Markets tour—to close the digital divide and open opportunity for all our people. I thank the high-tech companies that are already doing so much in this area—and I hope the new tax incentives. I have proposed will encourage others to join us.

If we take these steps, we will go a long way toward our goal of bringing opportunity to every community.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

To realize the full possibilities of the new economy, we must reach beyond our own borders, to shape the revolution that is tearing down barriers and building new networks among nations and individuals, economies and cultures: globalization.

It is the central reality of our time. Change this profound is both liberating and threatening. But there is no turning back. And our open, creative society stands to benefit more than any other—if we understand, and act on, the new realities of interdependence. We must be at the center of every vital global network, as a good neighbor and partner. We cannot build our future without helping others to build theirs.

First, we must forge a new consensus on trade. Those of us who believe passionately in the power of open trade must ensure that it lifts both our living standards and our values, never tolerating abusive child labor or a race to the bottom on the environment and worker protection. Still, open markets and rules-based trade are the best engines we know for raising living standards, reducing global poverty and environmental destruction, and assuring the free flow of ideas. There is only one direction for America on trade: we must go forward.

And we must make developing economies our partners in prosperity—which is why I ask Congress to finalize our groundbreaking African and Caribbean Basin trade initiatives.

Globalization is about more than economics. Our purpose must be to bring the world together around democracy, freedom, and peace, and to oppose those who would tear it apart.

Here are the fundamental challenges I believe America must meet to shape the 21st Century world.

First, we must continue to encourage our former adversaries, Russia and China, to emerge as stable, prosperous, democratic nations. Both are being held back from reaching their full potential: Russia by the legacy of communism, economic turmoil, a cruel and self-defeating war in Chechnya; China by the illusion that it can buy stability at the expense of freedom.

But think how much has changed in the past decade: thousands of former Soviet nuclear weapons eliminated; Russian soldiers serving with ours in the Balkans; Russian people electing their leaders for the first time in a thousand years. And in China, an economy more open to the world than ever before. No one can know for sure what direction these great countries will choose. But we must do everything in our power to increase the chance they will choose wisely, to be constructive members of the global community.

That is why we must support those Russians struggling for a democratic, prosperous future; continue to reduce both our nuclear arsenals; and help Russia safeguard weapons and materials that remain.

That is why Congress should support the agreement we negotiated to bring China into the WTO, by passing Permanent Normal Trade Relations as soon as possible this year. Our markets are already open to China. This agreement will open China's markets to us. And it will advance the cause of peace in Asia and promote the cause of change in China.

A second challenge is to protect our security from conflicts that pose the risk of wider war and threaten our common humanity. America cannot prevent every conflict or stop every outrage. But where our interests are at stake and we can make a difference, we must be peacemakers.

We should be proud of America's role in bringing the Middle East closer than ever to a comprehensive peace; building peace in Northern Ireland; working for peace in East Timor and Africa; promoting reconciliation between Greece and Turkey and in Cyprus; working to defuse crises between India and Pakistan; defending human rights and religious freedom.

And we should be proud of the men and women of our armed forces and those of our allies who stopped the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo—enabling a million innocent people to return to their homes.

When Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his terror on Kosova, Captain John Cherrey was one of the brave airmen who turned the tide. And when another American plane went down over Serbia, he flew into the teeth of enemy air defenses to bring his fellow pilot home. Thanks to our armed forces' skill and bravery, we prevailed without losing a single American in combat. Captain Cherrey, we honor you, and promise to finish the job you began.

A third challenge is to keep the inexorable march of technology from giving terrorists and potentially hostile nations the means to undermine our defenses. The same advances that have shrunk cell phones to fit in the palms of our hands can also make weapons of terror easier to conceal and easier to use.

We must meet this threat: by making effective agreements to restrain nuclear and missile programs in North Korea, curbing the flow and lethal technology to Iran; preventing Iraq from threatening its neighbors; increasing our preparedness against chemical and biological attack; protecting our vital computer systems from hackers and criminals; and developing a system to defend against new threats—while working to preserve our Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia.

I hope we can have a constructive bipartisan dialogue this year to build a consensus which will lead eventually to the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

A fourth challenge is to ensure that the stability of our planet is not threatened by the huge gulf between rich and poor. We cannot accept a world in which part of humanity lives on the cutting edge of a new economy, while the rest live on the bare edge of survival. We must do our part, with expanded trade, expanded aid, and the expansion of freedom.

From Nigeria to Indonesia, more people won the right to choose their leaders in 1999 than in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell. We must stand by democracies—like Colombia, fighting narco-traffickers for its people's lives, and our children's lives. I have proposed a strong two-year package to help Colombia win this fight; and I ask for your support. And I will propose tough new legislation to go after what drug barons value most—their money.

In a world where 1.2 billion people live on less than a dollar a day, we must do our part in the global endeavor to reduce the debts of the poorest countries so they can invest in education, health and economic growth—as the Pope and other religious leaders have urged. Last year, Congress made a down payment on America's share. And I ask for your continued support.

And America must help more nations break the bonds of disease. Last year in Africa, AIDS killed ten times as many people as war did. My budget invests $150 million more in the fight against this and other infectious killers. Today, I propose a tax credit to speed the development of vaccines for diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS. I ask the private sector and our partners around the world to join us in embracing this cause. Together, we can save millions of lives.

Our final challenge is the most important: to pass a national security budget that keeps our military the best trained and best equipped in the world, with heightened readiness and 21st Century weapons; raises salaries for our service men and women; protects our veterans; fully funds the diplomacy that keeps our soldiers out of war; and makes good on our commitment to pay our UN dues and arrears. I ask you to pass this budget and I thank you for the extraordinary support you have given—Republicans and Democrats

alike—to our men and women in uniform. I especially want to thank Secretary Cohen for symbolizing our bipartisan commitment to our national security—and Janet Cohen, I thank you for tirelessly traveling the world to show our support for the troops.

If we meet all these challenges, America can lead the world toward peace and freedom in an era of globalization.

RESPONSIBILITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

I am grateful for the opportunities the Vice President and I have had to work hard to protect the environment and finally to put to rest the notion that you can't expand the economy while protecting the environment. As our economy has grown, we have rid more than 500 neighborhoods of toxic waste and ensured cleaner air and water for millions of families. In the past three months alone, we have acted to preserve more than 40 million acres of roadless lands in our National Forests and created three new National Monuments.

But as our communities grow, our commitment to conservation must grow as well. Tonight, I propose creating a permanent conservation fund to restore wildlife, protect coastlines, and save natural treasures from California redwoods to the Everglades. This Lands Legacy endowment represents by far the most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed.

Last year, the Vice President launched a new effort to help make communities more livable—so children will grow up next to parks, not parking lots, and parents can be home with their children instead of stuck in traffic. Tonight, we propose new funding for advanced transit systems—for saving precious open spaces—for helping major cities around the Great Lakes protect their waterways and enhance their quality of life.

The greatest environmental challenge of the new century is global warming. Scientists tell us that the 1990s were the hottest decade of the entire millennium. If we fail to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, deadly heat waves and droughts will become more frequent, coastal areas will be flooded, economies disrupted.

Many people in the United States and around the world still believe we can't cut greenhouse gas pollution without slowing economic growth. In the Industrial Age that may have been true. In the digital economy, it isn't. New technologies make it possible to cut harmful emissions and provide even more growth. For example, just last week, automakers unveiled cars that get 70 to 80 miles a gallon—the fruits of a unique research partnership between government and industry. Before you know it, efficient production of biofuels will give us the equivalent of hundreds of miles from a gallon of gas.

To speed innovations in environmental technologies, I propose giving major tax incentives to businesses for the production of clean energy—and to families for buying energy-saving homes and appliances and the next generation of super-efficient cars when they hit the showroom floor. I also call on the auto industry to use available technologies to make all new cars more fuel efficient right away. And on Congress to make more of our clean-energy technologies available to the developing world—creating cleaner growth abroad and new jobs at home.

THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the new century, innovations in science and technology will be the key not only to the health of the environment but to miraculous improvements in the quality of our lives and advances in the economy.

Later this year, researchers will complete the first draft of the entire human genome—the very blueprint of life. It is important for all Americans to recognize that your tax dollars have fueled this research—and that this and other wise investments in science are leading to a revolution in our ability to detect, treat, and prevent disease.

For example, researchers have identified genes that cause Parkinson's Disease, diabetes, and certain types of cancer—and they are designing precision therapies that will block the harmful effects of these faulty genes for good. Researchers are already using this new technique to target and destroy cells that cause breast cancer. Soon, we may be able to use it to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's Disease. Scientists are also working on an artificial retina to help many blind people to see and microchips that would directly stimulate damaged spinal cords and allow people who are now paralyzed to stand up and walk.

Science and engineering innovations are also propelling our remarkable prosperity. Information technology alone now accounts for a third of our economic growth, with jobs that pay almost 80 percent above the private sector average. Again, we should keep in mind: government-funded research brought supercomputers, the Internet, and communications satellites into being. Soon researchers will bring us devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak; materials 10 times stronger than steel at a fraction of the weight; and molecular computers the size of a teardrop with the power of today's fastest supercomputers.

To accelerate the march of discovery across all disciplines of science and technology, my budget includes an unprecedented $3 billion increase in the 21st Century Research Fund, the largest increase in civilian research in a generation.

These new breakthroughs must be used in ways that reflect our most cherished values. First and foremost, we must safeguard our citizens' privacy. Last year, we proposed rules to protect every citizen's medical records. This year, we will finalize those rules. We have also taken the first steps to protect the privacy of bank and credit card statements and other financial records. Soon I will send legislation to the Congress to finish that job. We must also act to prevent any genetic discrimination by employers or insurers.

These steps will allow America to lead toward the far frontiers of science and technology—enhancing our health, environment, and economy in ways we cannot even imagine today.

COMMUNITY

At a time when science, technology and the forces of globalization are bringing so many changes into our lives, it is more important than ever that we strengthen the bonds that root us in our local communities and in our national communities.

No tie binds different people together like citizen service. There is a new spirit of service in America, a movement we have supported with AmeriCorps, an expanded Peace Corps, and unprecedented new partnerships with businesses, foundations, and community groups. Partnerships to enlist 12,000 companies in moving 650,000 of our fellow citizens from welfare to work. To battle drug abuse and AIDS. To teach young people to read. To Save America's Treasures. To strengthen the arts. To fight teen pregnancy. To prevent youth violence. To promote racial healing.

We can do even more to help Americans help each other. We should help faith-based organizations do more to fight poverty and drug abuse and help young people get back on the right track with initiatives like Second Chance Homes to help unwed teen mothers. We should support Americans who tithe and contribute to charities, but don't earn enough to claim a tax deduction for it. Tonight, I propose new tax incentives to allow low- and middle-income citizens to get that deduction.

We should do more to help new immigrants fully participate in the American community—investing more to teach them civics and English. And since everyone in our community counts, we must make sure everyone is counted in this year's census.

Within ten years there will be no majority race in our largest state, California. In a little more than 50 years, there will be no majority race in America. In a more interconnected world, this diversity can be our greatest strength. Just look around this chamber. We have members from virtually every racial, ethnic, and religious background. And America is stronger for it. But as we have seen, these differences all too often spark hatred and division, even here at home.

We have seen a man dragged to death in Texas simply because he was black. A young man murdered in Wyoming simply because he was gay. In the last year alone, we've seen the shootings of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Jewish children simply because of

who they were. This is not the American way. We must draw the line. Without delay, we must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And we should reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Protections in law must be protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office of One America to promote racial reconiliation. That's what Hank Aaron, has done all his life. From his days as baseball's all-time homerun king to his recent acts of healing, he has always brought Americans together. We're pleased he's with us tonight.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists said something we should all remember. He said all human beings, genetically, are 99.9 percent the same. So modern science affirms what ancient faith has always taught: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

Therefore, we must do more than tolerate diversity—we must honor it and celebrate it.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the State of the Union, I approach it with great hope and expectations for our nation. But tonight is special—because we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement; before us, even grander frontiers of possibility.

We should be filled with gratitude and humility for our prosperity and progress; with awe and joy at what lies ahead; and with absolute determination to make the most of it.

When the framers finished crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin stood in Independence Hall and reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon. He said, ''I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting.'' Today, Franklin said, ''I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun.'' Well, today, because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning brightly, lighting those frontiers of possibility, we still bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun.

After 224 years, the American Revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

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MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 8:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 241. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint resolution of Congress to receive a message from the President on the state of the Union.

f

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the Calendar:

S. 2006. A bill for the relief of Yongyi Song.

f

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first time and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire):

S. 2010. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to follow normal rulemaking procedures in establishing additional requirements for noncommercial educational television broadcasters; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2011. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the prohibition on stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 2012. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax to elementary and secondary school teachers who provide classroom materials; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT (for Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2013. A bill to restore health care equity for medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

f

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL:

S. 2012. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax to elementary and secondary school teachers who provide classroom materials; to the Committee on Finance.

TEACHER TAX CREDIT RELIEF ACT, 2000

● Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Teacher Tax Credit Relief Act of 2000. The act would provide an annual tax credit of up to $100 for teachers' un-reimbursed classroom expenditures that are qualified under the Internal Revenue Code.

Thomas Jefferson once said that ''an educated citizenry is essential for the preservation of democracy.'' It falls to our teachers—through their hard work and lifetime of commitment to young people—to inculcate the academic values and analytical skills that make good citizenship possible.

In my discussions with teachers—public and private—I have been amazed to learn that many use their own money to cover the cost of classroom materials that are not supplied by their schools or school districts. These expenditures enhance our childrens' education but are paid for out-of-pocket.

In fact, in 1996, according to a study by the National Education Association, the average K–12 teacher spent $408 annually on classroom materials needed for education but not supplied by the schools. These materials include everything from books, workbooks, erasers, paper, pens, equipment related to classroom instruction, and professional enrichment programs.

Under current law, a tax deduction is allowed for such expenses, but only if the teacher itemizes, and only if the expenses exceed two percent of the teacher's AGI. Of course, a deduction just reduces taxable income. A credit would give teachers relief dollar-for-dollar spent, up to the $100 annual limit.

On a modest income, teachers provide an incalculable service to our country. Surely, we should not expect them to pay for school supplies out of their salary, when they have already committed their lives to the education of our young.

A similar provision enacted by the Arizona legislature in 1995 has been extremely well-received by teachers. The provision was recently upheld as constitutional by the Arizona Supreme Court.

Please join me in supporting this bill. Our teachers deserve to be at least partially reimbursed for financial sacrifices they make to educate our nation's children.●

By Mr. LOTT (for Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2013. A bill to restore health care equity for Medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HONORING HEALTH CARE COMMITMENTS TO SERVICEMEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT ACT OF 2000

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last November, I spoke on the floor of the Senate about the severe deficiencies in our nation's military health care delivery system. We, as a nation, face a very critical challenge in determining how best to reconfigure the military health care delivery system so that it can continue to meet its military readiness and peace-time obligations during this period of ongoing change in our base and force structure.

This is a challenge that has concerned me for some time. As I have been working on this matter and deciding how best to proceed, I have met with, and heard from, many military family members, veterans, and military retirees from around the country. And, in that process, I have been inundated with suggestions for reform. During every meeting and in every letter, I have heard from retired service men and women about so many problems with all aspects of the military medical care system—including long waiting periods, access to the right kind of

care, access to needed pharmaceutical drugs, and especially the ''broken promise'' of free lifetime health care for military retirees and their spouses. I have also personally heard such concerns repeatedly expressed as I have traveled extensively throughout the United States over the past several months.

I have found that a primary concern among military retirees and their families is the ''broken promise'' of lifetime medical care. In this vein, retiree health care is a readiness issue. Today's service members are acutely aware of retirees' disenfranchisement from military health care coverage, and exit surveys cite this issue with increasing frequency as one of the factors in members' decisions to leave the service. In fact, a recent General Accounting Office study found that poor ''access to medical and dental care in retirement'' was among the top five elements of dissatisfaction among active duty officers in retention-critical specialties.

Failure to keep health care commitments is hurting service recruiting efforts, as well. Traditionally, retirees have been the services' most effective recruiters, and their children and those of family friends have been more likely to serve. Unfortunately, increasing numbers of retirees who have seen the government renege on its ''lifetime health care'' promises have become more reluctant to recommend service careers to their family members and friends. Restoring retirees' confidence in their health care coverage could go a long way in restoring this invaluable recruiting resource.

Certainly, the high cost of providing quality health care has contributed to Congress' failure to implement meaningful reform in the past. Yet, even though Congress has increased the President's defense budget requests in recent years to attempt to meet the military's future needs, it simultaneously has squandered billions each year on projects the military did not request and does not need. Last year alone, Congress appropriated over $6 billion for wasteful, unrequested, and low-priority projects that would have no positive effect on preparing our military for future challenges, and would address this military health care quandary.

Congress also continues to refuse to close military bases that are not essential to our security, permitting politics to outweigh military readiness, at a cost to the taxpayer of nearly $7 billion each year. If Congress would allow the Pentagon to privatize or consolidate depot and base maintenance activities, savings of $2 billion each year could be achieved. In addition, Congress refuses to eliminate anti-competitive ''Buy American'' restrictions, which could save almost $5.5 billion annually on defense contracts. These common sense reforms together would free up nearly $20 billion per year, which could be used to begin correcting our readiness shortfalls and, significantly, provide a quality health care delivery system for our older military retirees, once and for all.

I must add that there are other wasteful funding efforts that are particularly disgraceful. While Congress wastes taxpayer money on obsolete infrastructure, unneeded weapon systems, and projects that have no meaningful value to our Armed Forces, it simultaneously refuses to adequately pay the nearly 12,000 enlisted military personnel who are forced to subsist on food stamps. We must work to improve our treatment of all the honored military personnel serving our nation.

INITIAL STEPS ON THE ROAD TO REFORM

Last October, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the other Joint Chiefs testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the state of the military. During that hearing, they universally declared the year 2000 to be the year of military health care reform.

The rush to implement military health care reform, as evidenced by a plethora of well-intentioned legislation introduced by Congress and to be proposed by the Administration, and the evaluation of current health care delivery pilot projects must be balanced with the need to provide uninterrupted critical health care to the over-65 military retirees and their families, as well as, recognize the need to provide free health care to those Medicare eligible retirees who entered military service before June 7, 1956. Their concern about losing even the minimal health care they received from the time of retirement until age 65 increases dramatically as they turn 65. If this is to be the year of military health care, a key part of this effort must entail reassuring these older retirees that the Department of Defense will no longer deny or ignore their legitimate health care needs. By doing so, Congress also will be taking an essential step in reassuring today's servicemembers that the government does, in fact, keep its recruiting and retention promises concerning health care and other career service benefits.

The legislation that I am proposing is the next step in my effort to lead Congress down the road to meaningful reform of our nation's military health care delivery system. This measure adopts positive ideas already based in other legislation, but offers an essential element that other plans do not—that is, choice. My legislation would offer the military retiree and his family a choice of several health care delivery plans. Having the choice to decide which health care plan works well is important for two reasons: to ensure control of overall health care reform costs and to reflect the reality that each retiree's needs can be very different.

Some military retirees live near military installations and could use military health care if they had access to it. Others who live far from installations might be satisfied, for example, with the addition of a relatively low-cost prescription drug benefit. Still others, however, might desperately need full-coverage insurance such as the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). The plan would accommodate these different requirements. This health care reform plan also would be portable and less dependent on any specific military hospital system, particularly if further rounds of base closures occur.

SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

For Medicare-eligible military retirees, this legislation authorizes the following options:

Option 1: Establishes a nationwide mail-order pharmacy service and community-based pharmacy network to serve the prescription drug needs of over-age 65 military retired members, their spouses and survivors of the military community; this provision would expand the Base Realignment and Closure (mail-order and TRICARE retail) pharmacy benefit nationwide to all Medicare-eligible uniformed services beneficiaries beginning October 1, 2000.

Option 2: Allows Medicare-eligible retirees to enroll in the Medicare subvention benefit and expands TRICARE Senior Prime nationwide beginning October 1, 2000.

Option 3: Allows Medicare-eligible retirees to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and would expand FEHBP benefits worldwide effective with the fall 2000 open enrollment period and coverge beginning January 1, 2001.

This legislation includes a critical ''Sense of the Senate'' instruction: That urgent priority should be given to the enactment of legislation (such as S. 2003/H.R. 2966) that provides health care coverage at no cost for Medicare-eligible military retirees who first entered the service before June 7, 1956, and their dependents. Such legislation also should have priority consideration by the Senate committee with jurisdiction over the bill and the measure should receive expedited consideration by the full Senate, immediately after it has been reported out of committee to the Senate.

This legislation proposes to make essential improvements to the military health delivery system for active duty servicemembers and their families, including:

Elimination of copayments and deductibles for all active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime; this is a great quality of life improvement for our military personnel and their families, especially our enlisted families; and

Extension of TRICARE Prime Remote coverage free of charge to the families of 80,000 active duty members living more than 50 miles from a military medical treatment facility (i.e., recruiters, ROTC instructors, reserve center and National Guard active duty personnel, and others similarly situated), who are unable to participate in TRICARE Prime.

This measure proposes other significant administrative improvements to the military medical delivery system, including:

Promotes efficiency in the military health care system by combining the various uniformed services health care delivery systems for Medicare-eligibles under a common delivery program, TRICARE Senior Prime, just as the same systems for younger beneficiaries have been combined under TRICARE Prime;

Establishes an account within the Treasury called the Uniformed Services Retirees Health Care Account that helps fund the added cost of this new benefit for age-65 uniformed services retirees; under this concept, savings from efficiencies (such as moving to electronic vs. paper claims processing) could be devoted to fulfilling health care obligations to older retirees;

Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to enter into contracts with private industry for the purpose of recovering overpayments to civilian health care providers under TRICARE program; these services may include audits and other services deemed necessary by the Secretary of Defense;

Directs the Secretary of Defense to enhance and simplify the TRICARE health program through administrative efficiencies and the use of the Internet relating to marketing, beneficiary enrollment, beneficiary and provider education, claims processing, scheduling of appointments and other services, as deemed appropriate by the Secretary, to enhance the military health delivery system; and

Directs the Secretary of Defense to design and issue a national enrollment card for the TRICARE health program that shall serve as an enrollment card for participation in the TRICARE program nationwide; the enrollment card is designed to facilitate the ready portability of benefits under TRICARE nationwide.

CONCLUSION

The federal government must not fail our nation's military retirees, their families, and survivors in ensuring the continuation of adequate health care coverage in their late years. I believe the steps I have outlined today, which have earned the overwhelming endorsement of The Military Coalition and The Military And Veterans' Alliance, representing 9 million members, start us down the road to comprehensive reform of the military health care system. Such an effort has not been seen in decades, and would fulfill our obligation to our military retirees and bolster retention and readiness among today's servicemembers.

Mr. President, I concur with the Joint Chiefs that this truly is the year of military health care reform. The success of the legislation that I am introducing today will depend significantly on Congress' ability to produce real military health care reform and provide the necessary resources in a timely manner. In addition, it will be important that the Pentagon, private industry, and the military retirees and active duty servicemembers who utilize the system can work together and galvanize support for a solid military health care system for the long term.

Mr. President, I ask that letters from The Military Coalition, The Military And Veterans Alliance, the Air Force Association (AFA), the National Association For Uniformed Services (NAUS), and Colonel George ''Bud'' Day, USAF, Ret. (a Medal of Honor recipient and who is very active in military and veterans' issues) in support of this comprehensive military health care reform plan be placed in the RECORD, immediately following my remarks. In addition, I ask that the bill be printed in the RECORD as well as the letters from the military and veterans' associations.●

The material follows:

S. 2013

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Honoring Health Care Commitments to Servicemembers Past and Present Act of 2000''.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF SENATE ON HEALTH CARE FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WHO FIRST BECAME MEMBERS BEFORE JUNE 7, 1956, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) urgent priority should be given to the enactment of legislation that provides health care coverage for Medicare-eligible members and former members of the uniformed services who first became members of the uniformed services before June 7, 1956, and for their dependents, at no cost to such members, former members, and dependents; and

(2) the bill proposing to provide the health care coverage described in paragraph (1), which has been introduced in the Senate, should—

(A) receive priority of consideration by the committee of the Senate having jurisdiction over the bill; and

(B) become the pending business of the Senate immediately after its reporting to the Senate by the committee of the Senate described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 3. PARTICIPATION OF MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PHARMACY PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2000, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) expand and make permanent the demonstration project for pharmaceuticals by mail established under subsection (a) of section 702 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (10 U.S.C. 1079 note) in order to permit individuals described in subsection (b) worldwide to obtain pharmaceuticals through the project; and

(2) modify each managed health care program which includes a managed care network of community retail pharmacies under subsection (b) of such section 702 to supply prescription pharmaceuticals to the individuals described in subsection (b) of this section through such network in the area covered by such program.

(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an individual eligible to obtain pharmaceuticals under this section is a member or former member of the uniformed services described in section 1074(b) of title 10, United States Code, a dependent of a member described in subsection (a)(2)(B) or (b) of section 1076 of that title, or a dependent of a member who died while on active duty for a period of more than 30 days, who is entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(2) An individual described in paragraph (1) is not eligible to obtain pharmaceuticals under this section if the individual is covered by a health benefits plan offered through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program, whether as an employee under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, or pursuant to section 1108 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) FEES AND CHARGES.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the amount of the deductible, copayment, annual fee, or other fee, if any, paid by an eligible individual described in subsection (b) who obtains a pharmaceutical under this section through the project referred to in subsection (a)(1) or a retail pharmacy network referred to in subsection (a)(2) shall not exceed the amount of the deductible copayment, annual fee, or other fee paid by other persons for such pharmaceutical through the project or the pharmacy network, as the case may be.

(2) An eligible individual described in subsection (b) shall not be charged an enrollment fee for participation in the project or a retail pharmacy network under this section.

(3) The Secretary of Defense may not establish or collect any new fee or charge under the project referred to in subsection (a)(1), or any retail pharmacy network referred to in subsection (a)(2), by reason of the participation of eligible individuals described in subsection (b) in the project or network under this section.

SEC. 4. NATIONWIDE EXPANSION OF MEDICARE SUBVENTION.

(a) PARTICIPANTS.—Effective October 1, 2000, subsection (a)(4) of section 1896 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ggg) is amended by adding after subparagraph (D) the following new flush matter:

''Notwithstanding the first sentence of this subparagraph, the term does not include any individual who is covered by a health benefits plan offered through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program, whether as an employee under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, or pursuant to section 1108 of title 10, United States Code.''.

(b) REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF SITES.—Effective October 1, 2000, paragraph (2) of section 1896(b) of such Act is amended to read as follows:

''(2) LOCATION OF SITES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The program shall be conducted in any site designated jointly by the administering Secretaries.

''(B) FEE-FOR-SERVICE.—If feasible, at least 1 of the sites designated under subparagraph (A) shall be conducted using the fee-for-service reimbursement method described in subsection (l)(1).

''(C) UNIFORMED SERVICES TREATMENT FACILITIES.—If feasible, designated providers covered by section 722 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 1997 (Public Law 104–201; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note) shall be included among the sites designated by the administering Secretaries.''.

(c) MAKING PROJECT PERMANENT; CHANGES IN PROJECT REFERENCES.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF TIME LIMITATION.—Paragraph (4) of section 1896(b) of such Act is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING CHANGES OF REFERENCES TO DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Section 1896 of such Act is further amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''DEMONSTRATION PROJECT'' and inserting ''PROGRAM'';

(B) by amending subsection (a)(2) to read as follows:

''(2) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means the program carried out under this section.'';

(C) in the heading to subsection (b), by striking ''DEMONSTRATION PROJECT'' and inserting ''PROGRAM'';

(D) by striking ''demonstration project'' or ''project'' each place either appears and inserting ''program''; and

(E) in subsection (k)(2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT'' and inserting ''PROGRAM''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following:

''(A) whether there is a cost to the health care program under this title in conducting the program under this section; and

''(B) whether the terms and conditions of the program should be modified.''.

(3) REPEAL OF OBSOLETE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Paragraph (5) of section 1896(b) of such Act is repealed.

(d) CORRECTION OF REFERENCE TO MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES.—Section 1896 of such Act is further amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''MILITARY RETIREES'' and inserting ''UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIREES'';

(2) in paragraph (4) of subsection (a)—

(A) in the caption, by striking ''MILITARY RETIREE'' and inserting ''UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIREE''; and

(B) by striking ''military retiree'' and inserting ''uniformed services retiree''; and

(3) by striking ''military retirees'' each place it appears and inserting ''uniformed services retirees''.

(e) PERMITTING PAYMENT ON A FEE-FOR-SERVICE BASIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1896 of the Social Security Act is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) REIMBURSEMENT ON FEE-FOR-SERVICE BASIS.—

''(1) REIMBURSEMENT AT DESIGNATED SITES.—In the case of a medicare health care service provided at a site, if any, designated for operation under the fee-for-service model under subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall reimburse the Secretary of Defense at a rate equal to 95 percent of the amount that otherwise would be payable under this title on a noncapitated basis for the service if the site were not part of the program under this section.

''(2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNENROLLED INDIVIDUALS.—Notwithstanding subsection (i), in the case of medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees or dependents who are not enrolled in the program under this section, the Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of Defense for medicare health care services provided to such retirees or dependents at a military treatment facility under the program at a rate that does not exceed the rate of payment that would otherwise be made under this title for such services.

''(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF LIMITATIONS ON FEDERAL PAYMENTS.—Sections 1814(c) and 1835(d), and paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 1862(a), do not apply to the making of payments under this subsection.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(A) in subsections (b)(1)(B)(v) and (b)(1)(B)(viii)(I), by inserting ''or subsection (l)'' after ''subsection (i)'';

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by inserting ''(insofar as it provides for the enrollment of individuals and payment on the basis described in subsection (i))'' before ''shall meet'';

(C) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by inserting ''and the program (insofar as it provides for payment for medicare health care services provided at a military treatment facility on the basis described in subsection (l)) shall meet all requirements that are applicable to facilities that provide such services under this title'' after ''medicare payments'';

(D) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting '', insofar as it provides for the enrollment of individuals and payment on the basis described in subsection (i),'' before ''shall comply'';

(E) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting ''insofar as it provides for the enrollment of individuals and payment on the basis described in subsection (i),'' before ''the Secretary of Defense'';

(F) in subsection (i)(1), by inserting ''and subsection (l)'' after ''of this subsection'';

(G) in subsection (i)(4), by inserting ''and subsection (l)'' after ''under this subsection''; and

(H) in subsection (j)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting ''or subsection (l)'' after ''subsection (i)(1)''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection take effect on October 1, 2000, and apply to services furnished on or after such date.

(f) ELIMINATION OF RESTRICTION ON ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1896(b)(1) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) ELIMINATION OF RESTRICTIVE POLICY.—If the enrollment capacity in the program has been reached at a particular site designated under paragraph (2) and the Secretary therefore limits enrollment at the site to medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees and dependents who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime (as defined for purposes of chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code) at the site immediately before attaining 65 years of age, participation in the program by a retiree or dependent at such site shall not be restricted based on whether the retiree or dependent has a civilian primary care manager instead of a military primary care manager.''.

(g) MEDIGAP PROTECTION FOR ENROLLEES.—Section 1896 of such Act is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) MEDIGAP PROTECTION FOR ENROLLEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the provisions of section 1882(s)(3) (other than clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (B)) and section 1882(s)(4) shall apply to any enrollment (and termination of enrollment) in the program (for which payment is made on the basis described in subsection (i)) in the same manner as they apply to enrollment (and termination of enrollment) with a Medicare+Choice organization in a Medicare+Choice plan.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—In applying paragraph (1)—

''(A) in the case of enrollments occurring before October 1, 2000, any reference in clause (v) or (vi) of section 1882(s)(3)(B) to 12 months is deemed a reference to the period ending on September 30, 2001; and

''(B) the notification required under section 1882(s)(3)(D) shall be provided in a manner specified by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary.''.

SEC. 5. INCLUSION OF MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE UNIFORMED SERVICES BENEFICIARIES IN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

(a) FEHBP OPTION.—(1) Section 1108 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 1108. Health care coverage through Federal Employees Health Benefits program

''(a) FEHBP OPTION.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, after consulting with the other administering Secretaries, shall enter into an agreement with the Office of Personnel Management under which a medicare-eligible covered beneficiary described in subsection (b) will be offered an opportunity to enroll in a health benefits plan offered through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program under chapter 89 of title 5.

''(2) The agreement may provide for limitations on enrollment of medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program if the Office of Personnel Management determines the limitations are necessary to allow for adequate planning for access for services under the Federal Employee Health Benefits program.

''(b) MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE COVERED BENEFICIARY DESCRIBED.—A medicare-eligible covered beneficiary referred to in subsection (a) is a covered beneficiary under this chapter who for any reason is or becomes entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.). The covered beneficiary shall not be required to satisfy any eligibility criteria specified in chapter 89 of title 5 as a condition for enrollment in a health benefits plan offered through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program pursuant to subsection (a).

''(c) LIMITATIONS ON ENROLLMENT.—The number of medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program under this section shall not exceed 275,000.

''(d) CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN UNIFORMED SERVICES HEALTH SYSTEM.—(1) A medicare-eligible covered beneficiary who enrolls in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program under this section shall not be eligible to receive health care under section 1086 or 1097 of this title.

''(2)(A) Subject to such limitations as the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the other administering Secretaries, a medicare-eligible covered beneficiary described in paragraph (1) may continue to receive health care in a military medical treatment facility on a space available basis.

''(B) A treatment facility providing care under subparagraph (A) shall be reimbursed by the Federal Employees Health Benefits program for the cost of such care at rates not to exceed the rates of reimbursement for such care under the program if such care had been provided by a health care provider other than the treatment facility.

''(e) LIMITATIONS ON OTHER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.—(1) A medicare-eligible covered beneficiary who is covered by a health benefits plan through the Federal Employees Health Benefits program under subsection (a) may not, during a period of coverage under such plan under this section—

''(A) be enrolled in a health benefits plan under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program as an employee under chapter 89 of title 5;

''(B) be enrolled in the medicare subvention program for military retirees under section 1896 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ggg);

''(C) otherwise obtain pharmaceuticals by mail under section 702(a) of Public Law 102–484 (10 U.S.C. 1079 note) pursuant to section 3(a)(1) of the Honoring Health Care Commitments to Servicemembers Past and Present Act of 2000; or

''(D) otherwise obtain pharmaceuticals through a network of retail pharmacies under section 702(b) of Public Law 102–484 pursuant to section 3(a)(2) of the Honoring Health Care Commitments to Servicemembers Past and Present Act of 2000.

''(2) A medicare-eligible covered beneficiary who is also eligible for participation in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program as an employee under chapter 89 of title 5 shall participate in the program, if at all, under that chapter.

''(f) CONTRIBUTIONS.—(1) In the case of a medicare-eligible covered beneficiary who enrolls in a health benefits plan offered

through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program pursuant to subsection (a), the administering Secretary concerned shall be responsible for Government contributions that the Office of Personnel Management determines are necessary to cover all costs in excess of beneficiary contributions under paragraph (2).

''(2) The contribution required from the enrolled medicare-eligible covered beneficiary shall be equal to the amount that would be withheld from the pay of a similarly situated Federal employee who enrolls in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5.

''(g) MANAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION.—(1) If an enrolled medicare-eligible covered beneficiary is a member or former member of the uniformed services described in section 1074(b) of this title, the authority responsible for approving retired or retainer pay or equivalent pay for the member or former member shall manage the participation of the enrolled member or former member in a health benefits plan offered through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program pursuant to subsection (a).

''(2) If an enrolled medicare-eligible covered beneficiary is a dependent of a member or former member, the authority that is, or would be, responsible for approving retired or retainer pay or equivalent pay for the member or former member shall manage the participation of the dependent in a health benefits plan offered through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program under subsection (a).

''(3) The Office of Personnel Management shall maintain separate risk pools for enrolled medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries until such time as the Director of the Office of Personnel Management determines that complete inclusion of enrolled medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries under chapter 89 of title 5 will not adversely affect Federal employees and annuitants enrolled in health benefits plans under such chapter.

''(h) EFFECT OF CANCELLATION.—The cancellation by a medicare-eligible covered beneficiary of coverage under the Federal Employee Health Benefits program under this section shall be irrevocable for purposes of this section.

''(i) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than November 1 of each year, the administering Secretaries and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall jointly submit to Congress a report describing the provision of health care services to medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries under this section during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall address or contain the following:

''(1) The number of medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries enrolled in health benefits plans offered through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program pursuant to subsection (a), both in terms of total number and as a percentage of all medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries receiving health care through the health care system of the uniformed services.

''(2) The out-of-pocket cost to enrolled medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries under such health benefits plans.

''(3) The cost to the Government (including the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Health and Human Services) of providing care under such health benefits plans as a result of this section.

''(4) A comparison of the costs determined under paragraphs (2) and (3) and the costs that would have otherwise been incurred by the Government and enrolled medicare-eligible covered beneficiaries under alternative health care options available to the administering Secretaries.

''(5) The effect of this section on the cost, access, and utilization rates of other health care options under the health care system of the uniformed services.

''(j) TIME FOR OPTION.—The Secretary of Defense shall begin to offer the health benefits option under subsection (a) on January 1, 2001, with an initial open enrollment period conducted in the fall of 2000.''.

(2) The item relating to section 1108 in the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended to read as follows:

''1108. Health care coverage through Federal Employees Health Benefits program.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 8905—

(A) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) Subject to subsection (e) of section 1108 of title 10, an individual whom an administering Secretary (as defined in section 1073 of such title) determines is a medicare-eligible covered beneficiary under subsection (b) of such section 1108 may enroll in a health benefits plan under this chapter in accordance with the agreement entered into under subsection (a) of such section 1108 between the Secretary of Defense and the Office and in accordance with applicable regulations under this chapter.'';

(2) in section 8906(b), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following new paragraph (4):

''(4) In the case of individuals who enroll in a health plan in accordance with section 8905(d) of this title, the Government contribution shall be determined under section 1108(f) of title 10.''; and

(3) in section 8906(g), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph (3):

''(3) The Government contribution described in subsection (b)(4) for beneficiaries who enroll in accordance with section 8905(d) of this title shall be paid as provided in section 1108(f) of title 10.''.

SEC. 6. ELIMINATION OF COPAYMENTS, DEDUCTIBLES, AND OTHER FEES FOR CARE FOR DEPENDENTS UNDER TRICARE PRIME.

(a) ELIMINATION.—Section 1097a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) PROHIBITION ON COPAYMENTS AND OTHER FEES FOR CARE FOR DEPENDENTS.—No copayment, deductible, annual fee, or other fee may be collected for or with respect to any medical care provided a dependent (as described in subparagraph (A), (D), or (I) of section 1072(2) of this title) of a member of the uniformed services who is enrolled in TRICARE Prime.''.

(b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The section heading of such section is amended by adding at the end the following: ''**; prohibition on fees for certain beneficiaries**''.

(2) The item relating to such section at the beginning of chapter 55 of such title is amended by inserting before the period the following: ''; prohibition on fees for certain beneficiaries''.

SEC. 7. HEALTH CARE COVERAGE OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO CERTAIN DUTY LOCATIONS FAR FROM CARE.

Section 1079 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p)(1)(A) Subject to such exceptions as the Secretary of Defense considers necessary, coverage for medical care under this section for the dependents referred to in subsection (a) of a member of the armed forces covered by section 1074(c) of this title who are residing with the member, and standards with respect to timely access to such care, shall be comparable to coverage for medical care and standards for timely access to such care under the managed care option of the TRICARE program known as TRICARE Prime.

''(B) No copayment, deductible, or annual fee may be collected for or with respect to any medical care provided a dependent under subparagraph (A).

''(2) The Secretary of Defense shall enter into arrangements with contractors under the TRICARE program or with other appropriate contractors for the timely and efficient processing of claims under this subsection.

''(3) The Secretary of Defense may not require dependents referred to in subsection (a) of a member of the armed forces described in section 1074(c)(3)(B) of this title to receive routine primary medical care at a military medical treatment facility.''.

SEC. 8. UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIREE HEALTH CARE ACCOUNT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1110. Uniformed Services Retiree Health Care Account

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury an account to be known as 'Uniformed Services Retiree Health Care Account' (in this section referred to as the 'Account').

''(b) TRANSFERS TO ACCOUNT.—There shall be transferred to the Account any unexpired funds (as determined by the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the other administering Secretaries) in the Defense Health Program account that, as a result of economies, efficiencies, and other savings achieved in the medical care and health care programs of the Department of Defense, are excess to the requirements of such programs.

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—(1) Amounts in the Account may be used for purposes of covering the costs incurred by the Secretary of Defense and the other administering Secretaries in administering section 1108 of this title and the provisions of the Honoring Health Care Commitments to Servicemembers Past and Present Act of 2000 (including the amendments made by that Act).

''(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts in the Account shall remain available until expended.

''(d) UNEXPIRED FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'unexpired funds' means funds appropriated for a definite period of time that remain available for obligation.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''1110. Uniformed Services Retiree Health Care Account.''.

SEC. 9. CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

Section 1097b of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense may enter into contracts with appropriate private entities for purposes of recovering amounts of overpayments to health care providers under the TRICARE program. Services under contracts under this subsection may include audit services and such other services as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.''.

SEC. 10. ENHANCEMENT OF EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION OF MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the other administering Secretaries, shall take appropriate actions—

(1) to enhance the efficiency of administration of the provision of health care services under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including the TRICARE program, in matters relating to marketing, beneficiary enrollment, beneficiary and provider education, claims processing, and the scheduling of appointments; and

(2) otherwise to improve the quality of service provided under that chapter.

(b) PARTICULAR ACTIONS.—The actions taken by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Simplification of administrative processes.

(2) Use of the Internet for critical administrative processes.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the terms ''administering Secretaries'' and ''TRICARE program'' shall have the meanings given such terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 11. NATIONWIDE ENROLLMENT CARD UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the other administering Secretaries, shall issue to covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program an enrollment card which shall serve as an enrollment card for participation in the TRICARE program nationwide. The purpose of the enrollment card is to facilitate the ready portability of benefits under the TRICARE program.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the terms ''administering Secretaries'' and ''TRICARE program'' shall have the meanings given such terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

THE MILITARY COALITION,
Alexandria, VA, January 21, 2000.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCAIN: The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than five million current and former members of the uniformed services, plus their families and survivors, applauds your leadership in introducing comprehensive legislation aimed at correcting serious inequities in the military health care benefit.

The Coalition believes enactment of such comprehensive health care equity legislation is essential, not only to keep commitments to long-serving members who sacrificed so much, but also to rebuild the readiness of the current force. In this regard, broken health care promises have undermined one of the services' most potent recruiting resources—the enthusiasm of retired members to recommend service careers for their children and grandchildren and those of their friends and neighbors. The broken promises also hurt current force retention, as survey responses indicate that reenlistment-eligible members are increasingly aware of how poorly their predecessors are being treated.

We are grateful to you for introducing legislation that would keep promises to those who have already served and improve health care delivery to those currently in uniform. You legislation would accomplish TMC's longstanding health care equity goals by authorizing Medicare-eligibles an option to choose between coverage under TRICARE Senior Prime or TRICARE Senior Prime Remote, FEHBP–65, or DoD mail-order and retail pharmacy programs,. Members who first entered service before June 7, 1956 would be authorized to enroll themselves and their family members in DoD managed health care programs without any fees or copays. Active duty family members would be fully covered by Tricare Prime, without any copays, regardless of their duty location.

What you have proposed is the honorable thing to do, both to ensure retired members receive long-promised and badly needed health coverage in their senior years and to improve quality of life and retention among current and future active duty personnel. The Military Coalition looks forward to working with you and your staff in seeking to bring these important health care improvements to legislative reality.

Sincerely,

THE MILITARY COALITION.

Air Force Association.
Air Force Sergeants Association.
Army Aviation Assn. of America.
Assn. of Military Surgeons of the United States.
Assn. of the US Army.
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public Health Service, Inc.
CWO & WO Assn. US Coast Guard.
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.
Fleet Reserve Assn.
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
Jewish War Veterans of the USA.
Marine Corps League.
Marine Corps Reserve Officers Assn.
Military Order of the Purple Heart.
National Guard Assn. of the United States.
National Military Family Assn.
National Order of Battlefield Commissions.
Naval Reserve Assn.
Navy League of the United States.
Reserve Officers Assn.
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces.
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA.
The Retired Enlisted Assn.
The Retired Officers Assn.
United Armed Forces Assn.
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
Veterans' Widows International Network, Inc.

NATIONAL MILITARY AND VETERANS ALLIANCE,
January 25, 2000.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCAIN: The National Military and Veterans Alliance representing over 3.5 million military retirees and other veterans strongly supports your legislation, ''Honoring Health Care Commitments to Service Members Past and Present Act of 2000.''

The bill reflects your longstanding interest in improving military health care and it offers superb options for the entire military family, retirees, active duty, their families and survivors. With the closure and realignment of over 100 domestic military bases since 1988, hundreds of thousands of military beneficiaries have been left with no Department of Defense sponsored health care. This bill will repair the broken health care promise to the nation's warriors and will reassure those considering a military career that the nation will honor its promises made to those who have served to keep our country free.

We applaud your leadership in introducing this comprehensive legislation, which would include Medicare eligible retirees who desperately need medical care and are the only Federal employees who lose their DoD sponsored health care at age 65. The options offered are critical to military beneficiaries and include priority access to military treatment facilities and TRICARE Senior Prime networks, expansion of the Base Realignment and Closure pharmacy benefit, allows enrollment in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and establishes an accrual account for military health care as is done for other Federal retirees.

With additional base closings being recommended, each option in this legislation is essential. One size will not fit all beneficiaries and they need the maximum number of options to meet the varying needs of active duty, retirees, their families and survivors whatever their location or medical condition.

The nation does not have a surplus until all obligations are met. This bill will meet a major obligation of the Government and we thank you for introducing it.

Sincerely,

Air Force Sergeants Association; American Military Retirees Association; American Military Society; American Retirees Association; Catholic War Veterans; Class Act Group; Gold Star Wives of America; Korean War Veterans Association; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Legion of Valor; National Assn. for Uniformed Services; Naval Enlisted Reserve Association;Naval Reserve Association; Non Commissioned Officers Assn; Society of Medical Consultants; The Retired Enlisted Association; TREA Senior Citizen League;Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Women in Search of Equity.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,
Arlington, Virginia, January 25, 2000.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
Senate Russell Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCAIN:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the Air Force Association, I want to thank you for taking the lead in the Senate to enact legislation to restore affordable, portable and accessible health care for our nation's military members, their families and our retirees. I am confident your legislative actions on this bill will have a long-term, positive affect on the morale, welfare and retention of those who now serve on active duty and will keep faith with those now retired.

While I know other Members of the Senate are planning to introduce similar legislation, your very comprehensive bill has set a high standard for others to follow. I also am pleased to see that the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) will make military health care reform their number one personnel-related issue this year. The majority of the concerns raised by the JCS are pointedly addressed in your legislation.

We want to work with you to get this bill enacted into law. Please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. MCKEE.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES,
Springfield, VA, January 25, 2000.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCAIN: The National Association for Uniformed Services and The Society of Military Widows with membership encompassing all grades, ranks, family members and survivors of all seven uniformed services strongly support your legislation, ''Honoring Health Care Commitments to Service Members Past and Present Act of 2000.''

We applaud your leadership in introducing this most comprehensive legislation which will improve access to health care for every

category of military member, active duty, retired, family member and survivor.

This bill will repair the broken health care promise to the nation's warriors and will reassure those considering a military career that the nation will honor its promises made to those who have served to keep our country free. This legislation includes Medicare eligible retirees who desperately need medical care and are the only Federal employees who lose their DoD sponsored health care at age 65. The options offered are critical to military beneficiaries and include priority access to military treatment facilities and TRICARE Senior Prime networks, expansion of the Base Realignment and Closure pharmacy benefit, allows enrollment in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and establishes an accrual account for military health care as is done for other Federal retirees.

Each option in this legislation is essential. Beneficiaries need the maximum number of choices to meet the varying needs of active duty, retirees, their families and survivors whatever their location or medical condition.

This bill reflects your longstanding commitment to a strong national defense and the men and women who make that defense possible. It also will meet a major obligation of the Government and we thank you for introducing it.

Sincerely,

RICHARD D. MURRAY,
Major General, USAF (Ret),
President, NAUS and Administrator, SMW.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2000.

CHRIS PAUL,
c/o JOHN S. MCCAIN III.

I am delighted that Senator John McCain has signed on to H.R. 2966. This is a giant step toward repairing the breach of contract by this Administration.

Furthermore, the McCain bill goes further to improve the health care delivery system for active duty servicemembers and their families and also repairs the ''broken promise'' for military retirees and their families.

COL. GEORGE ''BUD'' DAY,
Attorney for WWII-Korean Vets.

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ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 74

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 74, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 92

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 92, a bill to provide for biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 242

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require the labeling of imported meat and meat food products.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent motor fuel excise taxes on railroads and inland waterway transportation which remain in the general fund of the Treasury.

S. 851

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to allow Federal employees to take advantage of the transportation fringe benefit provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that are available to private sector employees.

S. 1055

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1055, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the day before Thanksgiving as ''National Day of Reconciliation.''

S. 1708

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1708, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require plans which adopt amendments that significantly reduce future benefit accruals to provide participants with adequate notice of the changes made by such amendments.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill for the relief of Elian Gonzalez-Brotons.

S. 2003

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2003, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services.

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JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106–160)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Loretta Symms, the Secretary of the Senate, Gary Sisco, and the Vice President of the United States, ALBERT GORE, Jr., proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, William J. Clinton.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress appears in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD).

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2000

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:52 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Monday, January 31, 2000, at 12 noon.

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NOMINATION

Executive nomination received by the Senate January 27, 2000:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NANCY KILLEFER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicacy of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work and, if necessary, fight to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District were recognized during the 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 17, 2000, at the Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. In the past year, these individuals have, in their own ways, acted with courage, met challenges, and used their abilities to reach goals and enhance their communities.

I would like to recognize Tolleston Junior High School students: Kenneth Alford; Antoinette Correa; William Gonzalez; Brian Henderson; Carl Johnson; LaTasha LeFlore; Brannon Smith; Whitney Sullivan; Amanda Bouleware; Tiffany Finch; Kyle Hargrove; Floyd Hobson; Breon Jones; Ekene Onwuka; Mason Smith; Montreca Walker; and Andrew Binder. These students are members of the Tolleston Junior High School Spell Bowl Team, which won its sixth consecutive State Spell Bowl Championship. The team's success is also a credit to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers. In particular, Margaret Hymes and Janice Williams should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches for the Tolleston Junior High Spell Bowl Team. Additionally, Tolleston Principal Lucille Upshaw and Dr. Mary Guinn, Gary Superintendent of Schools, should be recognized for their support. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their school and their communities. For this great achievement, they will be honored with the 2000 ''Marcher's Award''.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. They set goals and worked to achieve them. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our other colleagues to join me in commending their initiative, determination and dedication.

HONORING GUSTAVO HEREDIA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man that has gone to great lengths to provide service to his community.

Mr. Gustavo Heredia has created a program, ''How to Live in America,'' that teaches Spanish speaking people basic rules and customs practiced in the United States. Classes offered by the program include: the rights and responsibilities of owning a car; domestic violence prevention; and privileges and responsibilities as immigrants.

By helping to increase awareness of these customs and laws, the program helps the legal process by reducing repeat offenders. Oftentimes, people that are not originally from the United States, or those who do not speak English, break the law unintentionally because they do not understand the laws. Gustavo's program has been included as part of sentencing in several counties across Colorado. Gustavo stresses that the purpose of the class is to inform, rather than lecture, people on how to live their lives. There has been zero repeat offenses committed by program participants.

Gustavo, who recently became a United States citizen, also serves as a court interpreter for Pitkin and Eagle Counties and various law firms.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to commend Gustavo for all of his hard work and his commitment to making Colorado a better and safer place to live.

IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S ''IRELAND'S 32'' MILLENNIUM HONOREE, MR. BENJAMIN PURNELL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Benjamin Purnell of Bayonne, NJ, on being named one of this year's ''Ireland's 32'' Millennium honorees.

Mr. Purnell's community service efforts in Bayonne began in 1972, when he joined the Omega Lodge No. 64, where he has served as secretary and worshipful master, the highest office in the lodge. Through the lodge, Mr. Purnell organized many projects addressing the specific needs and concerns of children and young adults. In an effort to instill a sense of community, as well as to provide young people with a safe haven, Mr. Purnell spearheaded the lodge's block parties, Halloween parties, and its annual Christmas party.

For more than 12 years Mr. Purnell has served as president of the Bayonne Youth Center. At the center, he has provided guidance, leadership, and friendship to many of the city's young people. Mr. Purnell has been instrumental in creating the programs necessary to benefit the young people of the community, including the Youth of the Month Program, the summer camp, an after-school program, computer and cooking classes, and day-care services.

In addition, Mr. Purnell has remained very active in the Wallace Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, serving as superintendent of the Sunday School, co-chair of the board of trustees, director of the junior ushers, treasurer of the senior ushers board, secretary of the Men's Club, and member of the James T. Gregory Male Chorus. Mr. Purnell has also served as secretary of the Bayonne Branch NAACP, member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and as planning committee member of the B21C for the city of Bayonne.

Because of his continued commitment to community service, Mr. Purnell has received numerous awards, including the Andrew Young Black Male Achievement Award, the Omega Lodge Service Award, the Bayonne Branch NAACP Community Service Award, and the N.C.C.J. Brotherhood Award.

Born in Berlin, MD, Mr. Purnell graduated from Worcester High School in Snow Hill, MD and has been a resident of Bayonne for more than 30 years. Mr. Purnell is married to Laura Mumford. The couple has two sons, Angelo and Benjamin, one daughter, Lolita, and six grandchildren.

For his unyielding dedication and service to the Bayonne community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Benjamin Harrison Purnell. He has truly earned his place among this year's honorees.

WHY TAX DEDUCTIONS DON'T HELP THOSE WHO MOST NEED HELP

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Patients' Bill of Rights, the Republicans insisted on passing an unpaid-for set of tax deductions which they say will help improve access to health insurance. Their proposals will—but mostly for those in the upper income brackets who already have health insurance or who can afford it. Even in the area of long-term care insurance, the data shows that the Republican proposals disproportionately help those in the upper income brackets.

Mr. Speaker, let's be fair. As we work on the access provision of the Patients' Bill of

Rights, we should convert all of the tax deductions to credits, so that those who seek to use these tax incentives are all on a level playing field, and so that the Treasury's scarce resources go to those most in need of help.

The following is data from a March, 1999 report to HHS prepared by LifePlans, Inc., entitled, ''A Descriptive Analysis of Patterns of Informal and Formal Caregiving among Privately Insured and Non-Privately Insured Disabled Elders Living in the Community.'' The data shows how LTC insurance is disproportionately held by those in the upper incomes and with the most assets—and how deductions will help those people far more than they will help the lower income. A credit would be a far fairer tool to help encourage the purchase of LTC insurance.

Socio-demographic characteristics	All privately-insured home care claimants (in percent)	All elders age 65 and over (in percent) [1 2]
Race:		
White (not Hispanic)	97	85
Non-White	3	15
Living arrangement:	(n=694)	
Alone	34	34
With spouse	44	53
With relative	11	13
Other	11	.....
Total income:	(n=492)	
≤$30,000	52	65
>$30,000	48	35
Total income:	(n=432)	
Less than $10,500	7	[3] 19
$10,501—$19,999	22	28
$20,000—$30,000	28	19
$30,001—$39,999	13	11
$40,000—$49,999	9	8
$50,000—$74,999	11	8
≥75,000	10	8
Estimated current value of home:	(n=431)	
Less than $50,000	7	[4] 25
$50,000—$99,999	28	37
$100,000—$149,999	19	18
$150,000—$199,999	13	10
$200,000—$249,999	11	4
≥$250,000	22	7

[1] AOA (1998). Prolife of Older Americans. Washington, D.C.

[2] LifePlans, Inc. analysis of 1995 survey of 1,000 randomly selected individuals age 65 and over.

[3] Money Income in the United States: 1997 Current Population Reports, Consumer Income. Note that data from census table is interpolated to assure comparability of intervals. Also note that among claimants, 15% of the respondents who were willing to indicate whether their income was greater or less than $30,000 were not willing to answer the more detailed income questions. That is why there is a difference between the estimate for the proportion reporting incomes less than or equal to $30,000 (52%) and the estimate derived when summing answers for those answering the detailed income question.

[4] American Housing Survey for the U.S. in 1995. U.S. Census Bureau.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE LOIS DEICKE

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Lois Deicke, a longtime resident of Broward County, Florida, who passed away this past New Year's Eve at the age of 82. Lois will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the most prominent and generous philanthropists in South Florida.

A native of Houston, Texas, Lois moved to Illinois where she met her husband Edwin. Together, they moved to Plantation, Florida, around 1960 after a successful career as an insurance executive. Their impact was felt immediately in the South Florida community, as the Deickes exhibited an overwhelming generosity in donating to a variety of civic, philanthropic, and humanitarian causes.

Throughout her time in South Florida, Lois and her husband both contributed to nonprofit agencies and projects throughout the community, patronizing the arts, cultural programming, and even research to benefit the disabled. Lois originally began her charitable work by giving to the West Broward Symphony Guild and the Plantation Community Church. She also made a substantial contribution to the city's community center, now commonly referred to as Deicke Auditorium.

Indeed, many organizations have benefitted from their relationship to Lois Deicke throughout the years. She actively supported the Broward Public Library Foundation, the Broward County Cultural Affairs Council, Holy Cross Hospital, and Nova Southeastern University, where she built the Deicke Dorm at the Ralph Baudhuin Oral School. It is also interesting to note that, though Lois was very proud of her residency in Plantation, by no means did her charity stop at South Florida's borders. She also gave to Midwestern universities and charities, founding the Deicke Center for Nursing Education at Elmhurst College in Illinois.

Particularly gratifying is the fact that Lois and her husband both showed a strong interest in programs for the deaf and blind. This interest was undoubtedly rooted in personal struggles: both she and her husband, who passed away in 1984, suffered from hearing loss. Her personal experiences led Lois to form a strong bond with the Fort Lauderdale Lighthouse for the Blind. In 1994, the Lighthouse formally recognized the extraordinary efforts she made in remodeling their facilities, another example of Lois Deicke freely giving of herself for the betterment of others.

Mr. Speaker, Lois Deickes life can be characterized by her selfless devotion to others and, for that especially, we all owe her a debt a gratitude. Though the South Florida community is undoubtedly saddened by her passing, we should all rejoice in Lois' accomplishments and thank her for her tireless work improving the community around her.

COLORADO'S 2000 TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CRAIG COSWELL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Craig Coswell, who was recently named Colorado's 2000 Teacher of the Year.

Craig's innovative teaching methods are what likely earned him this wonderful award. In Craig's class, the textbooks stay closed. Instead, for instance, he charges his students with finding out who fired the first shot of the Revolutionary War by passing out eyewitness testimony of some of the British and Colonial soldiers who fought the famous Battle of Lexington. Innovative approaches like this have made Craig a wonderful asset to his school and our community.

Additionally, Craig does not test the same way as other teachers; instead, he gives ''quests''. These are a combination of tests and quizzes that measure if students are getting the major points of the material, rather than quoting memorization.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Craig Coswell for his dedication to the education of our youth and congratulations on receiving the Colorado 2000 Teacher of the Year. His commitment to the future of this great nation is deeply commendable and highly admirable. We are all grateful for his passionate service.

IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S ''IRELAND'S 32'' MILLENNIUM HONOREE, MR. ROCCO COVIELLO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rocco Coviello of Bayonne, NJ, on being named one of this year's ''Ireland's 32'' Millennium honorees.

Using his success as a businessman and a proprietor, Mr. Coviello is recognized as a community leader and activist. Perhaps his most prided project, Mr. Coviello has tirelessly promoted the ideals and goals of the Milestones Program, an organization that treats developmentally impaired children. This early intervention program is a full service program, which affords families a resource center, as well as in-home treatment for children suffering from disabilities.

Through Mr. Coviello's efforts, the Milestones Program recently financed a building of its own in Bayonne to house the facility, resource center, and treatment areas. In September 1999, the building was dedicated as Chandelier House, in honor of Mr. Coviello's work.

In addition to the Milestones Program, Mr. Coviello has spearheaded the Chandelier Charity Golf Committee and has raised funds for charities, such as the Scoliosis National Foundation, the D.A.R.E Program, the Bayonne Police Vest Fund, and the Hudson County Hospice.

Mr. Coviello is an active member of the Bayonne Chapter of the Unico Club, as well as the local Rotary Club. He also serves as a board member of the Bayonne Hospital Foundation and is a member of the Bayonne Parking Authority.

Born in Summit, Mr. Coviello attended Summit High School and Fairleigh Dickenson University at Madison. He now lives in Bayonne with his wife, Janet, and their two children, Raquel and Rocky.

For his unyielding commitment to the Bayonne community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rocco Coviello. His remarkable generosity on behalf of his community is truly inspiring.

LET'S STOP KILLING PATIENTS: THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE MAJOR SURGERIES TO BE DONE IN HIGH VOLUME FACILITIES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation for Medicare to encourage patients to use certain hospitals that provide better outcomes for sophisticated surgical operations—

i.e., fewer people die in surgery or in recovery. In exchange for saving lives, and giving certain hospitals higher volume of patients, the hospitals will give Medicare, the taxpayer, and the beneficiary some savings. It is truly a win-win proposal.

But some—mostly those who stand to lose business—oppose the idea. To be blunt, that puts them on the side of killing people in order to help their bottom line. It is, Mr. Speaker, a truly immoral position for so-called health care providers to take.

And don't take my word for it. Following is a memo from a physician on my staff that reviews some of the academic literature on the subject:

IS QUALITY OF CARE AFFECTED BY HOSPITAL AND PHYSICIAN VOLUMES?

It is a mark of the advancement of medicine that we have come to nearly take for granted the availability of highly specialized and technical diagnostic investigations, medical therapies, and surgical interventions. However, when we individually confront health problems we justifiably want to know that our physician or hospital has adequate experience to make an accurate diagnosis, to make the most informed decision about what should be done and to carry out sophisticated surgical procedures. The question is, do high volume centers really have superior outcomes?

Fortunately, a large body of medical literature exists on the relationship between hospital volume, physician volume and outcomes. Optimal results clearly require physicians with specialized expertise and well-trained staff. High volume centers are more likely to offer a wider range of therapeutic options that result in more targeted therapy. For example, the patient with angina due to narrowing of the coronary arteries may be treated with medication alone, angioplasty, a stenting procedure or a coronary bypass and each of these options would be the optimal decision under the right conditions. The cardiologist or cardiovascular surgeon who has extensive experience with all of these options is likely to make the bets therapeutic decision. Sophisticated surgical procedures demand highly-trained, close-working health teams drawing upon the expertise of many health professionals including anesthesiologists, nurses, rehabilitation therapists, respiratory therapists, and dietitians. Stable health care teams promote better collaboration, communication, and continuous quality improvement based upon experiential learning.

A massive study by Hughes and colleagues in 1987 analyzed 503,662 case records from 757 hospitals and demonstrated a statistically significant correlation between greater hospital volume and better patient outcome for 8 of 10 surgical procedures evaluated: coronary artery bypass graft, cardiac catheterization, appendectomy, hernia repair, hysterectomy intestinal operations, total hip replacement, and transurethral prostatectomy.

Twenty years ago (1979) in the New England Journal of Medicine, Luft and colleagues reported that mortality following open-heart surgery, vascular surgery, and transurethral resection of the prostate, is reduced in high volume hospitals, with hospitals in which 200 or more of these operations performed annually having death rates 25–41 percent lower than low volume hospitals. Two decades ago, the authors concluded that the data supports the value of regionalization for these operations.

Numerous studies have specifically focused upon volume/outcome relationships in both medical and surgical interventions for cardiac conditions: Jollis and colleagues (1994) evaluated 217,836 Medicare beneficiaries who underwent coronary angioplasty. Both in-hospital mortality and the rate of coronary bypass surgery following angioplasty were higher in low volume hospitals. These results indicated that if all study patients had received care in high volume hospitals, there would have been 381 fewer bypass operations and 300 fewer in-hospital deaths. These results were reproduced in papers by Cameron et al (1990) and Ellis et al (1997). Hannan and colleagues (1997) reported that both high hospital volume and high cardiologist volume were independently correlated with lower mortality following coronary angioplasty.

Showstack and colleagues (1987) analyzed the outcomes following 18,986 coronary bypass operations at 7 hospitals in California. They also found that higher volume hospitals had lower in-hospital mortality and concluded that the greatest improvement in average outcomes following bypass surgery would be achieved by closing low volume surgical units.

The significance of high physician volumes in determining outcome is highlighted by a series of papers examining patient outcomes following myocardial infarction: Jollis and colleagues (1996) examined mortality following MI for 220,535 Medicare patients and reported that patients treated by cardiologists were 12 percent less likely to die within one year than those treated by a primary care physician. Similarly, Casale and colleagues (1998) reported that following MI, treatment by a cardiologist resulted in a 17 percent reduction in hospital mortality. In addition, patients of all physicians who treated high volumes of patients with MI, had an 11 percent reduction in mortality. Nash and colleagues (1997) reported that not only mortality following MI was reduced by cardiologist's care, but also that these patients had a shorter length of hospital stay than those receiving care by primary care physicians. Both Thiemann et al and Chen et al in this year's *New England Journal of Medicine* also reported lower mortality following MI in higher volume hospitals or following admission to one of ''America's Best Hospitals'' for cardiology (as determined by U.S. News and World Report).

Children requiring surgical repair of congenital heart defects face a much lower risk of death when operated on in a hospital that performs more than 300 similar surgical procedures annually (Jinkins et al, 1995). Hannan and colleagues (1992) reported the identical relationship between hospital volume and mortality following abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery.

Cancer surgery frequently involves complex procedures which require special expertise. Accordingly, a number of studies have examined volume-outcome relationships following complex surgical oncologic procedures. Begg and colleagues (1998) analyzed the case reports of 5013 patients in the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER)-Medicare linked database including patients who underwent pancreatectomy, esophagectomy, pneumonectomy, liver resection or pelvic exenteration for cancers of the pancreas, esophagus, lung, colon, rectum and genitourinary tract. Higher hospital volume was associated with lower mortality for all surgical procedures except for pneumonectomy. The most striking results were for esophagectomy and for pancreatectomy where operative mortality rose from 3.4% to 17.3% and 5.8% to 12.9% respectively in low-volume vs. high-volume hospitals. The pancreatectomy results were reproduced this year by Simunovic et al. (1999).

It has been suggested that national referral centers be developed for pancreaticoduodenectomy, also known as the Whipple procedure. Hospital volume was found to strongly influence both perioperative risk and long-term survival following the Whipple procedure as reported by Birkmeyer and colleagues (1999). The relationship between hospital volume and outcome of hepatic resection for hepatocellular carcinoma were analyzed by Choti et al (1998) and Glasgow et al (1999). The mortality rate rose from 1.5% to 7.9% in procedures performed in high volume vs. low volume hospitals. Moreover, Glasgow reported that three quarters of patients with liver cancer were treated at low volume hospitals with a record of 3 or fewer hepatic resections per year.

The identical volume-outcome relationships have been reported for renal diseases. The Agency of Health Care Policy and Research recently sponsored a study regarding referrals and specialty care within the Medicare system. Avon (1999), reported that when patients with renal failure received late referral to a kidney specialist (nephrologist), their risk of death was 33% higher. Pediatric renal transplantation has also been scrutinized for volume-outcome relationships. Schurman and colleagues (1999) reported superior survival of the transplanted kidney in high volume centers performing more than 100 transplants annually.

Research supporting a strong relationship between high hospital/physician volumes and improved patient outcomes spans two decades and multiple medical specialties. Both medical and surgical care at institutions with lower levels of experience clearly increases the risk of poorer outcomes including death, in a diverse range of medical conditions. A review of the literature demonstrates that there is strong evidence to support the development and implementation of Centers of Excellence for a range of medical and surgical conditions.

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IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BOB GROSS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bob Gross, who passed away early last December at the age of 41. I am one of many who are saddened by this tremendous loss: South Florida has lost an outstanding community leader and activist.

Bob Gross is well known in Broward county as an energetic leader who was a strong presence at political club events and civic activities throughout South Florida. Demonstrating his large influence on politics in the State of Florida, Bob was president of the Young Democrats of Broward County. As President of the Broward Young Democrats (BYD), Bob's main responsibilities were membership recruitment, campaign training, candidate development, and event planning. In this vital position, he worked tirelessly to motivate the county party to become involved in many aspects of local, state, and national politics.

Bob was somewhat unique in the sense that he fully realized the importance of activism in society at large. Through his involvement in the BYD, he successfully promoted service to other young people. Because of Bob's hard work and dedication, the BYDs have formed an exemplary organization that fosters volunteerism and activities such as serving on local community boards, registering voters, and hosting social outreach events.

It is important to note that Bob Gross did not simply focus all of his attention on political matters. A resident of Hollywood, Florida, who attended Pinecrest High School, Bob worked as Program Planner for the Broward Employment and Training Administration (BETA). Indeed, his tremendous leadership undoubtedly benefitted BETA, as Bob held numerous important posts in the organization through the years such as Executive Vice President, Vice President for Political Affairs, and Treasurer.

Most importantly, however, Bob Gross was a devoted husband to his wife, Cindy Sherr. An attorney and the statewide president of the Young Democrats, I am confident that Cindy will carry on Bob's ongoing work in promoting service and activism within the South Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, while Bob Gross' passing is a tremendous loss for Broward County, I can say without hesitation that his memory will live on through the work of the many organizations to which he dedicated his life. There can be no doubt that we will all dearly miss Bob, but I would like to thank and praise him for his hard work and leadership in improving the community around him.

LEONARD HORN FEDERAL RANGE LIVESTOCKMAN OF THE YEAR, THE IRBY FAMILY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Leonard Horn Federal Range Livestockman of the Year Award winner, the Irby family of Gunnison, Colorado.

This award is presented by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and recognizes individuals who graze livestock on Federal land and practice exceptional range, soil, water and wildlife management. James Dawson, District Ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, commended the Irby's for their cooperation in maintaining and improving range areas.

The Irby family includes: Bob and Irene Irby, Stan and Bonnie Irby, and Dale and Wendy Irby.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to extend my congratulations to the Irby family and thank them for their hard work.

IN HONOR OF MARTHA AND ANDRES SANDOVAL ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martha Tafoya Sandoval and Andres Lopez Sandoval on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. This remarkable milestone is truly a reflection of the devotion these extraordinary individuals share for one another.

On December 16, 1949, Martha and Andres married and began their life together. Through the years, the Sandoval's have used the love they have for each other to reach out to those in need. Together, they have been active civic leaders and successful business people, dedicating their time and resources to the League of United Latin American Citizens and the St. Joseph's Church in Bakersfield, California. However, their greatest accomplishment has been their incredible family.

This loving couple has been a wonderful example for their four children: Andrew, Rosalie, Alexander, and Vicki Ann; their children's spouses, Judy, Arnie, and Louisa; their nine grandchildren, Valerie, Kristian, Lisa, Andrea, Ernest, Evette, Alicia, Vanessa, and Joel; and their six great-grandchildren, Autumn, Eric, Marissa, Jessica, John, and Samuel. The dedication, patience, and wisdom they have demonstrated every day has provided a firm foundation on which all family members have developed and flourished.

For their unyielding strength and unparalleled inspiration, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Sandoval on five decades of love, commitment, and perservance. You both are truly wonderful role models for all of us. I wish you continued health and happiness.

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB, YOU SURE WE CAN'T LOWER DRUG PRICES WITHOUT HURTING R&D?

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the pharmaceutical industry constantly tells us they need every dollar for R&D, so they can invent wonderful new drugs, and that Congress must not do anything to question how they price drugs.

A doctor sent me the following invitation he got from Bristol-Myers Squibb. As the doctor wrote:

> Since the enclosed invitation to a dinner plus $100 certificate continues to be commonplace, it makes me wonder how many go without needed medications that could be funded with these solicitations. I'm not sure whether it's the pharmaceutical executives or the physicians who are doing the soliciting . . . just like on the street.

Bristol-Myers Squibb: why not put the money you spend in these solicitations into R&D—or lower drug prices?

The U.S. pharmaceutical industry spends far more on marketing and overhead than it spends on R&D—despite what Flo and her front group friends say. This letter is just one small example of how the industry could, indeed, save money for R&D and/or lower prices.

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

You are cordially invited to Participate in a dinner discussion on ''Treatment Modalities Throughout the Lifecycle of the Type 2 Diabetic Patient: A Focus on Monotherapy Approaches,'' on, Monday, November 29, 1999, Mr. Stox restaurant, 1105 East Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92805, at 6:30 p.m.

The program will last approximately one hour and a half. Each attendee will receive a certificate worth up to $100 towards the purchase of medically relevant items. Reservations are taken on a first come first serve basis.

To make a reservation, please call 1–800–366–9034.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BILL HORVITZ

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of William ''Bill'' Horvitz, who passed away early last December at the age of 73. It is with a tremendous feeling of sadness that I speak in his honor: the South Florida community has lost an outstanding philanthropist who may never be replaced.

There can be no doubt that Bill's personal history is an extraordinary one. One of three sons of Cleveland real estate businessman Samuel A. Horvitz, Bill Horvitz and his brothers continued his father's real estate ventures after his passing. Moving to the Fort Lauderdale area in 1953 to take over his father's real estate interests in the Hollywood, Florida, he became the proprietor of countless acres within Broward County. Indeed, Bill's stewardship of this property was instrumental in Broward's transition from a quaint bedroom community to a bustling economic powerhouse.

Developing much of his Broward County real estate, Bill established such properties as Hollywood Hills, Emerald Hills, Hollywood Mall, the Venture Corporate Center, South Florida Industrial Park, and various other communities, both residential and commercial. In 1985, Bill also sold more than 1,200 acres of land to the state and county—this valuable tract of land later became West Lake Park and North Beach Park.

Bill is perhaps best known for his commitment to the South Florida community. Throughout his lifetime, Bill was a tremendous supporter of charitable causes. He was involved with a myriad of organizations throughout his life in South Florida: these organizations included the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, the East Seals Society, the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, the Boys and Girls Club of Broward, the Salvation Army, and the Jewish Federation of Broward County.

It is well documented that he contributed regularly to his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated from the Wharton School in 1947. Additionally, he made an effort to lend his financial support to various organizations struggling to survive economically. For example, in 1992, Bill was instrumental in helping the Greater Hollywood YMCA to survive by renegotiating its $1.6 million debt. Such efforts led to much recognition for Bill and his wife. Even as late as December 2, 1999, Bill was honored with the President's Community Award from Nova Southeastern University, a school where the administration building bears his name.

Mr. Speaker, while William Horvitz passing is a tremendous loss for the South Florida community, I can say without hesitation that his memory will live on through the work of the many organizations to which he dedicated his life. Though we will all miss Bill's presence, I would like to thank and praise him for his hard work and leadership in improving the world at large.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR, DON BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Don Brown. He is a man that has shown his loyalty and bravery to this great country. Mr. Brown served in the Armed Forces during World War II and was aboard the U.S.S. *West Virginia* when Pearl Harbor was attacked on that fateful day in December of 1941.

Mr. Brown was in the first division compartment when the first torpedoes and bombs hit the battleship. He tried to move onto the deck, but was prohibited because of the attack. Don was injured and transported to the U.S.S. *Solacc* for recovery.

Don's family, however did not know that he was transported for recovery. Don's parents knew the ship had sunk, and that they had not heard from their son in 19 days. On December 26, however, they received the best late Christmas present they could have ever hoped for, the knowledge that Don was alive.

Years later, Don and his wife, Skie, moved back to Grand Junction after spending time in Las Vegas. Mr. Brown served as Mesa County planning director between 1963 and 1966.

Don is part of a generation that many think saved civilization as it is known today through their efforts in World War II—what some have called the greatest generation.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Don Brown for his display of loyalty to his country and bravery in the face of war to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy today. He is a great American that deserves our highest regard, thanks and praise.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ELEANOR TIEFENWERTH, ONE OF THIS YEAR'S RICHARD A. RUTKOWSKI ASSOCIATION HONOREES FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Eleanor Tiefenwerth of Bayonne, New Jersey. The Richard A. Rutkowski Association has selected Mrs. Tiefenwerth as one of this year's honorees, acknowledging her accomplishments and her dedication in making Bayonne a better community.

Since its 1965 inception, Mrs. Tiefenwerth has been an instrumental leader of the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation [BEOF]. Accepting the role of executive director in 1981, Mrs. Tiefenwerth has remained the driving force behind and the embodiment of the BEOF's logo, ''People Helping People.''

During her administration, Mrs. Tiefenwerth spearheaded vital programs, including a crosstown transportation service for seniors and disabled individuals and a variety of food service programs. Mrs. Tiefenwerth also implemented Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for those individuals spending the holidays alone.

In addition to her work with the BEOF, Mrs. Tiefenwerth served as a commissioner of the Bayonne Housing Authority and is a member of the Community Education Advisory Council. Presently, she is serving on one of the cities redevelopment committees and has joined the Census Committee in an effort to ensure the fair and unencumbered counting of the 2000 Census.

The recipient of many honors, Mrs. Tiefenwerth's unyielding commitment to community service has not gone unrecognized. The honors include: the Hudson County Golden Recognition Award; the Senior Citizen Today Award; the Jersey Journal Woman of Achievement; the Hudson County Director of Human Services Distinguished and Caring Service Award; the Hudson County Girl Scout Community Service Award; and the Boy Scout Endowment Committee Medallion for Volunteer Work.

Mrs. Tiefenwerth, wife of the late Mr. William Tiefenwerth, both Bayonne natives, attended the Horace Mann School, Bayonne High School, and Jersey City State. She is a registered certified social worker and a HUD certified housing counselor.

For her continued efforts on behalf of the Bayonne community and the State of New Jersey, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Eleanor Tiefenwerth. Her far-reaching accomplishments in the area of community service have undoubtedly made the city of Bayonne a better community in which to live.

SCHOOL-TO-WORK PARTNERSHIP WITH JOBLINK

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today and submit for the RECORD the initiative that my own Cabarrus County in North Carolina has taken to promote the School-to-Work partnership with JobLink.

I am thrilled that the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce has developed these innovative strategies to better our community. The benefits that our neighbors, friends, and families will gain from the Workforce Development Week 2000 will be life long.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2000

Whereas, Workforce Development issues impact every facet of our community and are at the forefront of American Society in the new millennium; and

Whereas, the School-to-Work Partnership of Cabarrus County and the Cabarrus County Job Link Center work together, with and through a medley of agencies to provide opportunities for the future and present workforce; and

Whereas, the School-to-Work initiative is a partnership between Cabarrus County Schools, Kannapolis City Schools and the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, the Workforce Development Steering Committee of the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce promotes dialogue between the Chamber and top administrators from the school systems and colleges, as well as implements community wide workforce development initiatives; and

Whereas, businesses, jobseekers, and others will be supported by employment and training services, information in a customer friendly manner, and staff who are caring professionals from various assisting agencies, and

Whereas, on January 29, 2000 the Cabarrus Career Fair 2000 will be held at the Carolina Mall in Concord from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, and will provide students and citizens of all ages positive interactions with over 50 different careers in the Cabarrus Region; and

Whereas, on February 2, 2000 the Cabarrus Region will team with the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day initiative to place students during the month of February with a mentor in the ''World of Work''; therefore, students are able to experience the importance of academics, communication skills and teamwork; and

Whereas, on February 3, 2000, the Cabarrus County JobLink Center, which was presented a charter on October 19, 1999 from the Centralina Workforce Development Board, will host an Open House Celebration from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 2275 Kannapolis Highway, Concord; and

Whereas, the School-to-Work Partnership and the JobLink Center will provide Cabarrus County with training, information and services vital to a competitive workforce that will be successful in a global economy.

Now therefore, be it resolved, That the Week beginning Saturday January 29, 2000 to Friday February 4, 2000 is hereby proclaimed as ''Workforce Development Week 2000'' in the Cabarrus Region, and urge our citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the School-to-Work Partnership and JobLink Systems in our community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ENDRE A. BALAZS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great scientist and entrepreneur on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Dr. Endre A. Balazs, who now lives in Fort Lee, NJ, was born in Hungary on January 10, 1920. He received his medical degree from the University of Budapest in 1943. During his studies in medical school D. Balazs began his life-long research into the medical uses of hyaluronan (HA)—a key molecular building block of the intercellular substances of the body.

As the world's foremost authority in the use of HA, Dr. Balazs started work on its medical application in the 1960's. His work on HA eventually led to the discovery of new therapeutic treatments that have made certain medical procedures safer and have accelerated post-operative healing periods. More recently, Dr. Balazs has introduced new methods to treat arthritis, an ailment that afflicts millions of Americans.

Soon after completing his studies at the University of Budapest in Hungary, Dr. Balazs traveled to Stockholm, Sweden, where he continued his research on the structure and biological function of sulfated polysaccharides and HA at the Karolinska Institute—the medical school of Stockholm. In 1951 he emigrated to the United States where he accepted a position in the Department of Ophthalmology at Harvard University.

In 1970 Dr. Balazs cofounded the Boston Biomedical Research Institute and became its first executive director. In 1975 he became the Malcolm P. Aldrich Research Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia University in New York. He is the founder and for 25 years has served as editor in chief of Experimental Eye Research, the first international eye research journal ever published. He also is a founder and former president of the International Society for Eye Research.

In 1981 Dr. Balazs and his wife, Janet Denlinger, started Biomatrix, Inc., a firm involved in the development of hfyaluronan derivatives for medical applications and skin care. Today, Biomatrix is a publicly owned company that is based in Ridgefield, NJ.

Over the years, as both an educator and a businessman, Dr. Balazs has supported the research endeavors of many young scientists and physicians. In recognition of his efforts, the international ophthalmic research community has established the Endre A. Balazs Prize, an international award for outstanding research efforts by scientists.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Dr. Endre A. Balazs is my constituent. I wish him and his family the very best as he continues to bring to his work the energy, devotion, and innovation that has made him such a successful individual.

HONORING BILL A. (B.A.) JONES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that we all pause for a moment to remember a man we have lost. B.A. Jones was a man that many knew and loved. Mr. Jones passed away in Carrollton on November 6, 1999.

B.A. Jones was born on April 9, 1913, the second of ten children born to H.J. and Dixie Campbell-Jones. B.A. spent his school years in Monte Vista. During World War II, the Government called upon him to travel the country recruiting, supervising and building numerous war-related projects. After the war, B.A. began construction work and subsequently formed his own remodeling and construction firm. In the late 1960's, B.A. began the family owned and operated Paradise Swimming Pool Corporation, using his self-taught architectural abilities to design and create many pools that are still operational to this day.

Mr. Jones is survived by his loved wife of 60 years, (Annie) Frances Cone Jones and their three children.

B.A. Jones is someone who will be missed by all of us. Those who knew him will miss spending time with him. He was truly a great American.

IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S ''IRELAND'S 32'' MILLENNIUM HONOREE, MRS. DOROTHY HARRINGTON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Dorothy Harrington of Bayonne, NJ, on being named one of this year's ''Ireland 32'' Millennium honorees.

Mrs. Harrington has had an exceptional career in the public arena. A longtime advocate for the education system in Bayonne, Mrs. Harrington was appointed to the Bayonne Board of Education from 1981 to 1986. Because of her vision and enthusiasm in this role, Mrs. Harrington became the first woman president of the Board.

Her success with the Board of Education and her desire to do more for the community led Mrs. Harrington to seek elected public office. In 1986, she was elected first ward council member and in 1990, she was elected council member-at-large. This election made Mrs. Harrington the first woman to be elected to the city council.

During her time with the council, Mrs. Harrington acted as liaison on the Kill Van Kull dredging project and was instrumental in the circulating of information regarding many transportation projects in the city. Most significantly, Mrs. Harrington led the efforts in Bayonne to improve cable television service, to obtain the local television channel for residents, and to create a modern production studio in Bayonne High School.

A dedicated volunteer, Mrs. Harrington served as president of the Hudson County

School Board Association, president of both St. Andrew's Parish and its Sports Organization, vice president and treasurer of the Evening Division of the Bayonne Women's Club, and member of the Holocaust Committee. Mrs. Harrington continues to be involved in a variety of local volunteer and service organizations and is the current chair of the Bayonne Municipal Utilities Authority.

Mrs. Harrington's accomplishments in public service have not gone unrecognized. Recently, she received the Mary T. Norton Congressional Award for her outstanding community service record.

A Bayonne native, Mrs. Harrington lives in Bayonne with her husband, Mr. Dan Harrington. The couple has four children and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Harrington's tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of Bayonne are truly remarkable. For her dedicated service and unparalleled volunteerism in the Bayonne community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Dorothy Harrington on receiving this honor.

HONORING SENATOR GWEN MARGOLIS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Senator Gwen Margolis from Aventura, FL, who will be honored on March 4, 2000, by her synagogue, Both Torah Adath Yeshurun and by the Northeast Dade community at-large.

Senator Margolis began her public service career in the Florida Legislature when elected to the House in 1974. She was subsequently re-elected to the House for three consecutive terms. Her career in the Florida Senate began in 1980 where she was appointed Chair of the Finance, Tax and Claims Committee and subsequently the Appropriations Committee where she assisted in leading the state out of recessions and budgetary crises.

On November 20, 1990, she was sworn in as President of the Florida State Senate, making her the first woman in the United States to serve as President of any Senate. She spearheaded the passage of landmark legislation touted as the toughest ethics legislation in the nation, as well as a constitutional amendment that opened all government records and meetings to the public.

She currently serves as Chairperson of the Miami-Dade County Commission, appointed by Mayor Alexander Penelas, and is the first woman to serve in this position. Senator Margolis also serves on the Board of Directors of the Holocaust Documentation Center at Florida International University. Her name appears in Who's Who of Women in the World, Who's Who in Business and Industry, and Megatrend for Women. In addition to her outstanding career in public service, which she devotes a full time schedule, Senator Margolis was also a successful Real Estate Developer and Business Executive in her private, professional business career.

She has received numerous awards for her leadership and dedication to the community in which she serves. She was named ''Woman of the Year'' by the North Dade Regional Chamber and Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce. She has also received the Florida Chamber of Commerce ''Legislator of the Year'' award, and the Dade League of Cities ''Good Government'' award to name a few.

Although Senator Margolis and I were once opposing candidates, I am glad to call her my friend and colleague, and am equally delighted to share in this celebration in her honor.

COLUMBINE FOOTBALL CONGRATULATIONS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, seldom in America do we see a more joyous display of hope and heart than we saw on December 5, 1999 by the Columbine High School Football team as they played for their first state football championship. Less than a year after the community of Littleton, Colorado was thrust into the national spotlight by a tragedy unimaginable to any American, this suburban town was united behind a group of young men who battled football history, and the vivid memories of fallen teammates and classmates.

The headline in the local paper read, ''This time, the tears of Columbine are tears of joy,'' (The Denver Rocky Mountain News, December 5, 1999) and how special those tears are for the parents, teachers, and students of this courageous high school.

The football team nobly dedicated their season to a fallen comrade, Matt Ketcher, who lost his life last April. Matt's younger brother, Adam, stood on the sideline as a sign of inspiration, wearing a Columbine letterman's jacket that was presented to him by the team, as they played for the state's top football prize.

What a way to end a special season.

Columbine won the game that Saturday by a score of 21–14, giving the school the state football championship, but more importantly, the team helped heal the souls of the school community.

I would like to congratulate the entire football team and their coaching staff for a season that meant more than they could ever have imagined. I hope that the entire nation can use them as motivation as we all do our part to ensure the healing of America continues.

HONORING NANCY HOFFMASTER, POWER OF ONE HONOREE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to now honor Nancy Hoffmaster who has been awarded the Colorado Woman 2000 Power of One Honor in recognition of her service to her community and the State of Colorado. Nancy is a true heroine in her community and she deserves our highest thanks and praise.

Nancy, who is currently battling breast cancer, has been volunteering in the Jefferson County Public School District for twenty-five years. She is the past president of the Jefferson County School's Parent Teacher Association and has served on the Jefferson Foundation.

Nancy founded the program ''Serving Kids from the Inside Out.'' The program provides clothing for needy children in the district. She also coordinates the Jefferson County School's ''Support for Homeless and At Risk People'' (S.H.A.R.P.) program.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to honor Nancy Hoffmaster and thank her for all the outstanding efforts she has put into making her community a better place to live. She is a most deserving recipient of the Power of One Honor.

IN HONOR OF THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN SHELBY SPONG, D.D., BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRIST HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Right Reverend John Shelby Spong, D.D., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, NJ, on his retirement as chairman of the Christ Hospital Board of Trustees.

Born in Charlotte, NC, Bishop Spong began his religious and spiritual education in North Carolina and Virginia. After years of devoted study, he was consecrated as Bishop in 1976.

A noted author and scholar, as well as being hailed the most published member of the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church in the United States, Bishop Spong fought for the integrity of Christ Hospital for more than 22 years. Under his direction, the hospital has grown and matured into the remarkable institution it is today.

In addition to his remarkable work for the hospital, Bishop Spong has served as president of the New Jersey Council of Churches and as theological consultant on a variety of diocesan committees and commissions. For all of his efforts, Bishop Spong was named ''1999 Humanist of the Year.''

Bishop Spong, married to Christine Spong, is the father of three and the grandfather of four.

For more than two decades of dedicated service to Christ Hospital and more than three decades of religious guidance, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Bishop Spong a happy and healthy retirement. His remarkable leadership and inspiring work ethic will be missed.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J. BRESNAN

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Mr. Bill Bresnan, who has been, over the past 40 years, a primary leader in the growth of the cable television industry, not only in my home town of

Bay City, MI, but throughout the Midwest, including Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Illinois. Under his leadership, Bresnan Communications has also become known for its many educational programs, its emphasis on minority advancement, and for community relations initiatives that recognize the civic contributions of local citizens and seniors.

A native of Mankato, MN, Bill Bresnan began his career in 1958 when, at the age of 25, he designed and built his first cable system in Rochester, MN, for a group of local investors. That company was acquired by Jack Kent Cooke, Inc. in 1965, and Bill was appointed its vice president of engineering. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed to serve as its executive vice president.

From 1972 to 1982, Bill held various influential positions in the Teleprompter Corporation, which was then one of the largest cable organizations in the United States. These include president of Teleprompter's Cable Division, Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. In 1981, when Teleprompter was bought by Westinghouse Electric Corp., he was appointed chairman and chief executive officer of the resulting new company, Group W Cable, Inc.

During this time, Bill played a major role in helping advance cutting-edge technology in the burgeoning cable industry. He was instrumental in sending the first domestic satellite transmission using a Canadian ANIK satellite in 1973. Three years later he helped initiate the first commercial communications system in the United States to use optical fibers.

In 1984, Bill founded Bresnan Communications, which currently serves over 660,000 customers. The company's Midwestern market is not accidental, and is a good example of Bill's civic-minded business philosophy. Bill has made it a priority to invest in the small and medium sized communities in America's heartland, to make sure that cutting-edge technology does not bypass these hard-working Americans, in favor of large communities on the west or east coasts of the United States.

Bill has also made it a priority to invest in America's young adults. He was an early pioneer in the development and construction of interactive television networks for distant learning. Working with local school districts and colleges, Bill was a key motivator in connecting educational facilities via fiber and coaxial cable, enabling many schools to conduct fully interactive classes simultaneously across great distances.

The admiration and respect of Bresnan employees for their president is legendary within the industry. Bill is known as an extraordinarily generous person and a boss who sees all of his 1,400 employees as his equal. He allocates a significant percent of revenue to establishing and promoting community relations initiatives that recognize local senior citizens and minorities. Indeed, his commitment to advancing the interests of minorities—in their recruitment, placement and training—was recognized in September 1999 by the Walter Kaitz Foundation. Bill received the ''Partnership in Diversity'' award, one of the industry's highest honors.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there are not many businessmen today who are as committed to the technological advancements of the future as Mr. Bill Bresnan. There are not many who feel the necessity of bringing advancements to those who might not otherwise have access to them: Americans on the family farm in Michigan, or minorities, or school children in the Midwest. Bill Bresnan has many plans for the future, and I wish him much success in all his endeavors. I am positive, Mr. Speaker, that we in Michigan will be the grateful beneficiaries.

IN SUPPORT OF BROADENING THE TYPES OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE IN ALIEN SMUGGLING CASES

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my bill addresses the pernicious practice of alien smuggling. Alien smugglers are a huge problem in South Florida, especially those who bring passengers from Haiti and Cuba to South Florida, frequently in unsafe boats and under very dangerous conditions.

For example, in March of last year, an alien smuggler's boat sank off the coast of West Palm Beach, Florida and, depending upon whether the Coast Guard or press reports of this horrendous tragedy are to be believed, anywhere from 15 to 40 Haitian passengers drowned.

These heartless and inhumane alien smugglers are parasites who are making huge sums of money off of the suffering of Haitians and Cubans who seek any means, legal or otherwise, to come to the United States. We must provide law enforcement with all available remedies to assure that the smugglers cannot continue to exploit vulnerable communities such as the Haitians and the Cubans. Unfortunately, the existing civil asset forfeiture provisions for alien smuggling are far more limited than those available to address drug offenses.

Current law authorizes the forfeiture of vehicles, vessels and aircraft used to commit alien smuggling offenses. This has proven to be an essential law enforcement tool that the INS uses more than 12,000 times a year. But the law has some glaring loopholes. We know that other types of property besides vessels, vehicles and aircraft are also used to facilitate alien smuggling offenses, but these other types of property currently are not subject to civil asset forfeiture.

For example, alien smugglers use electronic gear to monitor law enforcement activity directed against alien smuggling. The smugglers also own warehouses where vehicles, vessels, and even human beings are stashed to avoid detection by the Coast Guard or the Border Patrol. Yet these other types of property currently are not subject to civil asset forfeiture.

Current law also does not permit the forfeiture of the proceeds of an alien smuggling offense. If a smuggler is paid $100,000 to bring people into the United States in his fishing boat, law enforcement should not be limited to taking the boat while letting the smuggler keep the $100,000. The smuggler should be required to surrender the cash as well.

My bill corrects these deficiencies by expanding the scope of permissible civil asset forfeiture in alien smuggling cases to make it consistent with the standards used in drug cases. My bill provides that any property that constitutes, is derived from, or is traceable to the proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from alien smuggling, or is used to facilitate, or is intended to be used to facilitate alien smuggling, is subject to civil asset forfeiture.

Mr. Chairman, I don't fault those who would take extraordinary steps to try to come to the United States. Their efforts are totally understandable, even though unacceptable. I fault those who bring them to the United States outside of the law—the alien smugglers. Alien smugglers are a menace to society. As in drug cases, we should give law enforcement the full range of asset forfeiture remedies to deal with the serious problem of alien smuggling.

In civil asset forfeiture proceedings, law enforcement should have the ability to reach any property owned by the smugglers that is used to facilitate alien smuggling or that derives from or is traceable to such smuggling. There is no logical reason to limit the types of property subject to forfeiture in alien smuggling cases to vehicles, vessels and aircraft.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense bill.

TRIBUTE TO FRED KORZON OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Fred Korzon, supervisor of Bloomfield Township, Michigan, who resigned his post on December 20, 1999, after serving his community since 1967. Mr. Korzon has been an outstanding municipal leader and is a shining example of all that is right and good in public service. This man of honor and integrity has served on many State, county and local municipal boards and committees including but not limited to: chairperson of Southeast Michigan Council for Governments, Oakland County Parks and Recreation commissioner, and chairperson of Oakland County Association of Supervisors.

Fred Korzon's public service actually began on December 10, 1942, when he enlisted in the military. After leaving active duty he served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve until 1950. After leaving the military, he built his own home in Bloomfield Township, MI, and has remained a resident of the community since that time.

After graduating from the University of Michigan with a masters degree in history in 1966, Mr. Korzon taught at Pontiac Central High School and Lahser High School in Oakland County. He was first appointed to the Bloomfield Township Zoning Board of Appeals in 1967 and served for 1 year before being appointed to the board of trustees. He was appointed to the full-time treasurer's position in 1969 and ran successfully on the ballot until his appointment as township supervisor in 1982.

The residents of Bloomfield Township have been fortunate to have the services of Fred Korzon as our supervisor for 18 years. He has been rock solid for the residents and a faithful servant for our area. He and his outstanding team of public servants have helped make this

community one of the finest places to live anywhere in America. He has been a great friend of mine and I wish him all the best.

HONORING KATY TARTAKOFF, POWER OF ONE HONOREE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to now honor Katy Tartakoff who has been awarded the Colorado Woman 2000 Power of One Honor in recognition of her service to her community and the State of Colorado. Katy is a true heroine in her community and she deserves our highest thanks and praise.

Katy published a journal in 1991 called ''My Stupid Illness.'' The journal showed photographs of children suffering from cancer along with stories addressing how the children were dealing with the illness. She has since expanded her work to photograph and document children with other life-threatening illnesses. She presents these exhibits to schools to use as a tool to teach kids how to accept, understand and live with differences.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to both congratulate and thank Katy for all of her efforts to make her community a better place to live. I applaud Katy's efforts to educate children about diversity. She is a most deserving recipient of the Power of One Honor.

IN HONOR OF MR. GERALD NOWICKI, ONE OF THIS YEAR'S RICHARD A. RUTKOWSKI ASSOCIATION HONOREES FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gerald Nowicki of Bayonne, NJ. Acknowledging the accomplishments of those rare individuals dedicated to making Bayonne a better community, the Richard A. Rutkowski Association has selected Mr. Nowicki as one of this year's honorees.

Joining the Bayonne Historical Society in 1991, Mr. Nowicki has been instrumental in working to preserve and foster the historical and artistic beauty of Bayonne. Knowing the importance of maintaining outdoor sculptures to prevent corrosion, Mr. Nowicki coordinated a Tender Loving Care workshop to teach volunteers the proper guidelines for outdoor sculpture upkeep at the public buildings in Bayonne.

In addition to maintenance, Mr. Nowicki emphasized the necessity of restoration efforts for public artwork in the community. By cochairing the ''Save the Hiker'' project, an effort to restore the Spanish-American War Monument in Stephen Gregg Bayonne Park, and chairing the restoration project for the Civil War Monument in the same park, Mr. Nowicki has helped bring arts awareness in Bayonne.

To continue his efforts for the arts, Mr. Nowicki spearheaded the fundraising campaign designed to bring both funds and attention to the arts field—two very significant components to achieving his goals. His campaign drives helped to restore oil paintings from the Brennan Fire Fighting Museum and the Bayonne Public Library, and restored the antique grandfather's clock, which stands in the lobby of the library.

Because of his vast experience in Bayonne history and culture, Mr. Nowicki served as editor and co-author of ''Bayonne Landmarks.'' The book served as an instrumental local history guide, winning the acclaim of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

Mr. Nowicki, born and raised in Bayonne, attended Assumption School Marist High School, and Jersey City State College.

For his continued efforts on behalf of the Bayonne community and the State of New Jersey, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Gerald Nowicki. His accomplishments in historical preservation and community service have undoubtedly made the city of Bayonne a better community in which to live.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, it was nearly 47 years ago, on January 26, 1953, that the World Customs Organization, formally known as the Customs Co-operation Council, held its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium. In recognition of this occasion, the Council observed January 26 as International Customs Day. This occasion also serves to recognize the role that customs services around the world play in facilitating trade while protecting national borders from economically and physically harmful importations.

I am proud of the contributions of the U.S. Customs Service to the Nation over the past 210 years. U.S. Customs responsibilities have increased with the growth of our great Nation—trade has increased exponentially and the threat of illegal importations, including illegal drugs is ever present. These are significant challenges that Customs faces on a daily basis, and Customs must continue its vigilance in facilitating trade while interdicting narcotics at our borders and preventing exportation of critical technology. I am pleased to say that Customs meets these challenges well, and I stand ready to continue my longstanding support of Customs in these efforts.

The U.S. Customs Service represents the United States at the World Customs Organization [WCO], a 150-member international organization founded to facilitate international trade and promote cooperation among governments on Customs matters. The WCO works to simplify and standardize legal instruments and rules of international customs. The WCO also renders technical assistance in areas such as customs tariffs, valuation, nomenclature, and law enforcement. Its objective is to obtain, in the interest of international trade, the best possible degree of uniformity among the customs systems of member nations. The United States became a member on November 5, 1970. All America benefits when both exporters and importers operate in an atmosphere of simple unambiguous customs operations around the world.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the World Customs Organization on its past accomplishments and wish it well in its ambitious new millennium goal of further harmonizing and simplifying the customs rules that affect international commerce. I also congratulate the U.S. Customs Service for its fine work both nationally and internationally.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM JEFFERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Jefferson of Linden Plaza, in commemoration of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Jefferson was born in Columbia, South Carolina on January 2, 1900. At the age of thirteen, after earning his education in Ridgeway, South Carolina, he moved to New Jersey, and through working several odd jobs acquired skills in electrical work, plumbing, and house painting. In 1925 he moved to New York where he worked in these various trades until he found a permanent position with the American Window Shade Company.

While at this company, he met and married Mabel Stevens, and through this union was blessed with five daughters. Mr. Jefferson, known to many as a ''Jack of all trades'', devoted his time to his family, neighbors and anyone in the need of assistance. His wife passed away in 1998.

Since his retirement in 1977, Mr. Jefferson has enjoyed spending time with and passing wisdom to his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He helped start and on occasion still works at the Neighborhood Garden. He still enjoys discussing candidates, and voting in every election. In his spare time, he continues to play his guitar and keyboard. Please join in celebrating the wonderful life of centenarian, William Jefferson.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. ALGIE

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James A. Algie, Chairman of the Board of the Goodwill Industries of Long Beach and South Bay. Jim Algie passed away last year, and he is dearly missed.

Jim Algie was committed to the progress and success of the Goodwill Industries. Jim was dedicated to helping others and proudly followed Goodwill's mission to serve the communities of Southern Los Angeles County by educating, training, and placing people with barriers to employment to help them achieve economic and personal independence.

Jim was tireless in his efforts to better Goodwill Industries and he has left a lasting impact. He even helped change the accounting and financial reporting systems making the

organization more efficient and cost productive.

People will remember Jim for his generosity and his great sense of humor, and for always being there for his friends and co-workers. Jim Algie touched the lives of many, and although he is missed, his legacy lives on. The Goodwill Industries is a better organization because of Jim Algie.

HONORING BECKY NEGRETTE, POWER OF ONE HONOREE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to now honor Becky Negrette who has been awarded the Colorado Woman 2000 Power of One Honor in recognition of her service to her community and the State of Colorado. Becky is a true heroine in her community and she deserves our highest thanks and praise.

Becky is a Denver native who knows what it means for people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Becky grew up with five brothers and one sister. Her father, even though he worked every hard, barely made enough to support the large family. They could not afford a car, a television, or any of the luxuries that most of us take for granted. Becky's family was rich, however, with love and devotion that she still carries with her today.

Becky graduated from college and she now runs the bi-lingual reading program at Baker Middle School. She is a living example to her students, teaching them that life is what you make of it.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to both congratulate and thank Becky Negrette for all of her work and determination to be an inspiration to young people. She is a most deserving recipient of the Power of One Honor.

CLINTON'S SEATTLE STRADDLE

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, for those who might have missed it, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a piece by Robert B. Zoellick from the December 14, 1999, issue of the Washington Post.

Mr. Zoellick brings a unique, knowledgeable perspective to the discussion of the recent World Trade Organization fiasco in Seattle. He served in various positions in the Bush administration, including a stint as Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, where he was actively involved in developing the nation's NAFTA strategy. Recently, Mr. Zoellick was President and CEO of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

I commend Mr. Zoellick's thought-provoking article to my colleagues' attention.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 14, 1999]

CLINTON'S SEATTLE STRADDLE

(By Robert B. Zoellick)

Unlike The Post and others who are grappling with the deeper meaning of the Seattle protests and the World Trade Organization debacle, I think both the message and the results are straightforward: President Clinton, trying again to be all things to all people, is responsible for a failure that has paralyzed further free trade negotiations, whether globally or regionally.

Clinton wanted us to ''listen'' to the demonstrators. I did. It turns out that the protesters' arguments were contradictory: They wanted both to blow up the WTO and to have the WTO establish a host of global rules to dictate social, economic, political and environmental conditions around the world. They have managed, astonishingly, to combine the aims of unilateralists—who believe the United States can order everyone else in the world to do what we want—with those of globalists—who believe national governments are illegitimate and must be superseded by ''wise'' nongovernmental organizations.

Nevertheless, while the protesters' arguments were seriously flawed, their logic of action was clear: If they could overburden the process of negotiating more freedom for trade, the negotiations would break down. Then special interests would be successful in maintaining existing barriers and protections. Inefficient producers can now continue to avoid nasty competition and keep costs higher for consumers and other businesses.

The Post has suggested that ''the truth [about Seattle] is more complicated'' than critics contend. Apparently, it is not enough that President Clinton has been responsible for the confusion and backsliding in America's trade policy despite these times of extraordinary prosperity. It is not enough that Clinton is the first president in 50 years to fail to ensure that America leads the world trading system toward the liberalization that has created unprecedented world growth, openness, creativity and opportunity. No, according to The Post, Clinton was ''right in principle . . . but probably wrong on the tactics.''

Since the WTO is supposed to be about trade, it might be useful for The Post to recall what trade is about: Trade enables Americans to buy goods and services from other countries; trade liberalization seeks to remove the taxes and other barriers to this freedom of exchange. By expanding the freedom to buy and sell, trade lowers costs, expands opportunities and creates better-paid work—all adding to prosperity. Prosperity, especially for developing countries, is the key to better conditions for workers and to more resources for, and interest in, a clean environment.

Do fortunate Americans really think that parents in poorer countries prefer to have their children work instead of stay in school? Do they really think poor foreigners want to live in polluted cities? Or might these Americans recognize that the rules that wealthy nations want to impose on poorer nations will be ignored until poor countries have the means to improve their livelihoods?

The WTO is not a global government with the power to order new environmental or labor laws—or, for that matter, better tax regimes, pension plans, health programs, civilian control of militaries or a host of other meritorious outcomes. The WTO is a forum where governments can negotiate to reduce barriers to trade and agree to rules to try to resolve disputes. We cannot make the WTO into the organization that will deal with all the problems that elected, national governments struggle with every day.

Let's be honest: Once again, Clinton straddled and stumbled, and others have gotten hurt. Clinton likes to talk about free trade, because he knows open markets and competition contribute to prosperity. But Clinton also wants everyone to like him, especially if the people are his political constituencies. So he chose to host a major international negotiating meeting on trade without laying the political groundwork globally and without developing a negotiating strategy.

In a negotiation where the United States needed to work with developing countries to open markets for farmers, Clinton scared off the developing world to placate domestic interests. He even sabotaged his own negotiating team by proposing new trade sanctions at a meeting that was supposed to reduce barriers, not add to them. When asked why, according to The Post, a White House aide said, ''He was just talking off the top of his head.''

The Post, seeking to be broad-minded, finds the truth to be ''complicated.'' I think the truth is simple: After following through in 1993–94 on a free trade agenda left by his predecessor—an agenda he could not abandon without looking isolationist—Clinton, through his intellectual waffling and lack of commitment, severely set back the cause of free trade.

HONORING DR. PERRY LINDSAY, SR. AND MRS. MARY ELAYNE LINDSAY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR BIRTHDAYS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Perry Lindsay, Sr., Pastor of The Glorious Church of God in Christ, as he celebrates his 80th birthday; and Ms. Mary Elayne Lindsay, as she celebrates her 70th birthday. The church, located on Halsey Street, has a great heritage and a tradition of strong family ties.

The members of his church are thankful that Dr. Lindsay survived a serious car accident on September 1, 1999, in Maryland, while driving to the 79th General Assembly of The Glorious Church of God in Christ, being held in Roanoke, Virginia. In this accident, he suffered a mild heart attack, a slight concussion, and several other minor injuries; but is once again able to drive.

In addition to his many achievements, Pastor Lindsay is also known as the first successful, African American, owner of a construction company in the state of New York. Mrs. Lindsay is equally well known for her generous spirit and her contributions toward the development of The Glorious Church of God in Christ. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Mary Elayne Lindsay and Dr. Perry Lindsay as they celebrate their birthdays this month.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF DIANE HEMINWAY: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding environmental crusader in my district: Diane

Heminway, former Western New York coordinator of the Citizens' Environmental Coalition [CEC]. I commend Diane on her decade of effective, energetic leadership as a community environmental activist on behalf of the people of Orleans County, NY.

In 1984, an accident at a local chemical plant adjacent to her children's school propelled Heminway from homemaker and mother to leader in the grassroots environmental movement in New York State. Overnight, she formed COPE, Citizens Organized to Protect the Environment, to fight toxic pollution and other environmental hazards in her community. In 1990, she broadened the scope of her work, taking the reins of the CEC in Western New York, fighting for clean drinking water, restoration of the Great Lakes, remediation of brownfields and Superfund sites, and greater corporate accountability.

Recently, Diane Heminway resigned her position with the CEC to embark on a new endeavor as a health and safety trainer for the United Steelworkers of America. Though she has left the CEC, Diane will continue to be a tireless advocate for eradicating exposure to toxic chemicals—this time on behalf of America's workers.

I include in the RECORD an article that appeared in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle on January 10, 1999, detailing Diane's many accomplishments. On behalf of the residents of Western New York, I extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Diane Heminway for her long and continuing commitment to making our community, State, and Nation a cleaner, healthier, and safer place for all of us.

ACTIVIST DEPARTS, BUT LEAVES LEGACY

EVEN HER FOES RESPECT ENVIRONMENTAL WORK OF ORLEANS WATCHDOG WHO TARGETED KODAK

(By Corydon Ireland)

With the new year comes a new look for area environmental advocates.

Diane Heminway, the Orleans County activist who for years was the chief critic of Eastman Kodak's environmental policies, has resigned her paid role to pursue an interest in workers' rights. For nearly a decade, Heminway was western New York coordinator of the Citizen's Environmental Coalition, a statewide group. The sudden absence of a figure many regard as the godmother of area activists will not leave a void in environmental causes, but it does leave a hole. ''I wish her well in any new endeavor,'' said Judy Braiman, who sought Heminway's help in 1987 when she organized Rochesterians Against the Misuse of Pesticides. ''But in reality, I want her to come back.''

As of December, Heminway became a full-time health and safety trainer for the United Steelworkers of America, which will require frequent national trips away from her Lyndonville, Orleans County, home. ''Workers are the most exposed group to toxic chemicals—and worker-exposure laws are truly inadequate,'' said Heminway. The one-time homemaker and 4-H leader was propelled into action by a 1984 chemical accident, which sent a toxic cloud over the school her children were attending. Noted Braiman: ''She started out like any activist. She was protecting her children.'' ''I was just this domestic kid who won the apple pie contest—who thought that was going to be the high point of her life,'' said Heminway.

Leaders in the grass-roots environmental movement, she said, often share the same profile. They're women, most often mothers, who have to overcome shyness and mild manners to confront polluting industries, wrestle with arcane regulations and challenge an indifferent public. Among her heroes, said Heminway, are ''the most frustrated people I know.'' They're the scientists and policymakers who regularly tipped her to abuses from within the state and federal agencies designed to protect human health and the environment. ''We all want to be moral people, we all want to do the right things,'' said Heminway. But those impulses are often submerged by the fear of losing a job, offending a friend or bucking the system, she said. While on the job as a paid coalition staffer—and for six years before that—Heminway studied issues and organized citizen protests over environmental hazards in dozens of counties. The hazards ranged from aging dumps in the industrial heart of Niagara Falls to a massive new glass plant in Geneva, Ontario County—which tightened its air standards after the protests.

Heminway's last official act was to co-author a 90-page coalition report on industry-related pollution in the Great Lakes. Even her antagonists note her parting.

''I found her to be a worthy ally, rather than an extremist to be shunned,'' said John Hicks, regional administrator of the state Department of Environment Conservation. His branch of the DEC, in Avon, Livingston County, was a frequent target of Heminway's criticism. ''She was a determined and passionate advocate for environmental improvement,'' said Kodak spokesman James E. Blamphin, who often locked horns with Heminway. ''Despite her impassioned rhetoric, I think Diane Heminway wants the same thing Kodak people want—a sustainable and healthy future for ourselves and our children.''

Heminway said going after Kodak was a David-and-Goliath story. The photo giant, she said, was not too big to hit, as many local activists feared. It was too big to miss. ''I insisted on calling her our fearless leader,'' said Helen ''Gilly'' Burlingham, who worked with Heminway on a three-year Kodak task force of local activists. Burlington, co-chairwoman of the Sierra Club Rochester Regional Group, is still active on the task force. ''Diane was the main person, the point person, the hardest worker.'' Indeed, among area activists, Heminway's departure prompts enough praise to fill a hymnal.

''New York state is a cleaner place because of Diane,'' said Judy Robinson, who now overseas the coalition's Buffalo-based office. She pointed to Heminway's work on issues as diverse as groundwater, incinerators, brownfields, corporate accountability and Superfund refinancing. ''Diane provided the environmental movement with leadership, unsurpassed dedication, intellect and grace,'' said William J. Appel, organizer of Metro Justice of Rochester. ''Her absence will be felt not only among her fellow activists, but in the halls of power as well.''

THE MAKING OF AN ACTIVIST

Like many grass-roots activists, Diane Heminway was transformed by an environmental incident.

1984: A toxic cloud from a Middleport, Orleans County, chemical factory contaminates a nearby school, making Heminway an activist overnight. Co-founds COPE, Citizens Organized to Protect the Environment.

1985: Joins the statewide Toxics in Your Community Coalition (now Citizens' Environmental Coalition).

1990: Becomes CEC's western New York coordinator.

1992: Begins part-time health and safety training for United Steelworkers of America.

1995: Opens CEC office, Medina, Orleans County.

1996: Starts a groundwater education program for elementary schools.

November 1999: Resigns.

TRIBUTE TO COL. JAMES G. HART, USMC

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Col. James G. Hart, who in his too-short life brought great honor to his country through distinguished service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

A native of Minnesota and Montana, Colonel Hart graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1964, and chose to join the Marines. After the basic school, he served three tours in Vietnam; as a rifle platoon commander with 1st Recon and later with 5th Recon. In February 1968, Colonel Hart entered flight school and graduated with distinction in March 1969. He was assigned to VMFA–314 at Chu Lai, Vietnam, where he flew the F–4B.

Colonel Hart's many tours in the corps included assignments as a flight instructor, an aide to the commanding general 1st MAW, a test pilot at China Lake, CA, and designation as a USMC space shuttle pilot. He also served as F/A–18 Hornet project officer at Headquarters Marine Corps, with MAG–11 at 3rd MAW, commanding officer of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 13, and commander of the Marine Aviation Detachment at Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD. For a time, I was honored to serve with Colonel Hart at Naval Air Station Miramar, CA. Colonel Hart retired from the Marine Corps in 1991 and began a very successful career in international business.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with Combat V, the Purple Heart, Single Air Mission Air Medal, Air Medal with numeral nine, Combat Action Ribbon, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

Born March 3, 1942, this great man and great American died May 23, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Martha Monagan-Hart, and sons Matt, Andy, and John.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States show that Colonel James G. Hart demonstrated throughout his life the greatest attributes of the United States of America, through honorable and distinguished service in the Marine Corps, in aviation, in private business, as a leader of men and women, and as a devoted husband and father. While he is departed from us on Earth, Colonel Hart is most certainly not forgotten. We remember him best by emulating the best of his character—in honor, loyalty, service, dedication, and the practice of excellence.

Semper Fidelis, Colonel.

HONORING THE FLAMING ARROW MARCHING BAND

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, during our past winter holiday recess tens of thousands of

high school and college marching band members packed themselves on vans, buses, trains and planes around this country to travel to another city to appear at one of the many holiday bowl games. For many people who watched the games, the only effort was the apparent one of the performances they saw on the football field during a pre-game or a half-time show.

What we don't see at the game or on television begins during the hot summer with long hours of practice followed by interminable fund raising efforts. It's learning to perform as part of a team; it's creating pride in a group; it's learning perseverance in pursuing a goal; it's learning the importance of having a dream. And they aren't alone in their efforts. Their dedication is supported and encouraged by parents, relatives, friends, teachers, music directors and community leaders that culminate in that performance. It's not just the band that marches onto the football field, but all those who have worked to see that they could be there.

I rise today to offer special recognition for the Flaming Arrow Marching Band of the Strafford Missouri High School. Incidentally, I am proud to call Strafford home.

The 76 member band under the direction of Shane Harmon was one of ten bands invited to the inaugural edition of the Mobile Alabama Bowl. Besides providing pre-game and half-time performances, the band was involved in competition earning the coveted first place over-all award, as well as first place trophies in the solo, marching, jazz and color guard categories.

I know my colleagues in the Congress will join me in extending their congratulations to the Flaming Arrow Marching Band members, their families and their director, not only for the quality of their performance and awards, but for their dedication to achieving an important goal.

HONORING HARRY D. DONOHO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember the life of Harry Donoho who sadly passed away on January 4, 2000 in Dolan Springs, AZ.

Harry was born on March 26, 1923 in Texico, IL. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps on February 10, 1945. Harry was honorable discharged from the Marine Corps with a Purple Heart in 1946.

With assistance from the GI bill, Harry was able to attend college at the University of Illinois, where he received a bachelor of science degree, and Western State College, where he received a masters degree in special education.

Harry and his family lived in Denver, Gunnision and Loma, CO. He started and ran his own business, Donoho Electric Service, until his wife's health complications forced him to retire.

Harry liked to spend time with his family and he also enjoyed fishing and trips to Lake Powell. He moved to Dolan Springs, Arizona where he met and married Betty Jeffery in 1997. Harry will be missed by all those who knew him.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Harry Donoho. He was truly a great American who loved his family and his country.

HONORING ELDER PAULINE WILLIAMS GRIFFIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me in paying tribute to Pastor Pauline Williams Griffin. A leader in the Church of God in Christ Jesus, an educator, a counselor, community leader, professional woman, wife and mother.

Born in Angier, North Carolina, she attended Grammar and High School in Lillington, North Carolina, where she received part of her high school education. Her family moved to New York City in 1944 and her high school education was continued and completed at Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn, New York. She attended business school at Adelphi College where she majored in Business Administration. She attended Pace University, Bank Street College and the College for Human Services.

She was appointed Elder of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. in 1965 by her bishop, D. W.H. Amos, Chief apostle of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. Inc. Elder Griffin moved rapidly within her natural setting, for she became the State Mother of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. for New York State and is currently the General Mother.

Elder Pauline Williams Griffin is currently a Board Member of the Bank Street College Community Day Care Action Coalition, director of the Church of God in Christ Jesus Day Care Center and executive director of the after school program at P.S. 81 Brooklyn, member of Community Planning Board No. 3, and director of a comprehensive program for youth which includes personal and health counseling. Elder Griffin is directly responsible for the enrollment of 60 students in the program of College for Human Services. Further, she is Vice President of the Movement for Meaningful Involvement in Child Care: she serves as vice President of the United Minorities, Inc., she is a member of the New York State citizens Coalition for Children Inc. and the Chairperson of the Concerned Foster and Adoptive Parents Support Group, Inc. and she belongs to a host of professional organizations.

She is married to Elder Clifton Griffin and is blessed with two lovely daughters, two sons and a beautiful granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker Elder Pauline Williams Griffin is indeed unique. She is truly a leader in the Church—a herald and teacher of the word of God. She is indeed a remarkable woman who has masterfully and successfully combined this calling-this all encompassing work with community activities, day care tutoring, educating, counseling, wifely, parenting, and other professional responsibilities. I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in paying tribute to this truly remarkable woman.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF LAWNDALE

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Lawndale, California. Lawndale is celebrating its 40th year as an incorporated city.

The City of Lawndale was originally part of a land grant known as Rancho Sausal-Redondo. Following the treaty of Guadalupe-Hildago in 1848, the land was auctioned to Robert Burnett, a Scottish nobleman. Burnett, in turn, leased the land to ranchers Daniel and Catherine Freeman.

Freeman Ranch was eventually subdivided with the establishment of a rail line between Los Angeles and Redondo Beach. Soon thereafter, the area officially appeared as Lawndale on local maps.

Lawndale's population continued to grow throughout the years. Eventually, in an effort to stem annexation by surrounding communities, Lawndale community leaders stepped up the drive for independence, and on December 38, 1959, the City of Lawndale was incorporated.

Lawndale is a culturally diverse community and an ideal place to raise a family and live the American Dream. Many of its residents are homeowners and small business entrepreneurs.

Lawndale has thrived over the last 40 years, and as we enter the 21st century, Lawndale will continue to stand out as a small, unique town; the ''Heart of the South Bay.'' I congratulate the City of Lawndale and its 30,000 residents on this milestone.

HONORING DR. SHELBY M. ELLIOTT, D.C. FOR A DECADE OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF TEXAS CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Shelby M. Elliott, D.C. for his outstanding contributions as President of Texas Chiropractic College for the past decade.

Throughout his ten years of leadership at Texas Chiropractic College (TCC), Dr. Elliott has dedicated himself to the preservation, protection, improvement and advancement of the chiropractic profession for the benefit of patients. TCC which is located in the 25th Congressional District, has been a vibrant asset to the Pasadena community. Under Dr. Elliott's steady hand, the campus has experienced rapid expansion, particularly over the past four years, including the construction of three new buildings—a Student Services & Administration Building, a student clinic, and a new lab sciences building. The latest expansion project is a new Outpatient Clinic—also located on campus—that will serve the needs of both patients and students. Dr. Elliott's guiding principle is to provide students of the college with hands-on clinical experience as early as their second trimester, allowing them to observe the

various aspects of patient examination, diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Elliott's focus has been on fostering increased professionalism among the student body and sharpening interest in academic preparation.

As President of TCC, Dr. Elliott has helped thousands of students develop the skills necessary for total patient management including consultation, physical diagnosis, neurological and orthopedic diagnosis, and application of adjunctive therapy and/or interprofessional co-management. His passion has translated into a lifetime of political activism. Dr. Elliott has held every elective position in local, state and national chiropractic associations, always driven by his interest in serving the needs of his patients. He served as president of the Board of Governors for the American Chiropractic Association for an unprecedented five years. He served nine years on the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, having been appointed by two Texas Governors.

The recent understanding of the healthful benefits of chiropractic care as alternative medicine has been due in large part because of the work Dr. Elliott did as a chiropractor for 38 years. Among his many honors, he was named Doctor of the Year by the American Chiropractic Association in 1990 and received the Lifetime Chiropractic Achievement Award in 1988.

Dr. Elliott is truly a unique and respected individual, known for his open-door policy encouraging students of the College to visit with him anytime. His wife Connie is also a revered member of the TCC family. A popular speaker at any occasion, Dr. Elliott lends his time and expertise to addressing professional meetings throughout the year, and has given presentations to the American Chiropractic Association, the World Chiropractic Health Organization, the International Chiropractors Association and the Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research, among many others.

Not only has Dr. Elliott made significant strides on behalf of his colleagues in the profession, he has also demonstrated a proven commitment to give back to the community through civic endeavors. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce in 1996, currently serves on the board of directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, and is past president of the Southeast Economic Development, Inc. He has served as President of the Dayton, Texas Rotary Club; fifteen years as the Commander of American Legion Post #512; Health Director for the Boy Scouts of America; past President of the Baytown Community Orchestra Committee and Liberty County Crippled Children's Society, and sponsor and supporter of Pee Wee Baseball and the Valley Players Threatre Group.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Elliott on his decade of leadership as President of Texas Chiropractic College. His achievements are an inspiration to those in the Chiropractic profession who work tirelessly to strengthen our health care options and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CROCKETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of a school that has been devoted to achievement since 1949—Crockett Elementary School.

Going into their next half of a century, the elementary school in the Bryan Independent School District of Texas has quite a list of accomplishments. In 1993, Crockett Elementary received recognition by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association for their Inclusion Program. The school piloted the program in 1991, which received the ''Exemplary Innovative Practices for Special Needs Students'' award, to incorporate their philosophy that all children even those with special needs can learn in a regular education classroom. Also, one of their high achievements is the National Exemplary Award winning H.O.S.T.S. program, which has been on campus for five years. The Helping One Student to Succeed program consists of 200 community members coming in weekly to read with children.

Evident in their quantity and quality of awards, the Crockett faculty and staff act jointly to make their initiatives successful. They also have a very active Parent Teacher Organization. As the only inclusion school in Bryan ISD, parents and teachers have spoken at local and national conferences. In effect parents and teachers from all over Texas come to witness the Inclusion Program in action and model their own after Crockett's example.

The Texas A&M University College of Education designated Crockett as a Professional Development School in their program—they are the first elementary school designated. In promoting higher education, The Janell Gallion Scholarship Fund, which is funded by student and faculty support, is given annually to a Bryan High School graduate that attended Crockett Elementary. The scholarship was named after the school's dedicated librarian who, as they describe it, ''fought cancer to the very end and never let it affect her work with students.''

Mr. Speaker, I commend the faculty, staff, parents, and students for making Crockett Elementary such a landmark of achievement in the State of Texas. They have set an example for all schools and communities to recognize, and I hope make applicable to their own systems.

TRIBUTE TO ST. CECILIA SCHOOL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Cecilia School, which has nobly served the community in Clare, Michigan, for 50 wonderful years.

During its 50 year history this school has endured many challenges, but through the love of the surrounding community it has survived, growing from a one-room church in the 1900's to a magnificent building where not only the youth of Clare but also much of the Catholic community are educated.

It is clear that St. Cecilia's has been a strong pillar of the community and its services have reached above the dreams and ideals of its founders. It has given back to Clare citizens starting with the very first week it opened in 1950. Teachers and staff have continued excellent service throughout the years, providing an active learning environment that has produced successful, well-rounded students who have continually scored in the highest percentiles on standardized tests.

I commend the St. Cecilia School for its 50 years of excellent service. The teachers, staff and parents have shown students how to integrate academics with Christian values, and have paved the way for successful citizens and an enlightened town, leaving behind a highly respected reputation embedded in each member of the community.

I wish them the very best as they embark on their second half-century.

HONORING FORMER COLORADO CONGRESSMAN, BYRON L. JOHNSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember a former U.S. Congressman from Colorado who recently passed away at the age of 82.

Byron Johnson was born on October 12, 1917 in Chicago, IL. He moved with his family to Wisconsin at the age of 10. He earned a bachelor, masters, and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. From 1942 to 1947, Byron worked in Washington, DC in the Budget Bureau and the Social Security Administration.

In 1947, Byron and his wife, Kay, moved to Denver, CO so that Byron could pursue a teaching position at the University of Denver.

Byron served in the 86th Congress of the United States. He later served 12 years as a CU Regent and two years on the Regional Transportation District board of directors.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Byron Johnson, a man who loved his country and his State. Byron gave immeasurably to the State of Colorado and for that he will long be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND FRED L. SHUTTLESWORTH, A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected for his outstanding community service, business and

civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

A native of Alabama, Rev. Shuttlesworth moved to the Cincinnati area in 1961 to pastor at the Revelation Baptist Church. In 1966, he founded the Greater New Light Baptist Church in Avondale where he continues to lead worship. He has four children.

Rev. Shuttlesworth earned a bachelor's degree in science from Alabama State University in 1951. He went on to do graduate work at Alabama State and then received seminary training at Cedar Grove Academy and Selma University.

The Rev. Shuttlesworth is perhaps best known for his heroic work as a civil rights leader. Many place him among the ''big three'' in the civil rights movement—next to Dr. Martin Luther King and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy. Willing to risk his life for freedom and equality, the Rev. Shuttlesworth was nearly killed three times, jailed more than 25 times, and endured more than 36 criminal and civil actions. Words such as bravery do little to capture the conviction and heroism that Rev. Shuttlesworth exhibits.

A sampling of Rev. Shuttlesworth's accomplishments include the organization of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in 1956, which was founded in response to Alabama politicians outlawing of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1957, he was one of five organizers of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference where he still serves as a member of its National Board. In addition, he served for several years as a member of the National Advisory Board of Congress on Racial Equality. But he has also been actively involved in our community and I have seen firsthand his good works. In 1988, Rev. Shuttlesworth established The Shuttlesworth Housing Foundation to help needy families afford down payments for the purchase of homes. As of November 1999, Rev. Shuttlesworth helped over 460 low-income families become homeowners.

In June of 1988, the City of Birmingham renamed Huntsville Road ''F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive,'' and on November 14, 1992, Birmingham dedicated an 8-foot statue of Rev. Shuttlesworth at the opening of its Civil Rights Institute. In 1998, the City of Cincinnati renamed North and South Crescent Avenues as ''Fred Shuttlesworth Circle.''

Rev. Shuttlesworth says that he has done ''little'' and he professes to do ''more and . . . all I can until I leave here.'' Cincinnati is blessed by the Rev. Shuttlesworth's leadership and good will. We are most fortunate for his service and commitment to our nation and local community.

REGARDING ROY AND JOANN MITTE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to two Brownsville benefactors, Roy and JoAnn Mitte. Roy, who grew up in the city of Brownsville, moved away, but returns to pay a debt of gratitude by donating $3 million dollars toward the renovation of Dean Porter Park, a park he remembers from his youth.

Like so many citizens of Brownsville, Roy has very fond memories of the park, a park many also know as Ringgold Park. After 30 years, Brownsville citizens are getting together to renovate, restore and recreate the park to serve as a central retreat for all to enjoy. A plan has been designed to better meet the needs of our growing community for future generations to come.

When Roy used to play in the park, he was a beneficiary of the benevolence of the Sams Memorial Foundation, named after a family who were the first benefactors to enhance the then Ringgold Park; now as an adult he is contributing to the first big renovation since 1960.

Almost anyone you talk to who has grown up in Brownsville has a story about their experiences at Ringgold Park. In years past, it was the central meeting place to play at the playground, swim at the largest pool in town and attend social functions at the pavilion, a popular meeting place at the park.

It is also the location of the Camille Lightner Playhouse, the city's only theater which is still active in presenting dramatic plays. Now, many years later, it is in serious need of renovation and repair. It is my privilege to pay tribute and express gratitude to the Mittes for their generous contribution which will go a long way toward refurbishing a park that is loved by so many.

I would also like to commend the efforts of the Dean Porter Park Renovation Committee for their initiation of this project and their ongoing efforts to revitalize this park which means so much to so many people. Our lives, and the lives of those who follow us here in Brownsville, will truly be enriched by the efforts of the Mittes and their generosity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for one vote today, Thursday, January 27, missing rollcall 1 on which I would have voted ''present''.

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY MONTH

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Biotechnology Month. Biotechnology is revolutionizing the quality of life for millions of people around the world. The United States, and Washington State in particular, is home to some of the leading biotechnology companies in the world.

Biotechnology is revolutionizing every facet of medicine, from diagnosis to treatment of all diseases, not just bacterial infections. It is detailing life at the molecular level and someday will take much of the guesswork out of disease management and treatment. The implications for health care are greater than any milestone in medical history.

Take cancer, for example. The first biotechnology medicines have been used in conjunction with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation to enhance their effectiveness, lessen adverse side effects and reduce the chances of cancer recurrence. Future biotech cancer drugs, however, such as vaccines that prevent abnormal cell growth, may make traditional treatments obsolete.

In cardiovascular diseases, biotech drugs that either dissolve or prevent blood clots in the treatment of heart attacks are being applied to cases of ischemic stroke, reducing brain damage and hospital recovery time. Another biotech medicine is proving successful in late-stage clinical trials for angina and may represent the first new class of drugs to treat that condition since introduction of calcium channel blockers in the 1970's.

Advancements in research on inflammatory diseases also have yielded first-of-a-kind drugs to treat multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Other medicines in late-stage clinical trials block the start of the molecular cascade that triggers inflammation's tissue damaging effects in numerous disease states.

In treatment of infectious diseases, biotechnology is leading the attack on the alarming problem of drug-resistant bacteria, creating antibiotics to take the place of those no longer effective. It also has revealed the genetic composition of bacteria and viruses, making the search for new remedies more efficient. Most biotech drugs are designed to treat our most devastating and intractable illnesses. In many cases these medicines would be the first ever therapies for those diseases.

In my home of Washington State, there are 116 biotechnology companies that employ over 7,000 people. Employment in Washington State biotechnology and medical technology industry is projected to increase to nearly 20,000 workers by 2005. Thousands of patient lives have been improved or saved by the relatively new products produced by Washington biotechnology companies. These products include Enbrel for rheumatoid arthritis, Leukine for cancer, and TOBI for cystic fibrosis. This number is expected to grow exponentially as more products are approved for market.

It is vital that Congress and the administration take into account the developments and advancements in this industry and work to encourage the massive amount of private capital being invested in these medical breakthroughs. Congress can help by fully supporting federal investments in math and science education, research performed at public universities and the National Institutes of Health. Congress should work with the Administration to modernize the drug approval process and to make sure that the Medicare system takes advantage of the potential cost savings brought forth by developments in the biotechnology industry.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Biotechnology Month and look forward to the next great news in the newspapers of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE STERNE, A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bobbie Sterne, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. She was selected for her outstanding community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

Mrs. Sterne grew up in Moran, Ohio, and currently resides in North Avondale. She graduated from Akron City Hospital School of Nursing and attended both the University of Akron and the University of Cincinnati. She and her husband, the late Dr. Eugene Sterne, have two daughters. During World War II, she served at the rank of first lieutenant with the 25th General Hospital Unit in Europe.

Mrs. Sterne has made a difference in the community of Cincinnati—particularly through her 25 years of service as an elected official. She served on the Cincinnati City Council from 1971 to 1985 and then from 1987 to 1998 and in 1976, she became the first woman mayor of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Sterne has received numerous awards and honors, including the Citizen's committee on Youth's Most Valuable Citizen Award; Council of Jewish Women Hannah G. Solomon Award; Ohio Woman of the Year; Inquirer Woman of the Year; Ohio Woman Hall of Fame; YMCA's Career Women of Achievement; the Salvation Army's ''Other'' Award; the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame; the Lighthouse Youth Services Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award; and the Alcoholism Council Tracy Bissell Memorial Award, among others.

Mrs. Sterne still actively serves the commuunity on numerous boards, including the Charter Committee; Government Relations Committee of the Community Chest; Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Woman Sports Association Board; the Ohio United Way Board; the Hamilton County Department of Human Services Planning Committee; the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati; the Fountain Square Fund Restoration Committee; and Chair of the Emergency Service Coalition.

Mrs. Sterne's commitment to community service was instilled at an early age. In her family, one was brought up to ''leave the world a better place than you found it.'' Mrs. Sterne has certainly succeeded in doing so in our community. Cincinnati is grateful for her leadership, service, and commitment.

REGARDING SAN ANTONIO INS OFFICE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great team of public servants in San Antonio, Texas, at the San Antonio District Office of the Immigration and Naturalization (INS) Service, who were the recipients of three separate national awards for excellence bestowed by INS this year.

Each year, the Commissioner of INS confers national awards for excellence honoring employees for their outstanding performance.

The employees of the Citizenship/Naturalization Unit were honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Immigration Services for reducing the waiting times for all citizenship/naturalization applications and for demonstrating an overall commitment to quality.

The same unit was honored with Vice President GORE's ''Hammer Award'' in June of last year for their innovative program to reach out to military applicants who often face transfer overseas or a deadline to reach citizenship before re-enlistment. Getting the waiting time for applications down is a minor miracle. The wait for those wishing to process documents with the INS has been 18 months or more for the past few years.

Port Director Ramon T. Juarez was honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Border Facilitation, for his outstanding efforts in managing the Laredo Port of Entry. The Port reduced the waiting time for applicants for admission to 20 minutes or less.

San Antonio Investigative Assistant Jerome Bass was honored as Employee of the Year in the Administrative/Technological category. His peers say Bass has an ''unselfish attitude and willingness to lend a hand.'' His dedication to the job brought him national attention.

These three awards are indicative of the dedication of the 432 employees in the San Antonio office. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for providing the best in government services.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J. BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of William J. Brown, former Ohio Attorney General, who passed away last week. He was a man who had the ability to bring true integrity and a human quality to politics.

Born as a natural leader, Brown perfected the ability to get his point across in as little time as possible and still maintain context that was regarded as ''true genius''. He had the natural ability to motivate those around him with his focus and drive. Although he always had his heart and his mind focused on his goals, he refused to give in to the negativity of his work and kept the working environment free from strain and strife.

William Brown had strong feelings and was dedicated to ''Ending the Political Pollution in Ohio''. It was through this issue that Brown was able to embrace the environment, soon after the first Earth Day was held in 1970. His career was colorful, successful and he was known for having strong views and the ability to back them up. Brown was a talented agent for public service. He selflessly gave of his time and support to many issues and was a strong supporter of team work.

It is with a heavy heart that I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in remembering William J. Brown. His memory will truly endure in the hearts of all that he was able to touch.

HONORING MICHAEL F. MARKO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a firefighting legend, Michael F. Marko, who was honored by family and friends on January 4 as he celebrated his retirement as assistant fire chief for the 30th Space Wing that is located in my congressional district.

Michael Marko faithfully served the 30th Space Wing for 33 years. He participated in and commanded the safe mitigation of more than 12,800 fire emergencies during his years of service. Michael has also been an integral member of the Vandenberg Professional Firefighters Local F–116 since 1971 and has been instrumental in working for the rights union members now enjoy. In honor of his many years of service to the union, Michael was awarded by his colleagues a lifetime membership. Through his actions, he saved numerous lives and billions of dollars in Defense Department assets. Michael also personally supervised the launch of countless Delta, Titan, and Peacekeeping rockets, enhancing America's national security. We have Michael Marko to thank for ensuring a permanent American presence in space that will continue to grow in this new century.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as any complete accounting of Michael's accomplishments would be, it would not do justice to the long lasting and immeasurable contributions he has made to the 30th Space Wing. I am truly honored to represent Mr. Marko in Washington. I send my most heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the 30th Space Wing, the community of Vandenberg, and the people of Santa Barbara County for his hard work and dedicated service. I know that Michael's leadership will be missed by the 30th Space Wing of Santa Barbara County.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MECHEM, JR., A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Mechem, Jr., a dear friend and community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected for this honor because of his outstanding business accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, community service, civic accomplishments and contributions that have increased the quality of life in Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio.

Mr. Mechem grew up in Nelsonville, Ohio, and currently lives in Clifton with his wife, Marilyn. They have three children. A graduate of Miami University and Yale Law School, Mr. Mechem has had a most distinguished career, bringing business and entertainment to the Greater Cincinnati area. Mr. Mechem likes to say he has enjoyed four careers: as a partner

at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister; as CEO of Taft Broadcasting; as commissioner of the Ladies Professional Golf Association; and in his own words, ''life after that''—which includes serving as Chairman of the Board at Convergys and as the personal business adviser to golf legend Arnold Palmer.

For more than 40 years, Mr. Mechem has focused on bringing entertainment opportunities to the Cincinnati area. As he puts it, he ''was motivated . . . to do things that made this community a fun place to live in.'' Mr. Mechem was instrumental in bringing the Cincinnati Bengals franchise to town; spearheading the vision and construction of Kings Island; and helping to provide the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra a new home at Riverbend by donating the site adjacent to Coney Island. Nationally, Mr. Mechem worked tireless for five years with the LPGA to lead a national resurgence of interest in the game.

In the business community, Mr. Mechem served Cincinnati as President of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce in 1977 and Co-Chaired the Chamber's Blue Chip Campaign from 1979–86. His other leadership roles include: National Chairman, Miami University Goals for Enrichment Campaign; President, Family Service; Co-Chair, Cincinnati Business Committee; and Founder/President of the Greater Cincinnati Sports & Events Commission. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board at Convergys, Mr. Mechem also serves on the Board of Directors at Mead Corp., Ohio National Life Insurance, Arnold Palmer Golf Co., The J.M. Smucker Co. and Myers Y. Cooper Company.

All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion and service to community.

REGARDING ALBERTO GALVAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the lifetime of service of Alberto Galvan, the district manager for the Brownsville-Harlingen area for the Social Security Administration (SSA). Alberto has served the Federal Government for 35 years, retiring just last month.

A son of South Texas, born in Harlingen, Alberto was in the United States Air Force (USAF) prior to his service to the Federal Government. In the Air Force, he attended USAF Russian Language School and served in electronic intelligence during his duty in Japan. That would have been impressive duty in those days, our forward listening post to spy on the communists in the Soviet Union.

This man who loves his country began working for the Social Security Administration in 1970, where he has worked ever since, winning the SSA Commissioner's Citation, the SSA Regional Commissioner's Citation (twice), and the Outstanding Officer Award (four times).

Aside from his many awards, Mr. Galvan has a great deal of contact with my Brownsville district office. As all of you know, the success of our district offices rises and falls on the relationship they have with individuals within the SSA. Thanks to Alberto Galvan, and the wonderful people in my district office, that relationship is strong indeed. The SSA manages the nation's social insurance program, consisting of retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs; so, the ties that bind our interests are quite strong.

I want to thank Alberto today for being a really nice man and always being responsive to our inquiries. He takes calls from my office himself and has been largely responsible for training my staff members who deal with Social Security issues. He oversees all of Cameron and Willacy counties in the lower Rio Grande Valley but is primarily responsible for the Brownsville area up to Rancho Viejo, Texas.

Since he left the Air Force, Alberto has found another way to put the Russian he learned there to good use. Today, he is the only Russian translator in the Dallas Region of the SSA and is often sent documents to translate, usually birth certificates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending this outstanding patriot who has made a career serving our great country, first in uniform, and for the last 30 years, administering the Federal social insurance program in South Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000. This legislation provides an additional $2 billion a year for ten years to reach full funding of IDEA by 2010.

In 1972, two landmark cases, PARC v. State of Pennsylvania and Mills v. Board of Education found that children with disabilities are guaranteed an equal opportunity to an education under the 14th amendment. In response to these cases, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, the predecessor of today's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to assist state and local governments in meeting their responsibility to these children by agreeing to pay up to 40 percent of the cost of educating children with disabilities. However, to date, the federal government has never contributed more than 12.6 percent. States and school districts make up the difference.

For instance, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) currently spends approximately $891 million to educate 81,000 disabled students. While the district receives approximately $500 million from the state and $42 million from the federal government for that purpose, it must tap into funds intended for other education programs to make up the $300 million shortfall. School districts all across the nation face similar dilemmas. Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to put us on a course for full funding by 2010.

As we move into the 21st Century, we must make critical decisions about the priorities of this nation. In countries like Japan and China, education is a top priority, above even defense. This year alone, the U.S. Department of Defense will ask for $11 billion in new spending and according to OMBs most recent estimates, we can expect an $80 billion budget surplus for FY 2000. Surely we can spare an additional $2 billion a year to ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REGULATORY INFORMATION ACT OF 2000

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000,'' a bill to aid Congress in analyzing Federal regulations and to ensure the public's understanding of the legal effect of agency guidance documents. To accomplish the former, the bill requires an analytic report to Congress by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on selected important agency proposed and final rules. To accomplish the latter, the bill requires the agencies to include a notice of nonbinding effect on each agency guidance document without any general applicability or future effect.

On May 22, 1997, Representative SUE KELLY introduced H.R. 1704, the ''Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis Creation Act.'' On March 11, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held a hearing on this bill. Rep. KELLY testified at the hearing that the analytic function will ''help Congress deal with an increasingly complex and burdensome regulatory system. It will give Congress the resources it needs to oversee the regulations that the Executive Branch issues on a regular basis and facilitate use of the Congressional Review Act.'' She also stated that it ''would provide a second opinion'' of the agency's analysis of the impact of a rule. On March 13, 1998, the House Committee on the Judiciary reported an amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part I). On June 3, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee reported a further amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part II). There was no further action on the bill during 1998 and 1999.

The ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' is introduced to respond to some criticisms of the earlier bill, especially about the creation of a new Congressional agency. Instead, the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' places the analytical function within GAO, which, since March 1996, has been charged with certain related functions under the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

Congress has delegated to the agencies the responsibility of writing regulations. However, regulations need to be carefully analyzed before they are issued. Under the CRA, Congress has the responsibility to review regulations and ensure that they achieve their goals in the most efficient and effective way. But, Congress has been unable to fully carry out its responsibility because it has neither all of the information it needs to carefully evaluate regulations nor sufficient staff for this function. Under my bill, GAO will be tasked with reviewing agency cost-benefit analyses and alternative approaches to the agencies' chosen regulatory alternatives.

The ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' has a companion bill on the Senate side, S. 1198, the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 1999.'' This bill was introduced by Senators SHELBY, BOND, and LOTT on June 9, 1999 and then renamed and reported by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee as the ''Truth in Regulating Act of 1999'' on December 7, 1999. The House and Senate bills are both intended to promote effective Congressional oversight of important regulatory decisions.

In addition, the House version includes a provision to ensure that public's understanding of the effect of agency guidance documents (such as guidance, guidelines, manuals, and handbooks). It require agencies to include a notice on the first page of each agency guidance document to make clear that, if the document has no general applicability or future effect, it is not legally binding. Under the CRA, ''rules'' subject to Congressional review are broadly defined to include not only regulatory actions subject to statutory notice and comment but also other agency actions that contain statements of general applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy. Unfortunately, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), despite a 1999 Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act directive to do so, has still not issued adequate guidance to the agencies on the requirement to submit to Congress any noncodified guidance document with any general applicability or future effect.

As a consequence, on October 8, 1999, the Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs began an investigation of the agencies' use of noncodified documents, including the specific explanations within each of these documents regarding their legal effect. I asked the General Counsels of the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Transportation (DOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to submit their noncodified documents issued since the March 1996 enactment of the CRA and to indicate which were submitted to Congress under the CRA. DOL and DOT asked that I narrow my request; as a consequence, I asked for only those documents issued by DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Both DOL and DOT admitted that none of their 1,641 and 1,225 guidance documents respectively, had any legal effect and none was submitted to Congress for review under the CRA. Now, nearly four months later, EPA has still not completely produced its guidance documents. The investigation also revealed that the absence of any legal effect was not clear to the public. In fact, only 11 percent of OSHA'S guidance documents included any discussion of legal effect and only 7 percent had this discussion at the beginning of the document. On February 15, 2000, I will be holding a hearing to examine DOL's use of guidance documents as a possible backdoor approach to regulating the public.

Let me conclude by thanking Representative SUE KELLY of New York, Chairwoman of the Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction, for her leadership in this area in 1997 and 1998.

TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP DANIEL E. PILARCZYK

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in tribute to Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop.

During his forty years in the priesthood, Archbishop Pilarczyk has compiled an impressive and distinguished history of service to the church and the community. After eight years of service as Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, he became Archbishop in 1982. He is the spiritual leader of 550,000 Catholics in more than 200 parishes, and he manages close to 7,500 workers in Ohio. In addition, he has served as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as chairman of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

Archbishop Pilarczyk is a strong believer in education and has made it one of his top priorities during his time at the helm of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which is the ninth largest Catholic school system in the country. He has served our community in so many other ways including serving on the boards of St. Rita's School for the Deaf, the Pontifical College Josephinum, Catholic University of America and the coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati.

He holds a masters degree from Xavier University and a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, as well as seven honorary degrees. In addition, he has authored 18 books as well as numerous articles.

Daniel Pilarczyk is a Southwest Ohio native and he has given so much back to our community. I've had the chance to work with him in his role as founding board member of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati where he made an important contribution as a thoughtful and dedicated board member and a person with a sincere interest in our youth and their future.

All of us in Southwest Ohio wish Archbishop Pilarczyk the very best on the 25th anniversary of his ordination as bishop. We are proud to count him as one of our true religious, spiritual, and community leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a private relief bill for Gui Di Chen which will allow her to adjust status to permanent resident as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. Ms. Chen's husband, Robert Lem, died before the immigration and naturalization service could approve his wife's petition to become a permanent resident.

Under our immigration law, the INS cannot adjudicate Gui Di Chen's petition because she was married less than two years to Robert Lem before he passed away. The fact that Ms. Chen lived with Mr. Lem for three years does not matter under the eyes of the law. Without the enactment of this private relief bill, Ms. Chen faces a dire and uncertain future in China, a country she hasn't been to in nearly ten years.

There is, moreover, ample precedent for such relief. For instance, the 105th Congress passed and the President signed into law at least two private relief bills, H.R. 1794 (Private Law 105–7) and H.R. 1834 (Private Law 105–8), that allowed the widowed alien spouses of Americans to adjust status to permanent resident. In both of these cases, the alien spouses were married less than two years to their U.S. citizen spouses.

Mr. Speaker, Gui Di Chen's case is compounded by a tale of woe and misfortune that rivals a greek tragedy. In less than eight years, Ms. Chen has lost two husbands who died suddenly and before her immigrant petitions could be processed. In 1990, Ms. Chen and her son joined her husband, Zheng-Ming Wu, in the United States. Mr. Wu was completing a graduate degree at the time. Mr. Wu was fortunate enough to find an employer who filed an employer-based immigrant petition on his behalf. However, on September 6, 1991, just five days before Gui Di Chen, her son and husband were scheduled for an INS immigrant interview, Mr. Wu was killed in a car accident.

According to the police report that was filed, Mr. Wu was driving on the San Bernardino Freeway and developed car trouble. His car was stopped in an H.O.V. lane when he was rear-ended by an 18-year-old who was driving on a suspended license and without insurance. Ms. Chen received no compensation for her husband's death. In addition, the INS told Ms. Chen and her son that their application for permanent resident status was denied due to the death of Mr. Wu.

After the tragic loss of her first husband, Gui Di Chen was fortunate enough to fall in love again. Mr. Lem and Ms. Chen were married on March 31, 1997. Tragedy would strike once again when Mr. Lem died of a heart attack on June 16, 1998. Not only did Ms. Chen lose her husband, she also lost the opportunity to become a permanent resident.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that Gui Di Chen is not victimized once again by the vagaries of fate and is allowed to finally adjust to permanent resident status. She deserves nothing less.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SPANGLER, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 1999, the Holy Cross Parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Holy Cross, Spangler, Pennsylvania.

Throughout our area and our Nation, we find such churches as the centers of our community, the fabric of our community spirit, and the strength of families. The Church of the Holy Cross has celebrated 2,735 baptisms, 622 weddings. It has held 1,332 funerals to send its faithful home. These events chronicle the history of the families in the region.

Plans for the present church structure were drawn by architect William East and built by John S. Drumm at a cost of $4,800 according to the contract signed on July 8, 1899. On December 17th of that year, the Rt. Reverend Leander Scherr, O.S.B., Archabbott, St. Vincent Archabbey of Latrobe, dedicated the church. It was served by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Vincent Archabbey until 1984 and since then by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

The strength of our great nation comes not from decisions made in Washington, but from the enduring community strength, family commitments and individual ideals to which our house of worship provided the central underpinnings. The Church of the Holy Cross has been a part of that national strength for one hundred years; an integral factor in the growth of our nation and our region of Pennsylvania.

It is an honor for me to recognize the continuing role of the Church of the Holy Cross, of the church's twenty-fifth pastor, Father David J. Arseneault, and the individuals in the Parish that have made the Church of the Holy Cross endure for 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL (RETIRED) LAVERN E. WEBER

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great American, former Adjutant General of Oklahoma, previous Director of the Army National Guard, prior Chief of the National Guard Bureau and past Executive Director of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Lieutenant General Weber, a native of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, was the first Three-Star General to head the National Guard Bureau. He held that post from August 1974 until August 1982. He continued his service at United States Forces Command until his retirement on June 30, 1984, which concluded 42 years of military service with the United States Marine Corps, the Marine Corps Reserve and the Army National Guard.

Lieutenant General Weber served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th infantry division. His unit was called to active duty September 1950 and then Captain Weber was soon serving as a Company Commander, and later the Operations and Training Officer. During a combat tour in Korea, he was promoted to the rank of Major a month before his release from active duty in June 1952 when he returned to National Guard Status in the Oklahoma National Guard.

He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in December 1955 and was assigned as assistant intelligence officer, 45th Infantry Division. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on May 15, 1959, and in April 1961 was assigned as Chief of Personnel, 45th Infantry Division, and served in that position until November 1964. He became Chief of Staff, 45th Infantry Division with his promotion to Colonel on November 18, 1964.

On March 8, 1965, he was promoted to Major General, concurrent with his appointment as the Adjutant General of Oklahoma. He served in that position until his appointment as Director of the Army National Guard, in October 1971.

On June 29, 1979, the Chief of Staff U.S. Army promoted him to Lieutenant General, the grade at which he would retire in 1984. He was appointed as the full-time Executive Director of NGAUS effective July 1, 1984. In the past few years, he had been a consultant on national defense matters.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—Lieutenant General Lavern Weber.

SALUTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER JOHN MCGUIRE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing the public service record of one of our own—a recently-retired employee of the House of Representatives, a member of my staff, John McGuire.

Although John has left public service and gone on to another stage in life in which he now focuses his energy entirely on family and friendly pursuits, he has left behind a record of admirable service.

Over the course of his professional career, and in addition to his time on my staff, he has brought great credit to the federal government. He has helped me understand the importance of our debt to veterans and he has excelled at constituent service in general.

A combat U.S. Marine veteran, John was indeed a very special liaison for me with the community of veterans who live in Central New York. But his camaraderie with those who have served our nation never limited his reach. For many Central New Yorkers, John has been the federal government's helping hand.

We who count ourselves among his friends are proud of his natural tendency to open his door to others in hours of need. His empathy has been matched only by his skills, his concern matched only by his optimism, and his value as an employee matched only by the good he does for others who are his friends.

The United States of America, the greatest country on earth, is strengthened by patriots and civil servants like John McGuire. Thank God for that. I join others of his admirers in recognizing his contributions and thanking him for his selfless dedication to principle and public service.

Rights, we should convert all of the tax deductions to credits, so that those who seek to use these tax incentives are all on a level playing field, and so that the Treasury's scarce resources go to those most in need of help.

The following is data from a March, 1999 report to HHS prepared by LifePlans, Inc., entitled, ''A Descriptive Analysis of Patterns of Informal and Formal Caregiving among Privately Insured and Non-Privately Insured Disabled Elders Living in the Community.'' The data shows how LTC insurance is disproportionately held by those in the upper incomes and with the most assets—and how deductions will help those people far more than they will help the lower income. A credit would be a far fairer tool to help encourage the purchase of LTC insurance.

Socio-demographic characteristics	All privately-insured home care claimants (in percent)	All elders age 65 and over (in percent) [1 2]
Race:		
White (not Hispanic)	97	85
Non-White	3	15
Living arrangement:	(n=694)	
Alone	34	34
With spouse	44	53
With relative	11	13
Other	11	.....
Total income:	(n=492)	
≤$30,000	52	65
>$30,000	48	35
Total income:	(n=432)	
Less than $10,500	7	[3] 19
$10,501—$19,999	22	28
$20,000—$30,000	28	19
$30,001—$39,999	13	11
$40,000—$49,999	9	8
$50,000—$74,999	11	8
≥75,000	10	8
Estimated current value of home:	(n=431)	
Less than $50,000	7	[4] 25
$50,000—$99,999	28	37
$100,000—$149,999	19	18
$150,000—$199,999	13	10
$200,000—$249,999	11	4
≥$250,000	22	7

[1] AOA (1998). Prolife of Older Americans. Washington, D.C.

[2] LifePlans, Inc. analysis of 1995 survey of 1,000 randomly selected individuals age 65 and over.

[3] Money Income in the United States: 1997 Current Population Reports, Consumer Income. Note that data from census table is interpolated to assure comparability of intervals. Also note that among claimants, 15% of the respondents who were willing to indicate whether their income was greater or less than $30,000 were not willing to answer the more detailed income questions. That is why there is a difference between the estimate for the proportion reporting incomes less than or equal to $30,000 (52%) and the estimate derived when summing answers for those answering the detailed income question.

[4] American Housing Survey for the U.S. in 1995. U.S. Census Bureau.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE LOIS DEICKE

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Lois Deicke, a longtime resident of Broward County, Florida, who passed away this past New Year's Eve at the age of 82. Lois will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the most prominent and generous philanthropists in South Florida.

A native of Houston, Texas, Lois moved to Illinois where she met her husband Edwin. Together, they moved to Plantation, Florida, around 1960 after a successful career as an insurance executive. Their impact was felt immediately in the South Florida community, as the Deickes exhibited an overwhelming generosity in donating to a variety of civic, philanthropic, and humanitarian causes.

Throughout her time in South Florida, Lois and her husband both contributed to nonprofit agencies and projects throughout the community, patronizing the arts, cultural programming, and even research to benefit the disabled. Lois originally began her charitable work by giving to the West Broward Symphony Guild and the Plantation Community Church. She also made a substantial contribution to the city's community center, now commonly referred to as Deicke Auditorium.

Indeed, many organizations have benefitted from their relationship to Lois Deicke throughout the years. She actively supported the Broward Public Library Foundation, the Broward County Cultural Affairs Council, Holy Cross Hospital, and Nova Southeastern University, where she built the Deicke Dorm at the Ralph Baudhuin Oral School. It is also interesting to note that, though Lois was very proud of her residency in Plantation, by no means did her charity stop at South Florida's borders. She also gave to Midwestern universities and charities, founding the Deicke Center for Nursing Education at Elmhurst College in Illinois.

Particularly gratifying is the fact that Lois and her husband both showed a strong interest in programs for the deaf and blind. This interest was undoubtedly rooted in personal struggles: both she and her husband, who passed away in 1984, suffered from hearing loss. Her personal experiences led Lois to form a strong bond with the Fort Lauderdale Lighthouse for the Blind. In 1994, the Lighthouse formally recognized the extraordinary efforts she made in remodeling their facilities, another example of Lois Deicke freely giving of herself for the betterment of others.

Mr. Speaker, Lois Deickes life can be characterized by her selfless devotion to others and, for that especially, we all owe her a debt a gratitude. Though the South Florida community is undoubtedly saddened by her passing, we should all rejoice in Lois' accomplishments and thank her for her tireless work improving the community around her.

COLORADO'S 2000 TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CRAIG COSWELL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Craig Coswell, who was recently named Colorado's 2000 Teacher of the Year.

Craig's innovative teaching methods are what likely earned him this wonderful award. In Craig's class, the textbooks stay closed. Instead, for instance, he charges his students with finding out who fired the first shot of the Revolutionary War by passing out eyewitness testimony of some of the British and Colonial soldiers who fought the famous Battle of Lexington. Innovative approaches like this have made Craig a wonderful asset to his school and our community.

Additionally, Craig does not test the same way as other teachers; instead, he gives ''quests''. These are a combination of tests and quizzes that measure if students are getting the major points of the material, rather than quoting memorization.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Craig Coswell for his dedication to the education of our youth and congratulations on receiving the Colorado 2000 Teacher of the Year. His commitment to the future of this great nation is deeply commendable and highly admirable. We are all grateful for his passionate service.

IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S ''IRELAND'S 32'' MILLENNIUM HONOREE, MR. ROCCO COVIELLO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Rocco Coviello of Bayonne, NJ, on being named one of this year's ''Ireland's 32'' Millennium honorees.

Using his success as a businessman and a proprietor, Mr. Coviello is recognized as a community leader and activist. Perhaps his most prided project, Mr. Coviello has tirelessly promoted the ideals and goals of the Milestones Program, an organization that treats developmentally impaired children. This early intervention program is a full service program, which affords families a resource center, as well as in-home treatment for children suffering from disabilities.

Through Mr. Coviello's efforts, the Milestones Program recently financed a building of its own in Bayonne to house the facility, resource center, and treatment areas. In September 1999, the building was dedicated as Chandelier House, in honor of Mr. Coviello's work.

In addition to the Milestones Program, Mr. Coviello has spearheaded the Chandelier Charity Golf Committee and has raised funds for charities, such as the Scoliosis National Foundation, the D.A.R.E Program, the Bayonne Police Vest Fund, and the Hudson County Hospice.

Mr. Coviello is an active member of the Bayonne Chapter of the Unico Club, as well as the local Rotary Club. He also serves as a board member of the Bayonne Hospital Foundation and is a member of the Bayonne Parking Authority.

Born in Summit, Mr. Coviello attended Summit High School and Fairleigh Dickenson University at Madison. He now lives in Bayonne with his wife, Janet, and their two children, Raquel and Rocky.

For his unyielding commitment to the Bayonne community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rocco Coviello. His remarkable generosity on behalf of his community is truly inspiring.

LET'S STOP KILLING PATIENTS: THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE MAJOR SURGERIES TO BE DONE IN HIGH VOLUME FACILITIES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation for Medicare to encourage patients to use certain hospitals that provide better outcomes for sophisticated surgical operations—

i.e., fewer people die in surgery or in recovery. In exchange for saving lives, and giving certain hospitals higher volume of patients, the hospitals will give Medicare, the taxpayer, and the beneficiary some savings. It is truly a win-win proposal.

But some—mostly those who stand to lose business—oppose the idea. To be blunt, that puts them on the side of killing people in order to help their bottom line. It is, Mr. Speaker, a truly immoral position for so-called health care providers to take.

And don't take my word for it. Following is a memo from a physician on my staff that reviews some of the academic literature on the subject:

IS QUALITY OF CARE AFFECTED BY HOSPITAL AND PHYSICIAN VOLUMES?

It is a mark of the advancement of medicine that we have come to nearly take for granted the availability of highly specialized and technical diagnostic investigations, medical therapies, and surgical interventions. However, when we individually confront health problems we justifiably want to know that our physician or hospital has adequate experience to make an accurate diagnosis, to make the most informed decision about what should be done and to carry out sophisticated surgical procedures. The question is, do high volume centers really have superior outcomes?

Fortunately, a large body of medical literature exists on the relationship between hospital volume, physician volume and outcomes. Optimal results clearly require physicians with specialized expertise and well-trained staff. High volume centers are more likely to offer a wider range of therapeutic options that result in more targeted therapy. For example, the patient with angina due to narrowing of the coronary arteries may be treated with medication alone, angioplasty, a stenting procedure or a coronary bypass and each of these options would be the optimal decision under the right conditions. The cardiologist or cardiovascular surgeon who has extensive experience with all of these options is likely to make the bets therapeutic decision. Sophisticated surgical procedures demand highly-trained, close-working health teams drawing upon the expertise of many health professionals including anesthesiologists, nurses, rehabilitation therapists, respiratory therapists, and dietitians. Stable health care teams promote better collaboration, communication, and continuous quality improvement based upon experiential learning.

A massive study by Hughes and colleagues in 1987 analyzed 503,662 case records from 757 hospitals and demonstrated a statistically significant correlation between greater hospital volume and better patient outcome for 8 of 10 surgical procedures evaluated: coronary artery bypass graft, cardiac catheterization, appendectomy, hernia repair, hysterectomy intestinal operations, total hip replacement, and transurethral prostatectomy.

Twenty years ago (1979) in the New England Journal of Medicine, Luft and colleagues reported that mortality following open-heart surgery, vascular surgery, and transurethral resection of the prostate, is reduced in high volume hospitals, with hospitals in which 200 or more of these operations performed annually having death rates 25–41 percent lower than low volume hospitals. Two decades ago, the authors concluded that the data supports the value of regionalization for these operations.

Numerous studies have specifically focused upon volume/outcome relationships in both medical and surgical interventions for cardiac conditions: Jollis and colleagues (1994) evaluated 217,836 Medicare beneficiaries who underwent coronary angioplasty. Both in-hospital mortality and the rate of coronary bypass surgery following angioplasty were higher in low volume hospitals. These results indicated that if all study patients had received care in high volume hospitals, there would have been 381 fewer bypass operations and 300 fewer in-hospital deaths. These results were reproduced in papers by Cameron et al (1990) and Ellis et al (1997). Hannan and colleagues (1997) reported that both high hospital volume and high cardiologist volume were independently correlated with lower mortality following coronary angioplasty.

Showstack and colleagues (1987) analyzed the outcomes following 18,986 coronary bypass operations at 7 hospitals in California. They also found that higher volume hospitals had lower in-hospital mortality and concluded that the greatest improvement in average outcomes following bypass surgery would be achieved by closing low volume surgical units.

The significance of high physician volumes in determining outcome is highlighted by a series of papers examining patient outcomes following myocardial infarction: Jollis and colleagues (1996) examined mortality following MI for 220,535 Medicare patients and reported that patients treated by cardiologists were 12 percent less likely to die within one year than those treated by a primary care physician. Similarly, Casale and colleagues (1998) reported that following MI, treatment by a cardiologist resulted in a 17 percent reduction in hospital mortality. In addition, patients of all physicians who treated high volumes of patients with MI, had an 11 percent reduction in mortality. Nash and colleagues (1997) reported that not only mortality following MI was reduced by cardiologist's care, but also that these patients had a shorter length of hospital stay than those receiving care by primary care physicians. Both Thiemann et al and Chen et al in this year's *New England Journal of Medicine* also reported lower mortality following MI in higher volume hospitals or following admission to one of ''America's Best Hospitals'' for cardiology (as determined by U.S. News and World Report).

Children requiring surgical repair of congenital heart defects face a much lower risk of death when operated on in a hospital that performs more than 300 similar surgical procedures annually (Jinkins et al, 1995). Hannan and colleagues (1992) reported the identical relationship between hospital volume and mortality following abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery.

Cancer surgery frequently involves complex procedures which require special expertise. Accordingly, a number of studies have examined volume-outcome relationships following complex surgical oncologic procedures. Begg and colleagues (1998) analyzed the case reports of 5013 patients in the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER)-Medicare linked database including patients who underwent pancreatectomy, esophagectomy, pneumonectomy, liver resection or pelvic exenteration for cancers of the pancreas, esophagus, lung, colon, rectum and genitourinary tract. Higher hospital volume was associated with lower mortality for all surgical procedures except for pneumonectomy. The most striking results were for esophagectomy and for pancreatectomy where operative mortality rose from 3.4% to 17.3% and 5.8% to 12.9% respectively in low-volume vs. high-volume hospitals. The pancreatectomy results were reproduced this year by Simunovic et al. (1999).

It has been suggested that national referral centers be developed for pancreaticoduodenectomy, also known as the Whipple procedure. Hospital volume was found to strongly influence both perioperative risk and long-term survival following the Whipple procedure as reported by Birkmeyer and colleagues (1999). The relationship between hospital volume and outcome of hepatic resection for hepatocellular carcinoma were analyzed by Choti et al (1998) and Glasgow et al (1999). The mortality rate rose from 1.5% to 7.9% in procedures performed in high volume vs. low volume hospitals. Moreover, Glasgow reported that three quarters of patients with liver cancer were treated at low volume hospitals with a record of 3 or fewer hepatic resections per year.

The identical volume-outcome relationships have been reported for renal diseases. The Agency of Health Care Policy and Research recently sponsored a study regarding referrals and specialty care within the Medicare system. Avon (1999), reported that when patients with renal failure received late referral to a kidney specialist (nephrologist), their risk of death was 33% higher. Pediatric renal transplantation has also been scrutinized for volume-outcome relationships. Schurman and colleagues (1999) reported superior survival of the transplanted kidney in high volume centers performing more than 100 transplants annually.

Research supporting a strong relationship between high hospital/physician volumes and improved patient outcomes spans two decades and multiple medical specialties. Both medical and surgical care at institutions with lower levels of experience clearly increases the risk of poorer outcomes including death, in a diverse range of medical conditions. A review of the literature demonstrates that there is strong evidence to support the development and implementation of Centers of Excellence for a range of medical and surgical conditions.

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IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BOB GROSS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bob Gross, who passed away early last December at the age of 41. I am one of many who are saddened by this tremendous loss: South Florida has lost an outstanding community leader and activist.

Bob Gross is well known in Broward county as an energetic leader who was a strong presence at political club events and civic activities throughout South Florida. Demonstrating his large influence on politics in the State of Florida, Bob was president of the Young Democrats of Broward County. As President of the Broward Young Democrats (BYD), Bob's main responsibilities were membership recruitment, campaign training, candidate development, and event planning. In this vital position, he worked tirelessly to motivate the county party to become involved in many aspects of local, state, and national politics.

Bob was somewhat unique in the sense that he fully realized the importance of activism in society at large. Through his involvement in the BYD, he successfully promoted service to other young people. Because of Bob's hard work and dedication, the BYDs have formed an exemplary organization that fosters volunteerism and activities such as serving on local community boards, registering voters, and hosting social outreach events.

It is important to note that Bob Gross did not simply focus all of his attention on political matters. A resident of Hollywood, Florida, who attended Pinecrest High School, Bob worked as Program Planner for the Broward Employment and Training Administration (BETA). Indeed, his tremendous leadership undoubtedly benefitted BETA, as Bob held numerous important posts in the organization through the years such as Executive Vice President, Vice President for Political Affairs, and Treasurer.

Most importantly, however, Bob Gross was a devoted husband to his wife, Cindy Sherr. An attorney and the statewide president of the Young Democrats, I am confident that Cindy will carry on Bob's ongoing work in promoting service and activism within the South Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, while Bob Gross' passing is a tremendous loss for Broward County, I can say without hesitation that his memory will live on through the work of the many organizations to which he dedicated his life. There can be no doubt that we will all dearly miss Bob, but I would like to thank and praise him for his hard work and leadership in improving the community around him.

LEONARD HORN FEDERAL RANGE LIVESTOCKMAN OF THE YEAR, THE IRBY FAMILY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Leonard Horn Federal Range Livestockman of the Year Award winner, the Irby family of Gunnison, Colorado.

This award is presented by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and recognizes individuals who graze livestock on Federal land and practice exceptional range, soil, water and wildlife management. James Dawson, District Ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, commended the Irby's for their cooperation in maintaining and improving range areas.

The Irby family includes: Bob and Irene Irby, Stan and Bonnie Irby, and Dale and Wendy Irby.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to extend my congratulations to the Irby family and thank them for their hard work.

IN HONOR OF MARTHA AND ANDRES SANDOVAL ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martha Tafoya Sandoval and Andres Lopez Sandoval on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. This remarkable milestone is truly a reflection of the devotion these extraordinary individuals share for one another.

On December 16, 1949, Martha and Andres married and began their life together. Through the years, the Sandoval's have used the love they have for each other to reach out to those in need. Together, they have been active civic leaders and successful business people, dedicating their time and resources to the League of United Latin American Citizens and the St. Joseph's Church in Bakersfield, California. However, their greatest accomplishment has been their incredible family.

This loving couple has been a wonderful example for their four children: Andrew, Rosalie, Alexander, and Vicki Ann; their children's spouses, Judy, Arnie, and Louisa; their nine grandchildren, Valerie, Kristian, Lisa, Andrea, Ernest, Evette, Alicia, Vanessa, and Joel; and their six great-grandchildren, Autumn, Eric, Marissa, Jessica, John, and Samuel. The dedication, patience, and wisdom they have demonstrated every day has provided a firm foundation on which all family members have developed and flourished.

For their unyielding strength and unparalleled inspiration, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Sandoval on five decades of love, commitment, and perservance. You both are truly wonderful role models for all of us. I wish you continued health and happiness.

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB, YOU SURE WE CAN'T LOWER DRUG PRICES WITHOUT HURTING R&D?

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the pharmaceutical industry constantly tells us they need every dollar for R&D, so they can invent wonderful new drugs, and that Congress must not do anything to question how they price drugs.

A doctor sent me the following invitation he got from Bristol-Myers Squibb. As the doctor wrote:

> Since the enclosed invitation to a dinner plus $100 certificate continues to be commonplace, it makes me wonder how many go without needed medications that could be funded with these solicitations. I'm not sure whether it's the pharmaceutical executives or the physicians who are doing the soliciting . . . just like on the street.

Bristol-Myers Squibb: why not put the money you spend in these solicitations into R&D—or lower drug prices?

The U.S. pharmaceutical industry spends far more on marketing and overhead than it spends on R&D—despite what Flo and her front group friends say. This letter is just one small example of how the industry could, indeed, save money for R&D and/or lower prices.

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

You are cordially invited to Participate in a dinner discussion on ''Treatment Modalities Throughout the Lifecycle of the Type 2 Diabetic Patient: A Focus on Monotherapy Approaches,'' on, Monday, November 29, 1999, Mr. Stox restaurant, 1105 East Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92805, at 6:30 p.m.

The program will last approximately one hour and a half. Each attendee will receive a certificate worth up to $100 towards the purchase of medically relevant items. Reservations are taken on a first come first serve basis.

To make a reservation, please call 1–800–366–9034.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BILL HORVITZ

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of William ''Bill'' Horvitz, who passed away early last December at the age of 73. It is with a tremendous feeling of sadness that I speak in his honor: the South Florida community has lost an outstanding philanthropist who may never be replaced.

There can be no doubt that Bill's personal history is an extraordinary one. One of three sons of Cleveland real estate businessman Samuel A. Horvitz, Bill Horvitz and his brothers continued his father's real estate ventures after his passing. Moving to the Fort Lauderdale area in 1953 to take over his father's real estate interests in the Hollywood, Florida, he became the proprietor of countless acres within Broward County. Indeed, Bill's stewardship of this property was instrumental in Broward's transition from a quaint bedroom community to a bustling economic powerhouse.

Developing much of his Broward County real estate, Bill established such properties as Hollywood Hills, Emerald Hills, Hollywood Mall, the Venture Corporate Center, South Florida Industrial Park, and various other communities, both residential and commercial. In 1985, Bill also sold more than 1,200 acres of land to the state and county—this valuable tract of land later became West Lake Park and North Beach Park.

Bill is perhaps best known for his commitment to the South Florida community. Throughout his lifetime, Bill was a tremendous supporter of charitable causes. He was involved with a myriad of organizations throughout his life in South Florida: these organizations included the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, the East Seals Society, the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, the Boys and Girls Club of Broward, the Salvation Army, and the Jewish Federation of Broward County.

It is well documented that he contributed regularly to his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated from the Wharton School in 1947. Additionally, he made an effort to lend his financial support to various organizations struggling to survive economically. For example, in 1992, Bill was instrumental in helping the Greater Hollywood YMCA to survive by renegotiating its $1.6 million debt. Such efforts led to much recognition for Bill and his wife. Even as late as December 2, 1999, Bill was honored with the President's Community Award from Nova Southeastern University, a school where the administration building bears his name.

Mr. Speaker, while William Horvitz passing is a tremendous loss for the South Florida community, I can say without hesitation that his memory will live on through the work of the many organizations to which he dedicated his life. Though we will all miss Bill's presence, I would like to thank and praise him for his hard work and leadership in improving the world at large.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR, DON BROWN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Don Brown. He is a man that has shown his loyalty and bravery to this great country. Mr. Brown served in the Armed Forces during World War II and was aboard the U.S.S. *West Virginia* when Pearl Harbor was attacked on that fateful day in December of 1941.

Mr. Brown was in the first division compartment when the first torpedoes and bombs hit the battleship. He tried to move onto the deck, but was prohibited because of the attack. Don was injured and transported to the U.S.S. *Solacc* for recovery.

Don's family, however did not know that he was transported for recovery. Don's parents knew the ship had sunk, and that they had not heard from their son in 19 days. On December 26, however, they received the best late Christmas present they could have ever hoped for, the knowledge that Don was alive.

Years later, Don and his wife, Skie, moved back to Grand Junction after spending time in Las Vegas. Mr. Brown served as Mesa County planning director between 1963 and 1966.

Don is part of a generation that many think saved civilization as it is known today through their efforts in World War II—what some have called the greatest generation.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Don Brown for his display of loyalty to his country and bravery in the face of war to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy today. He is a great American that deserves our highest regard, thanks and praise.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ELEANOR TIEFENWERTH, ONE OF THIS YEAR'S RICHARD A. RUTKOWSKI ASSOCIATION HONOREES FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Eleanor Tiefenwerth of Bayonne, New Jersey. The Richard A. Rutkowski Association has selected Mrs. Tiefenwerth as one of this year's honorees, acknowledging her accomplishments and her dedication in making Bayonne a better community.

Since its 1965 inception, Mrs. Tiefenwerth has been an instrumental leader of the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation [BEOF]. Accepting the role of executive director in 1981, Mrs. Tiefenwerth has remained the driving force behind and the embodiment of the BEOF's logo, ''People Helping People.''

During her administration, Mrs. Tiefenwerth spearheaded vital programs, including a crosstown transportation service for seniors and disabled individuals and a variety of food service programs. Mrs. Tiefenwerth also implemented Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for those individuals spending the holidays alone.

In addition to her work with the BEOF, Mrs. Tiefenwerth served as a commissioner of the Bayonne Housing Authority and is a member of the Community Education Advisory Council. Presently, she is serving on one of the cities redevelopment committees and has joined the Census Committee in an effort to ensure the fair and unencumbered counting of the 2000 Census.

The recipient of many honors, Mrs. Tiefenwerth's unyielding commitment to community service has not gone unrecognized. The honors include: the Hudson County Golden Recognition Award; the Senior Citizen Today Award; the Jersey Journal Woman of Achievement; the Hudson County Director of Human Services Distinguished and Caring Service Award; the Hudson County Girl Scout Community Service Award; and the Boy Scout Endowment Committee Medallion for Volunteer Work.

Mrs. Tiefenwerth, wife of the late Mr. William Tiefenwerth, both Bayonne natives, attended the Horace Mann School, Bayonne High School, and Jersey City State. She is a registered certified social worker and a HUD certified housing counselor.

For her continued efforts on behalf of the Bayonne community and the State of New Jersey, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Eleanor Tiefenwerth. Her far-reaching accomplishments in the area of community service have undoubtedly made the city of Bayonne a better community in which to live.

SCHOOL-TO-WORK PARTNERSHIP WITH JOBLINK

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today and submit for the RECORD the initiative that my own Cabarrus County in North Carolina has taken to promote the School-to-Work partnership with JobLink.

I am thrilled that the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce has developed these innovative strategies to better our community. The benefits that our neighbors, friends, and families will gain from the Workforce Development Week 2000 will be life long.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2000

Whereas, Workforce Development issues impact every facet of our community and are at the forefront of American Society in the new millennium; and

Whereas, the School-to-Work Partnership of Cabarrus County and the Cabarrus County Job Link Center work together, with and through a medley of agencies to provide opportunities for the future and present workforce; and

Whereas, the School-to-Work initiative is a partnership between Cabarrus County Schools, Kannapolis City Schools and the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, the Workforce Development Steering Committee of the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce promotes dialogue between the Chamber and top administrators from the school systems and colleges, as well as implements community wide workforce development initiatives; and

Whereas, businesses, jobseekers, and others will be supported by employment and training services, information in a customer friendly manner, and staff who are caring professionals from various assisting agencies, and

Whereas, on January 29, 2000 the Cabarrus Career Fair 2000 will be held at the Carolina Mall in Concord from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, and will provide students and citizens of all ages positive interactions with over 50 different careers in the Cabarrus Region; and

Whereas, on February 2, 2000 the Cabarrus Region will team with the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day initiative to place students during the month of February with a mentor in the ''World of Work''; therefore, students are able to experience the importance of academics, communication skills and teamwork; and

Whereas, on February 3, 2000, the Cabarrus County JobLink Center, which was presented a charter on October 19, 1999 from the Centralina Workforce Development Board, will host an Open House Celebration from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 2275 Kannapolis Highway, Concord; and

Whereas, the School-to-Work Partnership and the JobLink Center will provide Cabarrus County with training, information and services vital to a competitive workforce that will be successful in a global economy.

Now therefore, be it resolved, That the Week beginning Saturday January 29, 2000 to Friday February 4, 2000 is hereby proclaimed as ''Workforce Development Week 2000'' in the Cabarrus Region, and urge our citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the School-to-Work Partnership and JobLink Systems in our community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ENDRE A. BALAZS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great scientist and entrepreneur on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Dr. Endre A. Balazs, who now lives in Fort Lee, NJ, was born in Hungary on January 10, 1920. He received his medical degree from the University of Budapest in 1943. During his studies in medical school D. Balazs began his life-long research into the medical uses of hyaluronan (HA)—a key molecular building block of the intercellular substances of the body.

As the world's foremost authority in the use of HA, Dr. Balazs started work on its medical application in the 1960's. His work on HA eventually led to the discovery of new therapeutic treatments that have made certain medical procedures safer and have accelerated post-operative healing periods. More recently, Dr. Balazs has introduced new methods to treat arthritis, an ailment that afflicts millions of Americans.

Soon after completing his studies at the University of Budapest in Hungary, Dr. Balazs traveled to Stockholm, Sweden, where he continued his research on the structure and biological function of sulfated polysaccharides and HA at the Karolinska Institute—the medical school of Stockholm. In 1951 he emigrated to the United States where he accepted a position in the Department of Ophthalmology at Harvard University.

In 1970 Dr. Balazs cofounded the Boston Biomedical Research Institute and became its first executive director. In 1975 he became the Malcolm P. Aldrich Research Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia University in New York. He is the founder and for 25 years has served as editor in chief of Experimental Eye Research, the first international eye research journal ever published. He also is a founder and former president of the International Society for Eye Research.

In 1981 Dr. Balazs and his wife, Janet Denlinger, started Biomatrix, Inc., a firm involved in the development of hfyaluronan derivatives for medical applications and skin care. Today, Biomatrix is a publicly owned company that is based in Ridgefield, NJ.

Over the years, as both an educator and a businessman, Dr. Balazs has supported the research endeavors of many young scientists and physicians. In recognition of his efforts, the international ophthalmic research community has established the Endre A. Balazs Prize, an international award for outstanding research efforts by scientists.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Dr. Endre A. Balazs is my constituent. I wish him and his family the very best as he continues to bring to his work the energy, devotion, and innovation that has made him such a successful individual.

HONORING BILL A. (B.A.) JONES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that we all pause for a moment to remember a man we have lost. B.A. Jones was a man that many knew and loved. Mr. Jones passed away in Carrollton on November 6, 1999.

B.A. Jones was born on April 9, 1913, the second of ten children born to H.J. and Dixie Campbell-Jones. B.A. spent his school years in Monte Vista. During World War II, the Government called upon him to travel the country recruiting, supervising and building numerous war-related projects. After the war, B.A. began construction work and subsequently formed his own remodeling and construction firm. In the late 1960's, B.A. began the family owned and operated Paradise Swimming Pool Corporation, using his self-taught architectural abilities to design and create many pools that are still operational to this day.

Mr. Jones is survived by his loved wife of 60 years, (Annie) Frances Cone Jones and their three children.

B.A. Jones is someone who will be missed by all of us. Those who knew him will miss spending time with him. He was truly a great American.

IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S ''IRELAND'S 32'' MILLENNIUM HONOREE, MRS. DOROTHY HARRINGTON

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Dorothy Harrington of Bayonne, NJ, on being named one of this year's ''Ireland 32'' Millennium honorees.

Mrs. Harrington has had an exceptional career in the public arena. A longtime advocate for the education system in Bayonne, Mrs. Harrington was appointed to the Bayonne Board of Education from 1981 to 1986. Because of her vision and enthusiasm in this role, Mrs. Harrington became the first woman president of the Board.

Her success with the Board of Education and her desire to do more for the community led Mrs. Harrington to seek elected public office. In 1986, she was elected first ward council member and in 1990, she was elected council member-at-large. This election made Mrs. Harrington the first woman to be elected to the city council.

During her time with the council, Mrs. Harrington acted as liaison on the Kill Van Kull dredging project and was instrumental in the circulating of information regarding many transportation projects in the city. Most significantly, Mrs. Harrington led the efforts in Bayonne to improve cable television service, to obtain the local television channel for residents, and to create a modern production studio in Bayonne High School.

A dedicated volunteer, Mrs. Harrington served as president of the Hudson County

School Board Association, president of both St. Andrew's Parish and its Sports Organization, vice president and treasurer of the Evening Division of the Bayonne Women's Club, and member of the Holocaust Committee. Mrs. Harrington continues to be involved in a variety of local volunteer and service organizations and is the current chair of the Bayonne Municipal Utilities Authority.

Mrs. Harrington's accomplishments in public service have not gone unrecognized. Recently, she received the Mary T. Norton Congressional Award for her outstanding community service record.

A Bayonne native, Mrs. Harrington lives in Bayonne with her husband, Mr. Dan Harrington. The couple has four children and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Harrington's tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of Bayonne are truly remarkable. For her dedicated service and unparalleled volunteerism in the Bayonne community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Dorothy Harrington on receiving this honor.

HONORING SENATOR GWEN MARGOLIS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Senator Gwen Margolis from Aventura, FL, who will be honored on March 4, 2000, by her synagogue, Both Torah Adath Yeshurun and by the Northeast Dade community at-large.

Senator Margolis began her public service career in the Florida Legislature when elected to the House in 1974. She was subsequently re-elected to the House for three consecutive terms. Her career in the Florida Senate began in 1980 where she was appointed Chair of the Finance, Tax and Claims Committee and subsequently the Appropriations Committee where she assisted in leading the state out of recessions and budgetary crises.

On November 20, 1990, she was sworn in as President of the Florida State Senate, making her the first woman in the United States to serve as President of any Senate. She spearheaded the passage of landmark legislation touted as the toughest ethics legislation in the nation, as well as a constitutional amendment that opened all government records and meetings to the public.

She currently serves as Chairperson of the Miami-Dade County Commission, appointed by Mayor Alexander Penelas, and is the first woman to serve in this position. Senator Margolis also serves on the Board of Directors of the Holocaust Documentation Center at Florida International University. Her name appears in Who's Who of Women in the World, Who's Who in Business and Industry, and Megatrend for Women. In addition to her outstanding career in public service, which she devotes a full time schedule, Senator Margolis was also a successful Real Estate Developer and Business Executive in her private, professional business career.

She has received numerous awards for her leadership and dedication to the community in which she serves. She was named ''Woman of the Year'' by the North Dade Regional Chamber and Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce. She has also received the Florida Chamber of Commerce ''Legislator of the Year'' award, and the Dade League of Cities ''Good Government'' award to name a few.

Although Senator Margolis and I were once opposing candidates, I am glad to call her my friend and colleague, and am equally delighted to share in this celebration in her honor.

COLUMBINE FOOTBALL CONGRATULATIONS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, seldom in America do we see a more joyous display of hope and heart than we saw on December 5, 1999 by the Columbine High School Football team as they played for their first state football championship. Less than a year after the community of Littleton, Colorado was thrust into the national spotlight by a tragedy unimaginable to any American, this suburban town was united behind a group of young men who battled football history, and the vivid memories of fallen teammates and classmates.

The headline in the local paper read, ''This time, the tears of Columbine are tears of joy,'' (The Denver Rocky Mountain News, December 5, 1999) and how special those tears are for the parents, teachers, and students of this courageous high school.

The football team nobly dedicated their season to a fallen comrade, Matt Ketcher, who lost his life last April. Matt's younger brother, Adam, stood on the sideline as a sign of inspiration, wearing a Columbine letterman's jacket that was presented to him by the team, as they played for the state's top football prize.

What a way to end a special season.

Columbine won the game that Saturday by a score of 21–14, giving the school the state football championship, but more importantly, the team helped heal the souls of the school community.

I would like to congratulate the entire football team and their coaching staff for a season that meant more than they could ever have imagined. I hope that the entire nation can use them as motivation as we all do our part to ensure the healing of America continues.

HONORING NANCY HOFFMASTER, POWER OF ONE HONOREE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to now honor Nancy Hoffmaster who has been awarded the Colorado Woman 2000 Power of One Honor in recognition of her service to her community and the State of Colorado. Nancy is a true heroine in her community and she deserves our highest thanks and praise.

Nancy, who is currently battling breast cancer, has been volunteering in the Jefferson County Public School District for twenty-five years. She is the past president of the Jefferson County School's Parent Teacher Association and has served on the Jefferson Foundation.

Nancy founded the program ''Serving Kids from the Inside Out.'' The program provides clothing for needy children in the district. She also coordinates the Jefferson County School's ''Support for Homeless and At Risk People'' (S.H.A.R.P.) program.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to honor Nancy Hoffmaster and thank her for all the outstanding efforts she has put into making her community a better place to live. She is a most deserving recipient of the Power of One Honor.

IN HONOR OF THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN SHELBY SPONG, D.D., BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRIST HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Right Reverend John Shelby Spong, D.D., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, NJ, on his retirement as chairman of the Christ Hospital Board of Trustees.

Born in Charlotte, NC, Bishop Spong began his religious and spiritual education in North Carolina and Virginia. After years of devoted study, he was consecrated as Bishop in 1976.

A noted author and scholar, as well as being hailed the most published member of the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church in the United States, Bishop Spong fought for the integrity of Christ Hospital for more than 22 years. Under his direction, the hospital has grown and matured into the remarkable institution it is today.

In addition to his remarkable work for the hospital, Bishop Spong has served as president of the New Jersey Council of Churches and as theological consultant on a variety of diocesan committees and commissions. For all of his efforts, Bishop Spong was named ''1999 Humanist of the Year.''

Bishop Spong, married to Christine Spong, is the father of three and the grandfather of four.

For more than two decades of dedicated service to Christ Hospital and more than three decades of religious guidance, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Bishop Spong a happy and healthy retirement. His remarkable leadership and inspiring work ethic will be missed.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J. BRESNAN

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Mr. Bill Bresnan, who has been, over the past 40 years, a primary leader in the growth of the cable television industry, not only in my home town of

Bay City, MI, but throughout the Midwest, including Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Illinois. Under his leadership, Bresnan Communications has also become known for its many educational programs, its emphasis on minority advancement, and for community relations initiatives that recognize the civic contributions of local citizens and seniors.

A native of Mankato, MN, Bill Bresnan began his career in 1958 when, at the age of 25, he designed and built his first cable system in Rochester, MN, for a group of local investors. That company was acquired by Jack Kent Cooke, Inc. in 1965, and Bill was appointed its vice president of engineering. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed to serve as its executive vice president.

From 1972 to 1982, Bill held various influential positions in the Teleprompter Corporation, which was then one of the largest cable organizations in the United States. These include president of Teleprompter's Cable Division, Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. In 1981, when Teleprompter was bought by Westinghouse Electric Corp., he was appointed chairman and chief executive officer of the resulting new company, Group W Cable, Inc.

During this time, Bill played a major role in helping advance cutting-edge technology in the burgeoning cable industry. He was instrumental in sending the first domestic satellite transmission using a Canadian ANIK satellite in 1973. Three years later he helped initiate the first commercial communications system in the United States to use optical fibers.

In 1984, Bill founded Bresnan Communications, which currently serves over 660,000 customers. The company's Midwestern market is not accidental, and is a good example of Bill's civic-minded business philosophy. Bill has made it a priority to invest in the small and medium sized communities in America's heartland, to make sure that cutting-edge technology does not bypass these hard-working Americans, in favor of large communities on the west or east coasts of the United States.

Bill has also made it a priority to invest in America's young adults. He was an early pioneer in the development and construction of interactive television networks for distant learning. Working with local school districts and colleges, Bill was a key motivator in connecting educational facilities via fiber and coaxial cable, enabling many schools to conduct fully interactive classes simultaneously across great distances.

The admiration and respect of Bresnan employees for their president is legendary within the industry. Bill is known as an extraordinarily generous person and a boss who sees all of his 1,400 employees as his equal. He allocates a significant percent of revenue to establishing and promoting community relations initiatives that recognize local senior citizens and minorities. Indeed, his commitment to advancing the interests of minorities—in their recruitment, placement and training—was recognized in September 1999 by the Walter Kaitz Foundation. Bill received the ''Partnership in Diversity'' award, one of the industry's highest honors.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there are not many businessmen today who are as committed to the technological advancements of the future as Mr. Bill Bresnan. There are not many who feel the necessity of bringing advancements to those who might not otherwise have access to them: Americans on the family farm in Michigan, or minorities, or school children in the Midwest. Bill Bresnan has many plans for the future, and I wish him much success in all his endeavors. I am positive, Mr. Speaker, that we in Michigan will be the grateful beneficiaries.

IN SUPPORT OF BROADENING THE TYPES OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE IN ALIEN SMUGGLING CASES

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my bill addresses the pernicious practice of alien smuggling. Alien smugglers are a huge problem in South Florida, especially those who bring passengers from Haiti and Cuba to South Florida, frequently in unsafe boats and under very dangerous conditions.

For example, in March of last year, an alien smuggler's boat sank off the coast of West Palm Beach, Florida and, depending upon whether the Coast Guard or press reports of this horrendous tragedy are to be believed, anywhere from 15 to 40 Haitian passengers drowned.

These heartless and inhumane alien smugglers are parasites who are making huge sums of money off of the suffering of Haitians and Cubans who seek any means, legal or otherwise, to come to the United States. We must provide law enforcement with all available remedies to assure that the smugglers cannot continue to exploit vulnerable communities such as the Haitians and the Cubans. Unfortunately, the existing civil asset forfeiture provisions for alien smuggling are far more limited than those available to address drug offenses.

Current law authorizes the forfeiture of vehicles, vessels and aircraft used to commit alien smuggling offenses. This has proven to be an essential law enforcement tool that the INS uses more than 12,000 times a year. But the law has some glaring loopholes. We know that other types of property besides vessels, vehicles and aircraft are also used to facilitate alien smuggling offenses, but these other types of property currently are not subject to civil asset forfeiture.

For example, alien smugglers use electronic gear to monitor law enforcement activity directed against alien smuggling. The smugglers also own warehouses where vehicles, vessels, and even human beings are stashed to avoid detection by the Coast Guard or the Border Patrol. Yet these other types of property currently are not subject to civil asset forfeiture.

Current law also does not permit the forfeiture of the proceeds of an alien smuggling offense. If a smuggler is paid $100,000 to bring people into the United States in his fishing boat, law enforcement should not be limited to taking the boat while letting the smuggler keep the $100,000. The smuggler should be required to surrender the cash as well.

My bill corrects these deficiencies by expanding the scope of permissible civil asset forfeiture in alien smuggling cases to make it consistent with the standards used in drug cases. My bill provides that any property that constitutes, is derived from, or is traceable to the proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from alien smuggling, or is used to facilitate, or is intended to be used to facilitate alien smuggling, is subject to civil asset forfeiture.

Mr. Chairman, I don't fault those who would take extraordinary steps to try to come to the United States. Their efforts are totally understandable, even though unacceptable. I fault those who bring them to the United States outside of the law—the alien smugglers. Alien smugglers are a menace to society. As in drug cases, we should give law enforcement the full range of asset forfeiture remedies to deal with the serious problem of alien smuggling.

In civil asset forfeiture proceedings, law enforcement should have the ability to reach any property owned by the smugglers that is used to facilitate alien smuggling or that derives from or is traceable to such smuggling. There is no logical reason to limit the types of property subject to forfeiture in alien smuggling cases to vehicles, vessels and aircraft.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense bill.

TRIBUTE TO FRED KORZON OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Fred Korzon, supervisor of Bloomfield Township, Michigan, who resigned his post on December 20, 1999, after serving his community since 1967. Mr. Korzon has been an outstanding municipal leader and is a shining example of all that is right and good in public service. This man of honor and integrity has served on many State, county and local municipal boards and committees including but not limited to: chairperson of Southeast Michigan Council for Governments, Oakland County Parks and Recreation commissioner, and chairperson of Oakland County Association of Supervisors.

Fred Korzon's public service actually began on December 10, 1942, when he enlisted in the military. After leaving active duty he served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve until 1950. After leaving the military, he built his own home in Bloomfield Township, MI, and has remained a resident of the community since that time.

After graduating from the University of Michigan with a masters degree in history in 1966, Mr. Korzon taught at Pontiac Central High School and Lahser High School in Oakland County. He was first appointed to the Bloomfield Township Zoning Board of Appeals in 1967 and served for 1 year before being appointed to the board of trustees. He was appointed to the full-time treasurer's position in 1969 and ran successfully on the ballot until his appointment as township supervisor in 1982.

The residents of Bloomfield Township have been fortunate to have the services of Fred Korzon as our supervisor for 18 years. He has been rock solid for the residents and a faithful servant for our area. He and his outstanding team of public servants have helped make this

community one of the finest places to live anywhere in America. He has been a great friend of mine and I wish him all the best.

HONORING KATY TARTAKOFF, POWER OF ONE HONOREE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to now honor Katy Tartakoff who has been awarded the Colorado Woman 2000 Power of One Honor in recognition of her service to her community and the State of Colorado. Katy is a true heroine in her community and she deserves our highest thanks and praise.

Katy published a journal in 1991 called ''My Stupid Illness.'' The journal showed photographs of children suffering from cancer along with stories addressing how the children were dealing with the illness. She has since expanded her work to photograph and document children with other life-threatening illnesses. She presents these exhibits to schools to use as a tool to teach kids how to accept, understand and live with differences.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to both congratulate and thank Katy for all of her efforts to make her community a better place to live. I applaud Katy's efforts to educate children about diversity. She is a most deserving recipient of the Power of One Honor.

IN HONOR OF MR. GERALD NOWICKI, ONE OF THIS YEAR'S RICHARD A. RUTKOWSKI ASSOCIATION HONOREES FOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gerald Nowicki of Bayonne, NJ. Acknowledging the accomplishments of those rare individuals dedicated to making Bayonne a better community, the Richard A. Rutkowski Association has selected Mr. Nowicki as one of this year's honorees.

Joining the Bayonne Historical Society in 1991, Mr. Nowicki has been instrumental in working to preserve and foster the historical and artistic beauty of Bayonne. Knowing the importance of maintaining outdoor sculptures to prevent corrosion, Mr. Nowicki coordinated a Tender Loving Care workshop to teach volunteers the proper guidelines for outdoor sculpture upkeep at the public buildings in Bayonne.

In addition to maintenance, Mr. Nowicki emphasized the necessity of restoration efforts for public artwork in the community. By cochairing the ''Save the Hiker'' project, an effort to restore the Spanish-American War Monument in Stephen Gregg Bayonne Park, and chairing the restoration project for the Civil War Monument in the same park, Mr. Nowicki has helped bring arts awareness in Bayonne.

To continue his efforts for the arts, Mr. Nowicki spearheaded the fundraising campaign designed to bring both funds and attention to the arts field—two very significant components to achieving his goals. His campaign drives helped to restore oil paintings from the Brennan Fire Fighting Museum and the Bayonne Public Library, and restored the antique grandfather's clock, which stands in the lobby of the library.

Because of his vast experience in Bayonne history and culture, Mr. Nowicki served as editor and co-author of ''Bayonne Landmarks.'' The book served as an instrumental local history guide, winning the acclaim of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

Mr. Nowicki, born and raised in Bayonne, attended Assumption School Marist High School, and Jersey City State College.

For his continued efforts on behalf of the Bayonne community and the State of New Jersey, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Gerald Nowicki. His accomplishments in historical preservation and community service have undoubtedly made the city of Bayonne a better community in which to live.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, it was nearly 47 years ago, on January 26, 1953, that the World Customs Organization, formally known as the Customs Co-operation Council, held its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium. In recognition of this occasion, the Council observed January 26 as International Customs Day. This occasion also serves to recognize the role that customs services around the world play in facilitating trade while protecting national borders from economically and physically harmful importations.

I am proud of the contributions of the U.S. Customs Service to the Nation over the past 210 years. U.S. Customs responsibilities have increased with the growth of our great Nation—trade has increased exponentially and the threat of illegal importations, including illegal drugs is ever present. These are significant challenges that Customs faces on a daily basis, and Customs must continue its vigilance in facilitating trade while interdicting narcotics at our borders and preventing exportation of critical technology. I am pleased to say that Customs meets these challenges well, and I stand ready to continue my longstanding support of Customs in these efforts.

The U.S. Customs Service represents the United States at the World Customs Organization [WCO], a 150-member international organization founded to facilitate international trade and promote cooperation among governments on Customs matters. The WCO works to simplify and standardize legal instruments and rules of international customs. The WCO also renders technical assistance in areas such as customs tariffs, valuation, nomenclature, and law enforcement. Its objective is to obtain, in the interest of international trade, the best possible degree of uniformity among the customs systems of member nations. The United States became a member on November 5, 1970. All America benefits when both exporters and importers operate in an atmosphere of simple unambiguous customs operations around the world.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the World Customs Organization on its past accomplishments and wish it well in its ambitious new millennium goal of further harmonizing and simplifying the customs rules that affect international commerce. I also congratulate the U.S. Customs Service for its fine work both nationally and internationally.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM JEFFERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Jefferson of Linden Plaza, in commemoration of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Jefferson was born in Columbia, South Carolina on January 2, 1900. At the age of thirteen, after earning his education in Ridgeway, South Carolina, he moved to New Jersey, and through working several odd jobs acquired skills in electrical work, plumbing, and house painting. In 1925 he moved to New York where he worked in these various trades until he found a permanent position with the American Window Shade Company.

While at this company, he met and married Mabel Stevens, and through this union was blessed with five daughters. Mr. Jefferson, known to many as a ''Jack of all trades'', devoted his time to his family, neighbors and anyone in the need of assistance. His wife passed away in 1998.

Since his retirement in 1977, Mr. Jefferson has enjoyed spending time with and passing wisdom to his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He helped start and on occasion still works at the Neighborhood Garden. He still enjoys discussing candidates, and voting in every election. In his spare time, he continues to play his guitar and keyboard. Please join in celebrating the wonderful life of centenarian, William Jefferson.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. ALGIE

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James A. Algie, Chairman of the Board of the Goodwill Industries of Long Beach and South Bay. Jim Algie passed away last year, and he is dearly missed.

Jim Algie was committed to the progress and success of the Goodwill Industries. Jim was dedicated to helping others and proudly followed Goodwill's mission to serve the communities of Southern Los Angeles County by educating, training, and placing people with barriers to employment to help them achieve economic and personal independence.

Jim was tireless in his efforts to better Goodwill Industries and he has left a lasting impact. He even helped change the accounting and financial reporting systems making the

organization more efficient and cost productive.

People will remember Jim for his generosity and his great sense of humor, and for always being there for his friends and co-workers. Jim Algie touched the lives of many, and although he is missed, his legacy lives on. The Goodwill Industries is a better organization because of Jim Algie.

HONORING BECKY NEGRETTE, POWER OF ONE HONOREE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to now honor Becky Negrette who has been awarded the Colorado Woman 2000 Power of One Honor in recognition of her service to her community and the State of Colorado. Becky is a true heroine in her community and she deserves our highest thanks and praise.

Becky is a Denver native who knows what it means for people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Becky grew up with five brothers and one sister. Her father, even though he worked every hard, barely made enough to support the large family. They could not afford a car, a television, or any of the luxuries that most of us take for granted. Becky's family was rich, however, with love and devotion that she still carries with her today.

Becky graduated from college and she now runs the bi-lingual reading program at Baker Middle School. She is a living example to her students, teaching them that life is what you make of it.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to both congratulate and thank Becky Negrette for all of her work and determination to be an inspiration to young people. She is a most deserving recipient of the Power of One Honor.

CLINTON'S SEATTLE STRADDLE

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, for those who might have missed it, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a piece by Robert B. Zoellick from the December 14, 1999, issue of the Washington Post.

Mr. Zoellick brings a unique, knowledgeable perspective to the discussion of the recent World Trade Organization fiasco in Seattle. He served in various positions in the Bush administration, including a stint as Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, where he was actively involved in developing the nation's NAFTA strategy. Recently, Mr. Zoellick was President and CEO of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

I commend Mr. Zoellick's thought-provoking article to my colleagues' attention.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 14, 1999]

CLINTON'S SEATTLE STRADDLE

(By Robert B. Zoellick)

Unlike The Post and others who are grappling with the deeper meaning of the Seattle protests and the World Trade Organization debacle, I think both the message and the results are straightforward: President Clinton, trying again to be all things to all people, is responsible for a failure that has paralyzed further free trade negotiations, whether globally or regionally.

Clinton wanted us to ''listen'' to the demonstrators. I did. It turns out that the protesters' arguments were contradictory: They wanted both to blow up the WTO and to have the WTO establish a host of global rules to dictate social, economic, political and environmental conditions around the world. They have managed, astonishingly, to combine the aims of unilateralists—who believe the United States can order everyone else in the world to do what we want—with those of globalists—who believe national governments are illegitimate and must be superseded by ''wise'' nongovernmental organizations.

Nevertheless, while the protesters' arguments were seriously flawed, their logic of action was clear: If they could overburden the process of negotiating more freedom for trade, the negotiations would break down. Then special interests would be successful in maintaining existing barriers and protections. Inefficient producers can now continue to avoid nasty competition and keep costs higher for consumers and other businesses.

The Post has suggested that ''the truth [about Seattle] is more complicated'' than critics contend. Apparently, it is not enough that President Clinton has been responsible for the confusion and backsliding in America's trade policy despite these times of extraordinary prosperity. It is not enough that Clinton is the first president in 50 years to fail to ensure that America leads the world trading system toward the liberalization that has created unprecedented world growth, openness, creativity and opportunity. No, according to The Post, Clinton was ''right in principle . . . but probably wrong on the tactics.''

Since the WTO is supposed to be about trade, it might be useful for The Post to recall what trade is about: Trade enables Americans to buy goods and services from other countries; trade liberalization seeks to remove the taxes and other barriers to this freedom of exchange. By expanding the freedom to buy and sell, trade lowers costs, expands opportunities and creates better-paid work—all adding to prosperity. Prosperity, especially for developing countries, is the key to better conditions for workers and to more resources for, and interest in, a clean environment.

Do fortunate Americans really think that parents in poorer countries prefer to have their children work instead of stay in school? Do they really think poor foreigners want to live in polluted cities? Or might these Americans recognize that the rules that wealthy nations want to impose on poorer nations will be ignored until poor countries have the means to improve their livelihoods?

The WTO is not a global government with the power to order new environmental or labor laws—or, for that matter, better tax regimes, pension plans, health programs, civilian control of militaries or a host of other meritorious outcomes. The WTO is a forum where governments can negotiate to reduce barriers to trade and agree to rules to try to resolve disputes. We cannot make the WTO into the organization that will deal with all the problems that elected, national governments struggle with every day.

Let's be honest: Once again, Clinton straddled and stumbled, and others have gotten hurt. Clinton likes to talk about free trade, because he knows open markets and competition contribute to prosperity. But Clinton also wants everyone to like him, especially if the people are his political constituencies. So he chose to host a major international negotiating meeting on trade without laying the political groundwork globally and without developing a negotiating strategy.

In a negotiation where the United States needed to work with developing countries to open markets for farmers, Clinton scared off the developing world to placate domestic interests. He even sabotaged his own negotiating team by proposing new trade sanctions at a meeting that was supposed to reduce barriers, not add to them. When asked why, according to The Post, a White House aide said, ''He was just talking off the top of his head.''

The Post, seeking to be broad-minded, finds the truth to be ''complicated.'' I think the truth is simple: After following through in 1993–94 on a free trade agenda left by his predecessor—an agenda he could not abandon without looking isolationist—Clinton, through his intellectual waffling and lack of commitment, severely set back the cause of free trade.

HONORING DR. PERRY LINDSAY, SR. AND MRS. MARY ELAYNE LINDSAY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR BIRTHDAYS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Perry Lindsay, Sr., Pastor of The Glorious Church of God in Christ, as he celebrates his 80th birthday; and Ms. Mary Elayne Lindsay, as she celebrates her 70th birthday. The church, located on Halsey Street, has a great heritage and a tradition of strong family ties.

The members of his church are thankful that Dr. Lindsay survived a serious car accident on September 1, 1999, in Maryland, while driving to the 79th General Assembly of The Glorious Church of God in Christ, being held in Roanoke, Virginia. In this accident, he suffered a mild heart attack, a slight concussion, and several other minor injuries; but is once again able to drive.

In addition to his many achievements, Pastor Lindsay is also known as the first successful, African American, owner of a construction company in the state of New York. Mrs. Lindsay is equally well known for her generous spirit and her contributions toward the development of The Glorious Church of God in Christ. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Mary Elayne Lindsay and Dr. Perry Lindsay as they celebrate their birthdays this month.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF DIANE HEMINWAY: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding environmental crusader in my district: Diane

Heminway, former Western New York coordinator of the Citizens' Environmental Coalition [CEC]. I commend Diane on her decade of effective, energetic leadership as a community environmental activist on behalf of the people of Orleans County, NY.

In 1984, an accident at a local chemical plant adjacent to her children's school propelled Heminway from homemaker and mother to leader in the grassroots environmental movement in New York State. Overnight, she formed COPE, Citizens Organized to Protect the Environment, to fight toxic pollution and other environmental hazards in her community. In 1990, she broadened the scope of her work, taking the reins of the CEC in Western New York, fighting for clean drinking water, restoration of the Great Lakes, remediation of brownfields and Superfund sites, and greater corporate accountability.

Recently, Diane Heminway resigned her position with the CEC to embark on a new endeavor as a health and safety trainer for the United Steelworkers of America. Though she has left the CEC, Diane will continue to be a tireless advocate for eradicating exposure to toxic chemicals—this time on behalf of America's workers.

I include in the RECORD an article that appeared in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle on January 10, 1999, detailing Diane's many accomplishments. On behalf of the residents of Western New York, I extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Diane Heminway for her long and continuing commitment to making our community, State, and Nation a cleaner, healthier, and safer place for all of us.

ACTIVIST DEPARTS, BUT LEAVES LEGACY

EVEN HER FOES RESPECT ENVIRONMENTAL WORK OF ORLEANS WATCHDOG WHO TARGETED KODAK

(By Corydon Ireland)

With the new year comes a new look for area environmental advocates.

Diane Heminway, the Orleans County activist who for years was the chief critic of Eastman Kodak's environmental policies, has resigned her paid role to pursue an interest in workers' rights. For nearly a decade, Heminway was western New York coordinator of the Citizen's Environmental Coalition, a statewide group. The sudden absence of a figure many regard as the godmother of area activists will not leave a void in environmental causes, but it does leave a hole. ''I wish her well in any new endeavor,'' said Judy Braiman, who sought Heminway's help in 1987 when she organized Rochesterians Against the Misuse of Pesticides. ''But in reality, I want her to come back.''

As of December, Heminway became a full-time health and safety trainer for the United Steelworkers of America, which will require frequent national trips away from her Lyndonville, Orleans County, home. ''Workers are the most exposed group to toxic chemicals—and worker-exposure laws are truly inadequate,'' said Heminway. The one-time homemaker and 4-H leader was propelled into action by a 1984 chemical accident, which sent a toxic cloud over the school her children were attending. Noted Braiman: ''She started out like any activist. She was protecting her children.'' ''I was just this domestic kid who won the apple pie contest—who thought that was going to be the high point of her life,'' said Heminway.

Leaders in the grass-roots environmental movement, she said, often share the same profile. They're women, most often mothers, who have to overcome shyness and mild manners to confront polluting industries, wrestle with arcane regulations and challenge an indifferent public. Among her heroes, said Heminway, are ''the most frustrated people I know.'' They're the scientists and policymakers who regularly tipped her to abuses from within the state and federal agencies designed to protect human health and the environment. ''We all want to be moral people, we all want to do the right things,'' said Heminway. But those impulses are often submerged by the fear of losing a job, offending a friend or bucking the system, she said. While on the job as a paid coalition staffer—and for six years before that—Heminway studied issues and organized citizen protests over environmental hazards in dozens of counties. The hazards ranged from aging dumps in the industrial heart of Niagara Falls to a massive new glass plant in Geneva, Ontario County—which tightened its air standards after the protests.

Heminway's last official act was to co-author a 90-page coalition report on industry-related pollution in the Great Lakes. Even her antagonists note her parting.

''I found her to be a worthy ally, rather than an extremist to be shunned,'' said John Hicks, regional administrator of the state Department of Environment Conservation. His branch of the DEC, in Avon, Livingston County, was a frequent target of Heminway's criticism. ''She was a determined and passionate advocate for environmental improvement,'' said Kodak spokesman James E. Blamphin, who often locked horns with Heminway. ''Despite her impassioned rhetoric, I think Diane Heminway wants the same thing Kodak people want—a sustainable and healthy future for ourselves and our children.''

Heminway said going after Kodak was a David-and-Goliath story. The photo giant, she said, was not too big to hit, as many local activists feared. It was too big to miss. ''I insisted on calling her our fearless leader,'' said Helen ''Gilly'' Burlingham, who worked with Heminway on a three-year Kodak task force of local activists. Burlington, co-chairwoman of the Sierra Club Rochester Regional Group, is still active on the task force. ''Diane was the main person, the point person, the hardest worker.'' Indeed, among area activists, Heminway's departure prompts enough praise to fill a hymnal.

''New York state is a cleaner place because of Diane,'' said Judy Robinson, who now overseas the coalition's Buffalo-based office. She pointed to Heminway's work on issues as diverse as groundwater, incinerators, brownfields, corporate accountability and Superfund refinancing. ''Diane provided the environmental movement with leadership, unsurpassed dedication, intellect and grace,'' said William J. Appel, organizer of Metro Justice of Rochester. ''Her absence will be felt not only among her fellow activists, but in the halls of power as well.''

THE MAKING OF AN ACTIVIST

Like many grass-roots activists, Diane Heminway was transformed by an environmental incident.

1984: A toxic cloud from a Middleport, Orleans County, chemical factory contaminates a nearby school, making Heminway an activist overnight. Co-founds COPE, Citizens Organized to Protect the Environment.

1985: Joins the statewide Toxics in Your Community Coalition (now Citizens' Environmental Coalition).

1990: Becomes CEC's western New York coordinator.

1992: Begins part-time health and safety training for United Steelworkers of America.

1995: Opens CEC office, Medina, Orleans County.

1996: Starts a groundwater education program for elementary schools.

November 1999: Resigns.

TRIBUTE TO COL. JAMES G. HART, USMC

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Col. James G. Hart, who in his too-short life brought great honor to his country through distinguished service in the U.S. Marine Corps.

A native of Minnesota and Montana, Colonel Hart graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1964, and chose to join the Marines. After the basic school, he served three tours in Vietnam; as a rifle platoon commander with 1st Recon and later with 5th Recon. In February 1968, Colonel Hart entered flight school and graduated with distinction in March 1969. He was assigned to VMFA–314 at Chu Lai, Vietnam, where he flew the F–4B.

Colonel Hart's many tours in the corps included assignments as a flight instructor, an aide to the commanding general 1st MAW, a test pilot at China Lake, CA, and designation as a USMC space shuttle pilot. He also served as F/A–18 Hornet project officer at Headquarters Marine Corps, with MAG–11 at 3rd MAW, commanding officer of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 13, and commander of the Marine Aviation Detachment at Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD. For a time, I was honored to serve with Colonel Hart at Naval Air Station Miramar, CA. Colonel Hart retired from the Marine Corps in 1991 and began a very successful career in international business.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with Combat V, the Purple Heart, Single Air Mission Air Medal, Air Medal with numeral nine, Combat Action Ribbon, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

Born March 3, 1942, this great man and great American died May 23, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Martha Monagan-Hart, and sons Matt, Andy, and John.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States show that Colonel James G. Hart demonstrated throughout his life the greatest attributes of the United States of America, through honorable and distinguished service in the Marine Corps, in aviation, in private business, as a leader of men and women, and as a devoted husband and father. While he is departed from us on Earth, Colonel Hart is most certainly not forgotten. We remember him best by emulating the best of his character—in honor, loyalty, service, dedication, and the practice of excellence.

Semper Fidelis, Colonel.

HONORING THE FLAMING ARROW MARCHING BAND

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, during our past winter holiday recess tens of thousands of

high school and college marching band members packed themselves on vans, buses, trains and planes around this country to travel to another city to appear at one of the many holiday bowl games. For many people who watched the games, the only effort was the apparent one of the performances they saw on the football field during a pre-game or a half-time show.

What we don't see at the game or on television begins during the hot summer with long hours of practice followed by interminable fund raising efforts. It's learning to perform as part of a team; it's creating pride in a group; it's learning perseverance in pursuing a goal; it's learning the importance of having a dream. And they aren't alone in their efforts. Their dedication is supported and encouraged by parents, relatives, friends, teachers, music directors and community leaders that culminate in that performance. It's not just the band that marches onto the football field, but all those who have worked to see that they could be there.

I rise today to offer special recognition for the Flaming Arrow Marching Band of the Strafford Missouri High School. Incidentally, I am proud to call Strafford home.

The 76 member band under the direction of Shane Harmon was one of ten bands invited to the inaugural edition of the Mobile Alabama Bowl. Besides providing pre-game and half-time performances, the band was involved in competition earning the coveted first place over-all award, as well as first place trophies in the solo, marching, jazz and color guard categories.

I know my colleagues in the Congress will join me in extending their congratulations to the Flaming Arrow Marching Band members, their families and their director, not only for the quality of their performance and awards, but for their dedication to achieving an important goal.

HONORING HARRY D. DONOHO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember the life of Harry Donoho who sadly passed away on January 4, 2000 in Dolan Springs, AZ.

Harry was born on March 26, 1923 in Texico, IL. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps on February 10, 1945. Harry was honorable discharged from the Marine Corps with a Purple Heart in 1946.

With assistance from the GI bill, Harry was able to attend college at the University of Illinois, where he received a bachelor of science degree, and Western State College, where he received a masters degree in special education.

Harry and his family lived in Denver, Gunnision and Loma, CO. He started and ran his own business, Donoho Electric Service, until his wife's health complications forced him to retire.

Harry liked to spend time with his family and he also enjoyed fishing and trips to Lake Powell. He moved to Dolan Springs, Arizona where he met and married Betty Jeffery in 1997. Harry will be missed by all those who knew him.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Harry Donoho. He was truly a great American who loved his family and his country.

HONORING ELDER PAULINE WILLIAMS GRIFFIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me in paying tribute to Pastor Pauline Williams Griffin. A leader in the Church of God in Christ Jesus, an educator, a counselor, community leader, professional woman, wife and mother.

Born in Angier, North Carolina, she attended Grammar and High School in Lillington, North Carolina, where she received part of her high school education. Her family moved to New York City in 1944 and her high school education was continued and completed at Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn, New York. She attended business school at Adelphi College where she majored in Business Administration. She attended Pace University, Bank Street College and the College for Human Services.

She was appointed Elder of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. in 1965 by her bishop, D. W.H. Amos, Chief apostle of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. Inc. Elder Griffin moved rapidly within her natural setting, for she became the State Mother of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. for New York State and is currently the General Mother.

Elder Pauline Williams Griffin is currently a Board Member of the Bank Street College Community Day Care Action Coalition, director of the Church of God in Christ Jesus Day Care Center and executive director of the after school program at P.S. 81 Brooklyn, member of Community Planning Board No. 3, and director of a comprehensive program for youth which includes personal and health counseling. Elder Griffin is directly responsible for the enrollment of 60 students in the program of College for Human Services. Further, she is Vice President of the Movement for Meaningful Involvement in Child Care: she serves as vice President of the United Minorities, Inc., she is a member of the New York State citizens Coalition for Children Inc. and the Chairperson of the Concerned Foster and Adoptive Parents Support Group, Inc. and she belongs to a host of professional organizations.

She is married to Elder Clifton Griffin and is blessed with two lovely daughters, two sons and a beautiful granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker Elder Pauline Williams Griffin is indeed unique. She is truly a leader in the Church—a herald and teacher of the word of God. She is indeed a remarkable woman who has masterfully and successfully combined this calling-this all encompassing work with community activities, day care tutoring, educating, counseling, wifely, parenting, and other professional responsibilities. I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in paying tribute to this truly remarkable woman.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF LAWNDALE

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Lawndale, California. Lawndale is celebrating its 40th year as an incorporated city.

The City of Lawndale was originally part of a land grant known as Rancho Sausal-Redondo. Following the treaty of Guadalupe-Hildago in 1848, the land was auctioned to Robert Burnett, a Scottish nobleman. Burnett, in turn, leased the land to ranchers Daniel and Catherine Freeman.

Freeman Ranch was eventually subdivided with the establishment of a rail line between Los Angeles and Redondo Beach. Soon thereafter, the area officially appeared as Lawndale on local maps.

Lawndale's population continued to grow throughout the years. Eventually, in an effort to stem annexation by surrounding communities, Lawndale community leaders stepped up the drive for independence, and on December 38, 1959, the City of Lawndale was incorporated.

Lawndale is a culturally diverse community and an ideal place to raise a family and live the American Dream. Many of its residents are homeowners and small business entrepreneurs.

Lawndale has thrived over the last 40 years, and as we enter the 21st century, Lawndale will continue to stand out as a small, unique town; the ''Heart of the South Bay.'' I congratulate the City of Lawndale and its 30,000 residents on this milestone.

HONORING DR. SHELBY M. ELLIOTT, D.C. FOR A DECADE OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF TEXAS CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Shelby M. Elliott, D.C. for his outstanding contributions as President of Texas Chiropractic College for the past decade.

Throughout his ten years of leadership at Texas Chiropractic College (TCC), Dr. Elliott has dedicated himself to the preservation, protection, improvement and advancement of the chiropractic profession for the benefit of patients. TCC which is located in the 25th Congressional District, has been a vibrant asset to the Pasadena community. Under Dr. Elliott's steady hand, the campus has experienced rapid expansion, particularly over the past four years, including the construction of three new buildings—a Student Services & Administration Building, a student clinic, and a new lab sciences building. The latest expansion project is a new Outpatient Clinic—also located on campus—that will serve the needs of both patients and students. Dr. Elliott's guiding principle is to provide students of the college with hands-on clinical experience as early as their second trimester, allowing them to observe the

various aspects of patient examination, diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Elliott's focus has been on fostering increased professionalism among the student body and sharpening interest in academic preparation.

As President of TCC, Dr. Elliott has helped thousands of students develop the skills necessary for total patient management including consultation, physical diagnosis, neurological and orthopedic diagnosis, and application of adjunctive therapy and/or interprofessional co-management. His passion has translated into a lifetime of political activism. Dr. Elliott has held every elective position in local, state and national chiropractic associations, always driven by his interest in serving the needs of his patients. He served as president of the Board of Governors for the American Chiropractic Association for an unprecedented five years. He served nine years on the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, having been appointed by two Texas Governors.

The recent understanding of the healthful benefits of chiropractic care as alternative medicine has been due in large part because of the work Dr. Elliott did as a chiropractor for 38 years. Among his many honors, he was named Doctor of the Year by the American Chiropractic Association in 1990 and received the Lifetime Chiropractic Achievement Award in 1988.

Dr. Elliott is truly a unique and respected individual, known for his open-door policy encouraging students of the College to visit with him anytime. His wife Connie is also a revered member of the TCC family. A popular speaker at any occasion, Dr. Elliott lends his time and expertise to addressing professional meetings throughout the year, and has given presentations to the American Chiropractic Association, the World Chiropractic Health Organization, the International Chiropractors Association and the Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research, among many others.

Not only has Dr. Elliott made significant strides on behalf of his colleagues in the profession, he has also demonstrated a proven commitment to give back to the community through civic endeavors. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce in 1996, currently serves on the board of directors of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, and is past president of the Southeast Economic Development, Inc. He has served as President of the Dayton, Texas Rotary Club; fifteen years as the Commander of American Legion Post #512; Health Director for the Boy Scouts of America; past President of the Baytown Community Orchestra Committee and Liberty County Crippled Children's Society, and sponsor and supporter of Pee Wee Baseball and the Valley Players Threatre Group.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Elliott on his decade of leadership as President of Texas Chiropractic College. His achievements are an inspiration to those in the Chiropractic profession who work tirelessly to strengthen our health care options and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CROCKETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of a school that has been devoted to achievement since 1949—Crockett Elementary School.

Going into their next half of a century, the elementary school in the Bryan Independent School District of Texas has quite a list of accomplishments. In 1993, Crockett Elementary received recognition by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association for their Inclusion Program. The school piloted the program in 1991, which received the ''Exemplary Innovative Practices for Special Needs Students'' award, to incorporate their philosophy that all children even those with special needs can learn in a regular education classroom. Also, one of their high achievements is the National Exemplary Award winning H.O.S.T.S. program, which has been on campus for five years. The Helping One Student to Succeed program consists of 200 community members coming in weekly to read with children.

Evident in their quantity and quality of awards, the Crockett faculty and staff act jointly to make their initiatives successful. They also have a very active Parent Teacher Organization. As the only inclusion school in Bryan ISD, parents and teachers have spoken at local and national conferences. In effect parents and teachers from all over Texas come to witness the Inclusion Program in action and model their own after Crockett's example.

The Texas A&M University College of Education designated Crockett as a Professional Development School in their program—they are the first elementary school designated. In promoting higher education, The Janell Gallion Scholarship Fund, which is funded by student and faculty support, is given annually to a Bryan High School graduate that attended Crockett Elementary. The scholarship was named after the school's dedicated librarian who, as they describe it, ''fought cancer to the very end and never let it affect her work with students.''

Mr. Speaker, I commend the faculty, staff, parents, and students for making Crockett Elementary such a landmark of achievement in the State of Texas. They have set an example for all schools and communities to recognize, and I hope make applicable to their own systems.

TRIBUTE TO ST. CECILIA SCHOOL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Cecilia School, which has nobly served the community in Clare, Michigan, for 50 wonderful years.

During its 50 year history this school has endured many challenges, but through the love of the surrounding community it has survived, growing from a one-room church in the 1900's to a magnificent building where not only the youth of Clare but also much of the Catholic community are educated.

It is clear that St. Cecilia's has been a strong pillar of the community and its services have reached above the dreams and ideals of its founders. It has given back to Clare citizens starting with the very first week it opened in 1950. Teachers and staff have continued excellent service throughout the years, providing an active learning environment that has produced successful, well-rounded students who have continually scored in the highest percentiles on standardized tests.

I commend the St. Cecilia School for its 50 years of excellent service. The teachers, staff and parents have shown students how to integrate academics with Christian values, and have paved the way for successful citizens and an enlightened town, leaving behind a highly respected reputation embedded in each member of the community.

I wish them the very best as they embark on their second half-century.

HONORING FORMER COLORADO CONGRESSMAN, BYRON L. JOHNSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and remember a former U.S. Congressman from Colorado who recently passed away at the age of 82.

Byron Johnson was born on October 12, 1917 in Chicago, IL. He moved with his family to Wisconsin at the age of 10. He earned a bachelor, masters, and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. From 1942 to 1947, Byron worked in Washington, DC in the Budget Bureau and the Social Security Administration.

In 1947, Byron and his wife, Kay, moved to Denver, CO so that Byron could pursue a teaching position at the University of Denver.

Byron served in the 86th Congress of the United States. He later served 12 years as a CU Regent and two years on the Regional Transportation District board of directors.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Byron Johnson, a man who loved his country and his State. Byron gave immeasurably to the State of Colorado and for that he will long be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND FRED L. SHUTTLESWORTH, A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected for his outstanding community service, business and

civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

A native of Alabama, Rev. Shuttlesworth moved to the Cincinnati area in 1961 to pastor at the Revelation Baptist Church. In 1966, he founded the Greater New Light Baptist Church in Avondale where he continues to lead worship. He has four children.

Rev. Shuttlesworth earned a bachelor's degree in science from Alabama State University in 1951. He went on to do graduate work at Alabama State and then received seminary training at Cedar Grove Academy and Selma University.

The Rev. Shuttlesworth is perhaps best known for his heroic work as a civil rights leader. Many place him among the ''big three'' in the civil rights movement—next to Dr. Martin Luther King and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy. Willing to risk his life for freedom and equality, the Rev. Shuttlesworth was nearly killed three times, jailed more than 25 times, and endured more than 36 criminal and civil actions. Words such as bravery do little to capture the conviction and heroism that Rev. Shuttlesworth exhibits.

A sampling of Rev. Shuttlesworth's accomplishments include the organization of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in 1956, which was founded in response to Alabama politicians outlawing of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1957, he was one of five organizers of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference where he still serves as a member of its National Board. In addition, he served for several years as a member of the National Advisory Board of Congress on Racial Equality. But he has also been actively involved in our community and I have seen firsthand his good works. In 1988, Rev. Shuttlesworth established The Shuttlesworth Housing Foundation to help needy families afford down payments for the purchase of homes. As of November 1999, Rev. Shuttlesworth helped over 460 low-income families become homeowners.

In June of 1988, the City of Birmingham renamed Huntsville Road ''F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive,'' and on November 14, 1992, Birmingham dedicated an 8-foot statue of Rev. Shuttlesworth at the opening of its Civil Rights Institute. In 1998, the City of Cincinnati renamed North and South Crescent Avenues as ''Fred Shuttlesworth Circle.''

Rev. Shuttlesworth says that he has done ''little'' and he professes to do ''more and . . . all I can until I leave here.'' Cincinnati is blessed by the Rev. Shuttlesworth's leadership and good will. We are most fortunate for his service and commitment to our nation and local community.

REGARDING ROY AND JOANN MITTE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to two Brownsville benefactors, Roy and JoAnn Mitte. Roy, who grew up in the city of Brownsville, moved away, but returns to pay a debt of gratitude by donating $3 million dollars toward the renovation of Dean Porter Park, a park he remembers from his youth.

Like so many citizens of Brownsville, Roy has very fond memories of the park, a park many also know as Ringgold Park. After 30 years, Brownsville citizens are getting together to renovate, restore and recreate the park to serve as a central retreat for all to enjoy. A plan has been designed to better meet the needs of our growing community for future generations to come.

When Roy used to play in the park, he was a beneficiary of the benevolence of the Sams Memorial Foundation, named after a family who were the first benefactors to enhance the then Ringgold Park; now as an adult he is contributing to the first big renovation since 1960.

Almost anyone you talk to who has grown up in Brownsville has a story about their experiences at Ringgold Park. In years past, it was the central meeting place to play at the playground, swim at the largest pool in town and attend social functions at the pavilion, a popular meeting place at the park.

It is also the location of the Camille Lightner Playhouse, the city's only theater which is still active in presenting dramatic plays. Now, many years later, it is in serious need of renovation and repair. It is my privilege to pay tribute and express gratitude to the Mittes for their generous contribution which will go a long way toward refurbishing a park that is loved by so many.

I would also like to commend the efforts of the Dean Porter Park Renovation Committee for their initiation of this project and their ongoing efforts to revitalize this park which means so much to so many people. Our lives, and the lives of those who follow us here in Brownsville, will truly be enriched by the efforts of the Mittes and their generosity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for one vote today, Thursday, January 27, missing rollcall 1 on which I would have voted ''present''.

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY MONTH

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Biotechnology Month. Biotechnology is revolutionizing the quality of life for millions of people around the world. The United States, and Washington State in particular, is home to some of the leading biotechnology companies in the world.

Biotechnology is revolutionizing every facet of medicine, from diagnosis to treatment of all diseases, not just bacterial infections. It is detailing life at the molecular level and someday will take much of the guesswork out of disease management and treatment. The implications for health care are greater than any milestone in medical history.

Take cancer, for example. The first biotechnology medicines have been used in conjunction with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation to enhance their effectiveness, lessen adverse side effects and reduce the chances of cancer recurrence. Future biotech cancer drugs, however, such as vaccines that prevent abnormal cell growth, may make traditional treatments obsolete.

In cardiovascular diseases, biotech drugs that either dissolve or prevent blood clots in the treatment of heart attacks are being applied to cases of ischemic stroke, reducing brain damage and hospital recovery time. Another biotech medicine is proving successful in late-stage clinical trials for angina and may represent the first new class of drugs to treat that condition since introduction of calcium channel blockers in the 1970's.

Advancements in research on inflammatory diseases also have yielded first-of-a-kind drugs to treat multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Other medicines in late-stage clinical trials block the start of the molecular cascade that triggers inflammation's tissue damaging effects in numerous disease states.

In treatment of infectious diseases, biotechnology is leading the attack on the alarming problem of drug-resistant bacteria, creating antibiotics to take the place of those no longer effective. It also has revealed the genetic composition of bacteria and viruses, making the search for new remedies more efficient. Most biotech drugs are designed to treat our most devastating and intractable illnesses. In many cases these medicines would be the first ever therapies for those diseases.

In my home of Washington State, there are 116 biotechnology companies that employ over 7,000 people. Employment in Washington State biotechnology and medical technology industry is projected to increase to nearly 20,000 workers by 2005. Thousands of patient lives have been improved or saved by the relatively new products produced by Washington biotechnology companies. These products include Enbrel for rheumatoid arthritis, Leukine for cancer, and TOBI for cystic fibrosis. This number is expected to grow exponentially as more products are approved for market.

It is vital that Congress and the administration take into account the developments and advancements in this industry and work to encourage the massive amount of private capital being invested in these medical breakthroughs. Congress can help by fully supporting federal investments in math and science education, research performed at public universities and the National Institutes of Health. Congress should work with the Administration to modernize the drug approval process and to make sure that the Medicare system takes advantage of the potential cost savings brought forth by developments in the biotechnology industry.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Biotechnology Month and look forward to the next great news in the newspapers of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE STERNE, A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bobbie Sterne, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. She was selected for her outstanding community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

Mrs. Sterne grew up in Moran, Ohio, and currently resides in North Avondale. She graduated from Akron City Hospital School of Nursing and attended both the University of Akron and the University of Cincinnati. She and her husband, the late Dr. Eugene Sterne, have two daughters. During World War II, she served at the rank of first lieutenant with the 25th General Hospital Unit in Europe.

Mrs. Sterne has made a difference in the community of Cincinnati—particularly through her 25 years of service as an elected official. She served on the Cincinnati City Council from 1971 to 1985 and then from 1987 to 1998 and in 1976, she became the first woman mayor of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Sterne has received numerous awards and honors, including the Citizen's committee on Youth's Most Valuable Citizen Award; Council of Jewish Women Hannah G. Solomon Award; Ohio Woman of the Year; Inquirer Woman of the Year; Ohio Woman Hall of Fame; YMCA's Career Women of Achievement; the Salvation Army's ''Other'' Award; the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame; the Lighthouse Youth Services Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award; and the Alcoholism Council Tracy Bissell Memorial Award, among others.

Mrs. Sterne still actively serves the commuunity on numerous boards, including the Charter Committee; Government Relations Committee of the Community Chest; Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Woman Sports Association Board; the Ohio United Way Board; the Hamilton County Department of Human Services Planning Committee; the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati; the Fountain Square Fund Restoration Committee; and Chair of the Emergency Service Coalition.

Mrs. Sterne's commitment to community service was instilled at an early age. In her family, one was brought up to ''leave the world a better place than you found it.'' Mrs. Sterne has certainly succeeded in doing so in our community. Cincinnati is grateful for her leadership, service, and commitment.

REGARDING SAN ANTONIO INS OFFICE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great team of public servants in San Antonio, Texas, at the San Antonio District Office of the Immigration and Naturalization (INS) Service, who were the recipients of three separate national awards for excellence bestowed by INS this year.

Each year, the Commissioner of INS confers national awards for excellence honoring employees for their outstanding performance.

The employees of the Citizenship/Naturalization Unit were honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Immigration Services for reducing the waiting times for all citizenship/naturalization applications and for demonstrating an overall commitment to quality.

The same unit was honored with Vice President GORE's ''Hammer Award'' in June of last year for their innovative program to reach out to military applicants who often face transfer overseas or a deadline to reach citizenship before re-enlistment. Getting the waiting time for applications down is a minor miracle. The wait for those wishing to process documents with the INS has been 18 months or more for the past few years.

Port Director Ramon T. Juarez was honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Border Facilitation, for his outstanding efforts in managing the Laredo Port of Entry. The Port reduced the waiting time for applicants for admission to 20 minutes or less.

San Antonio Investigative Assistant Jerome Bass was honored as Employee of the Year in the Administrative/Technological category. His peers say Bass has an ''unselfish attitude and willingness to lend a hand.'' His dedication to the job brought him national attention.

These three awards are indicative of the dedication of the 432 employees in the San Antonio office. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for providing the best in government services.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J. BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of William J. Brown, former Ohio Attorney General, who passed away last week. He was a man who had the ability to bring true integrity and a human quality to politics.

Born as a natural leader, Brown perfected the ability to get his point across in as little time as possible and still maintain context that was regarded as ''true genius''. He had the natural ability to motivate those around him with his focus and drive. Although he always had his heart and his mind focused on his goals, he refused to give in to the negativity of his work and kept the working environment free from strain and strife.

William Brown had strong feelings and was dedicated to ''Ending the Political Pollution in Ohio''. It was through this issue that Brown was able to embrace the environment, soon after the first Earth Day was held in 1970. His career was colorful, successful and he was known for having strong views and the ability to back them up. Brown was a talented agent for public service. He selflessly gave of his time and support to many issues and was a strong supporter of team work.

It is with a heavy heart that I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in remembering William J. Brown. His memory will truly endure in the hearts of all that he was able to touch.

HONORING MICHAEL F. MARKO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a firefighting legend, Michael F. Marko, who was honored by family and friends on January 4 as he celebrated his retirement as assistant fire chief for the 30th Space Wing that is located in my congressional district.

Michael Marko faithfully served the 30th Space Wing for 33 years. He participated in and commanded the safe mitigation of more than 12,800 fire emergencies during his years of service. Michael has also been an integral member of the Vandenberg Professional Firefighters Local F–116 since 1971 and has been instrumental in working for the rights union members now enjoy. In honor of his many years of service to the union, Michael was awarded by his colleagues a lifetime membership. Through his actions, he saved numerous lives and billions of dollars in Defense Department assets. Michael also personally supervised the launch of countless Delta, Titan, and Peacekeeping rockets, enhancing America's national security. We have Michael Marko to thank for ensuring a permanent American presence in space that will continue to grow in this new century.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as any complete accounting of Michael's accomplishments would be, it would not do justice to the long lasting and immeasurable contributions he has made to the 30th Space Wing. I am truly honored to represent Mr. Marko in Washington. I send my most heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the 30th Space Wing, the community of Vandenberg, and the people of Santa Barbara County for his hard work and dedicated service. I know that Michael's leadership will be missed by the 30th Space Wing of Santa Barbara County.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MECHEM, JR., A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Mechem, Jr., a dear friend and community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected for this honor because of his outstanding business accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, community service, civic accomplishments and contributions that have increased the quality of life in Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio.

Mr. Mechem grew up in Nelsonville, Ohio, and currently lives in Clifton with his wife, Marilyn. They have three children. A graduate of Miami University and Yale Law School, Mr. Mechem has had a most distinguished career, bringing business and entertainment to the Greater Cincinnati area. Mr. Mechem likes to say he has enjoyed four careers: as a partner

at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister; as CEO of Taft Broadcasting; as commissioner of the Ladies Professional Golf Association; and in his own words, ''life after that''—which includes serving as Chairman of the Board at Convergys and as the personal business adviser to golf legend Arnold Palmer.

For more than 40 years, Mr. Mechem has focused on bringing entertainment opportunities to the Cincinnati area. As he puts it, he ''was motivated . . . to do things that made this community a fun place to live in.'' Mr. Mechem was instrumental in bringing the Cincinnati Bengals franchise to town; spearheading the vision and construction of Kings Island; and helping to provide the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra a new home at Riverbend by donating the site adjacent to Coney Island. Nationally, Mr. Mechem worked tireless for five years with the LPGA to lead a national resurgence of interest in the game.

In the business community, Mr. Mechem served Cincinnati as President of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce in 1977 and Co-Chaired the Chamber's Blue Chip Campaign from 1979–86. His other leadership roles include: National Chairman, Miami University Goals for Enrichment Campaign; President, Family Service; Co-Chair, Cincinnati Business Committee; and Founder/President of the Greater Cincinnati Sports & Events Commission. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board at Convergys, Mr. Mechem also serves on the Board of Directors at Mead Corp., Ohio National Life Insurance, Arnold Palmer Golf Co., The J.M. Smucker Co. and Myers Y. Cooper Company.

All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion and service to community.

REGARDING ALBERTO GALVAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the lifetime of service of Alberto Galvan, the district manager for the Brownsville-Harlingen area for the Social Security Administration (SSA). Alberto has served the Federal Government for 35 years, retiring just last month.

A son of South Texas, born in Harlingen, Alberto was in the United States Air Force (USAF) prior to his service to the Federal Government. In the Air Force, he attended USAF Russian Language School and served in electronic intelligence during his duty in Japan. That would have been impressive duty in those days, our forward listening post to spy on the communists in the Soviet Union.

This man who loves his country began working for the Social Security Administration in 1970, where he has worked ever since, winning the SSA Commissioner's Citation, the SSA Regional Commissioner's Citation (twice), and the Outstanding Officer Award (four times).

Aside from his many awards, Mr. Galvan has a great deal of contact with my Brownsville district office. As all of you know, the success of our district offices rises and falls on the relationship they have with individuals within the SSA. Thanks to Alberto Galvan, and the wonderful people in my district office, that relationship is strong indeed. The SSA manages the nation's social insurance program, consisting of retirement, survivors, and disability insurance programs; so, the ties that bind our interests are quite strong.

I want to thank Alberto today for being a really nice man and always being responsive to our inquiries. He takes calls from my office himself and has been largely responsible for training my staff members who deal with Social Security issues. He oversees all of Cameron and Willacy counties in the lower Rio Grande Valley but is primarily responsible for the Brownsville area up to Rancho Viejo, Texas.

Since he left the Air Force, Alberto has found another way to put the Russian he learned there to good use. Today, he is the only Russian translator in the Dallas Region of the SSA and is often sent documents to translate, usually birth certificates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending this outstanding patriot who has made a career serving our great country, first in uniform, and for the last 30 years, administering the Federal social insurance program in South Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000. This legislation provides an additional $2 billion a year for ten years to reach full funding of IDEA by 2010.

In 1972, two landmark cases, PARC v. State of Pennsylvania and Mills v. Board of Education found that children with disabilities are guaranteed an equal opportunity to an education under the 14th amendment. In response to these cases, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, the predecessor of today's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to assist state and local governments in meeting their responsibility to these children by agreeing to pay up to 40 percent of the cost of educating children with disabilities. However, to date, the federal government has never contributed more than 12.6 percent. States and school districts make up the difference.

For instance, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) currently spends approximately $891 million to educate 81,000 disabled students. While the district receives approximately $500 million from the state and $42 million from the federal government for that purpose, it must tap into funds intended for other education programs to make up the $300 million shortfall. School districts all across the nation face similar dilemmas. Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to put us on a course for full funding by 2010.

As we move into the 21st Century, we must make critical decisions about the priorities of this nation. In countries like Japan and China, education is a top priority, above even defense. This year alone, the U.S. Department of Defense will ask for $11 billion in new spending and according to OMBs most recent estimates, we can expect an $80 billion budget surplus for FY 2000. Surely we can spare an additional $2 billion a year to ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REGULATORY INFORMATION ACT OF 2000

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000,'' a bill to aid Congress in analyzing Federal regulations and to ensure the public's understanding of the legal effect of agency guidance documents. To accomplish the former, the bill requires an analytic report to Congress by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on selected important agency proposed and final rules. To accomplish the latter, the bill requires the agencies to include a notice of nonbinding effect on each agency guidance document without any general applicability or future effect.

On May 22, 1997, Representative SUE KELLY introduced H.R. 1704, the ''Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis Creation Act.'' On March 11, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held a hearing on this bill. Rep. KELLY testified at the hearing that the analytic function will ''help Congress deal with an increasingly complex and burdensome regulatory system. It will give Congress the resources it needs to oversee the regulations that the Executive Branch issues on a regular basis and facilitate use of the Congressional Review Act.'' She also stated that it ''would provide a second opinion'' of the agency's analysis of the impact of a rule. On March 13, 1998, the House Committee on the Judiciary reported an amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part I). On June 3, 1998, the House Government Reform Committee reported a further amended version of the bill and issued a report (H. Rept. 105–441, Part II). There was no further action on the bill during 1998 and 1999.

The ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' is introduced to respond to some criticisms of the earlier bill, especially about the creation of a new Congressional agency. Instead, the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' places the analytical function within GAO, which, since March 1996, has been charged with certain related functions under the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

Congress has delegated to the agencies the responsibility of writing regulations. However, regulations need to be carefully analyzed before they are issued. Under the CRA, Congress has the responsibility to review regulations and ensure that they achieve their goals in the most efficient and effective way. But, Congress has been unable to fully carry out its responsibility because it has neither all of the information it needs to carefully evaluate regulations nor sufficient staff for this function. Under my bill, GAO will be tasked with reviewing agency cost-benefit analyses and alternative approaches to the agencies' chosen regulatory alternatives.

The ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 2000'' has a companion bill on the Senate side, S. 1198, the ''Congressional Accountability for Regulatory Information Act of 1999.'' This bill was introduced by Senators SHELBY, BOND, and LOTT on June 9, 1999 and then renamed and reported by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee as the ''Truth in Regulating Act of 1999'' on December 7, 1999. The House and Senate bills are both intended to promote effective Congressional oversight of important regulatory decisions.

In addition, the House version includes a provision to ensure that public's understanding of the effect of agency guidance documents (such as guidance, guidelines, manuals, and handbooks). It require agencies to include a notice on the first page of each agency guidance document to make clear that, if the document has no general applicability or future effect, it is not legally binding. Under the CRA, ''rules'' subject to Congressional review are broadly defined to include not only regulatory actions subject to statutory notice and comment but also other agency actions that contain statements of general applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy. Unfortunately, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), despite a 1999 Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act directive to do so, has still not issued adequate guidance to the agencies on the requirement to submit to Congress any noncodified guidance document with any general applicability or future effect.

As a consequence, on October 8, 1999, the Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources, and Regulatory Affairs began an investigation of the agencies' use of noncodified documents, including the specific explanations within each of these documents regarding their legal effect. I asked the General Counsels of the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Transportation (DOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to submit their noncodified documents issued since the March 1996 enactment of the CRA and to indicate which were submitted to Congress under the CRA. DOL and DOT asked that I narrow my request; as a consequence, I asked for only those documents issued by DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Both DOL and DOT admitted that none of their 1,641 and 1,225 guidance documents respectively, had any legal effect and none was submitted to Congress for review under the CRA. Now, nearly four months later, EPA has still not completely produced its guidance documents. The investigation also revealed that the absence of any legal effect was not clear to the public. In fact, only 11 percent of OSHA'S guidance documents included any discussion of legal effect and only 7 percent had this discussion at the beginning of the document. On February 15, 2000, I will be holding a hearing to examine DOL's use of guidance documents as a possible backdoor approach to regulating the public.

Let me conclude by thanking Representative SUE KELLY of New York, Chairwoman of the Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction, for her leadership in this area in 1997 and 1998.

TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP DANIEL E. PILARCZYK

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in tribute to Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop.

During his forty years in the priesthood, Archbishop Pilarczyk has compiled an impressive and distinguished history of service to the church and the community. After eight years of service as Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, he became Archbishop in 1982. He is the spiritual leader of 550,000 Catholics in more than 200 parishes, and he manages close to 7,500 workers in Ohio. In addition, he has served as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as chairman of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

Archbishop Pilarczyk is a strong believer in education and has made it one of his top priorities during his time at the helm of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which is the ninth largest Catholic school system in the country. He has served our community in so many other ways including serving on the boards of St. Rita's School for the Deaf, the Pontifical College Josephinum, Catholic University of America and the coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati.

He holds a masters degree from Xavier University and a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, as well as seven honorary degrees. In addition, he has authored 18 books as well as numerous articles.

Daniel Pilarczyk is a Southwest Ohio native and he has given so much back to our community. I've had the chance to work with him in his role as founding board member of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati where he made an important contribution as a thoughtful and dedicated board member and a person with a sincere interest in our youth and their future.

All of us in Southwest Ohio wish Archbishop Pilarczyk the very best on the 25th anniversary of his ordination as bishop. We are proud to count him as one of our true religious, spiritual, and community leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a private relief bill for Gui Di Chen which will allow her to adjust status to permanent resident as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. Ms. Chen's husband, Robert Lem, died before the immigration and naturalization service could approve his wife's petition to become a permanent resident.

Under our immigration law, the INS cannot adjudicate Gui Di Chen's petition because she was married less than two years to Robert Lem before he passed away. The fact that Ms. Chen lived with Mr. Lem for three years does not matter under the eyes of the law. Without the enactment of this private relief bill, Ms. Chen faces a dire and uncertain future in China, a country she hasn't been to in nearly ten years.

There is, moreover, ample precedent for such relief. For instance, the 105th Congress passed and the President signed into law at least two private relief bills, H.R. 1794 (Private Law 105–7) and H.R. 1834 (Private Law 105–8), that allowed the widowed alien spouses of Americans to adjust status to permanent resident. In both of these cases, the alien spouses were married less than two years to their U.S. citizen spouses.

Mr. Speaker, Gui Di Chen's case is compounded by a tale of woe and misfortune that rivals a greek tragedy. In less than eight years, Ms. Chen has lost two husbands who died suddenly and before her immigrant petitions could be processed. In 1990, Ms. Chen and her son joined her husband, Zheng-Ming Wu, in the United States. Mr. Wu was completing a graduate degree at the time. Mr. Wu was fortunate enough to find an employer who filed an employer-based immigrant petition on his behalf. However, on September 6, 1991, just five days before Gui Di Chen, her son and husband were scheduled for an INS immigrant interview, Mr. Wu was killed in a car accident.

According to the police report that was filed, Mr. Wu was driving on the San Bernardino Freeway and developed car trouble. His car was stopped in an H.O.V. lane when he was rear-ended by an 18-year-old who was driving on a suspended license and without insurance. Ms. Chen received no compensation for her husband's death. In addition, the INS told Ms. Chen and her son that their application for permanent resident status was denied due to the death of Mr. Wu.

After the tragic loss of her first husband, Gui Di Chen was fortunate enough to fall in love again. Mr. Lem and Ms. Chen were married on March 31, 1997. Tragedy would strike once again when Mr. Lem died of a heart attack on June 16, 1998. Not only did Ms. Chen lose her husband, she also lost the opportunity to become a permanent resident.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that Gui Di Chen is not victimized once again by the vagaries of fate and is allowed to finally adjust to permanent resident status. She deserves nothing less.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SPANGLER, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 1999, the Holy Cross Parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Holy Cross, Spangler, Pennsylvania.

Throughout our area and our Nation, we find such churches as the centers of our community, the fabric of our community spirit, and the strength of families. The Church of the Holy Cross has celebrated 2,735 baptisms, 622 weddings. It has held 1,332 funerals to send its faithful home. These events chronicle the history of the families in the region.

Plans for the present church structure were drawn by architect William East and built by John S. Drumm at a cost of $4,800 according to the contract signed on July 8, 1899. On December 17th of that year, the Rt. Reverend Leander Scherr, O.S.B., Archabbott, St. Vincent Archabbey of Latrobe, dedicated the church. It was served by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Vincent Archabbey until 1984 and since then by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

The strength of our great nation comes not from decisions made in Washington, but from the enduring community strength, family commitments and individual ideals to which our house of worship provided the central underpinnings. The Church of the Holy Cross has been a part of that national strength for one hundred years; an integral factor in the growth of our nation and our region of Pennsylvania.

It is an honor for me to recognize the continuing role of the Church of the Holy Cross, of the church's twenty-fifth pastor, Father David J. Arseneault, and the individuals in the Parish that have made the Church of the Holy Cross endure for 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL (RETIRED) LAVERN E. WEBER

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great American, former Adjutant General of Oklahoma, previous Director of the Army National Guard, prior Chief of the National Guard Bureau and past Executive Director of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Lieutenant General Weber, a native of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, was the first Three-Star General to head the National Guard Bureau. He held that post from August 1974 until August 1982. He continued his service at United States Forces Command until his retirement on June 30, 1984, which concluded 42 years of military service with the United States Marine Corps, the Marine Corps Reserve and the Army National Guard.

Lieutenant General Weber served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th infantry division. His unit was called to active duty September 1950 and then Captain Weber was soon serving as a Company Commander, and later the Operations and Training Officer. During a combat tour in Korea, he was promoted to the rank of Major a month before his release from active duty in June 1952 when he returned to National Guard Status in the Oklahoma National Guard.

He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in December 1955 and was assigned as assistant intelligence officer, 45th Infantry Division. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on May 15, 1959, and in April 1961 was assigned as Chief of Personnel, 45th Infantry Division, and served in that position until November 1964. He became Chief of Staff, 45th Infantry Division with his promotion to Colonel on November 18, 1964.

On March 8, 1965, he was promoted to Major General, concurrent with his appointment as the Adjutant General of Oklahoma. He served in that position until his appointment as Director of the Army National Guard, in October 1971.

On June 29, 1979, the Chief of Staff U.S. Army promoted him to Lieutenant General, the grade at which he would retire in 1984. He was appointed as the full-time Executive Director of NGAUS effective July 1, 1984. In the past few years, he had been a consultant on national defense matters.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—Lieutenant General Lavern Weber.

SALUTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER JOHN MCGUIRE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing the public service record of one of our own—a recently-retired employee of the House of Representatives, a member of my staff, John McGuire.

Although John has left public service and gone on to another stage in life in which he now focuses his energy entirely on family and friendly pursuits, he has left behind a record of admirable service.

Over the course of his professional career, and in addition to his time on my staff, he has brought great credit to the federal government. He has helped me understand the importance of our debt to veterans and he has excelled at constituent service in general.

A combat U.S. Marine veteran, John was indeed a very special liaison for me with the community of veterans who live in Central New York. But his camaraderie with those who have served our nation never limited his reach. For many Central New Yorkers, John has been the federal government's helping hand.

We who count ourselves among his friends are proud of his natural tendency to open his door to others in hours of need. His empathy has been matched only by his skills, his concern matched only by his optimism, and his value as an employee matched only by the good he does for others who are his friends.

The United States of America, the greatest country on earth, is strengthened by patriots and civil servants like John McGuire. Thank God for that. I join others of his admirers in recognizing his contributions and thanking him for his selfless dedication to principle and public service.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate and House of Representatives met in Joint Session and received the President's State of the Union Message.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S107–S119

Measures Introduced: Four bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2010–2013. **Page S113**

Measures Passed:

Joint Session: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 241, to provide that the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of receiving the President's State of the Union message. **Page S107**

Joint Session Escort Committee: The President of the Senate was authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States to the House Chamber for a Joint Session. **Page S107**

Messages From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the State of the Union Address (PM–78). **Pages S107–13**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Nancy Killefer, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board. **Page S119**

Messages From the President: **Pages S107–13**

Messages From the House: **Page S113**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S113**

Statements on Introduced Bills: **Pages S113–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S119**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 8:30 p.m., and adjourned at 10:52 p.m., until 12 noon, on Monday, January 31, 2000. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S107.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 31 public bills, H.R. 3518–3530, 3533–3550; 3 private bills, H.R. 3531–3532, 3551; and 12 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 240–244, and H. Res. 401–407, were introduced. **Pages H47–49**

Reports Filed:

S. 430, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to provide for a land exchange between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Kake Tribal Corporation, amended (H. Rept. 106–489). **Page H47**

Quorum of the House Assembled: The Speaker announced that pursuant to section 2 of H. Con. Res. 235, 106th Congress, the House will now proceed to organizational business. **Page H5**

Subsequently, a quorum of the House was assembled, Roll No. 1. **Page H5**

Prohibition of Electronic Devices in the House Chamber: Pursuant to clause five of Rule XVII, the Speaker reiterated the absolute prohibition against the use of any personal electronic office equipment

including cellular phones and computers on the Floor of the House. Page H6

Quorum of Each House Assembled: Agreed to H. Res. 401, providing for a committee to notify the President that a quorum of each House has been assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make. Page H6

Subsequently, Representatives Armey and Gephardt were appointed to the committee. Page H7

Senate Notification: Agreed to H. Res. 402, informing the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled. Page H6

Hour of Meeting for the Second Session: Agreed to H. Res. 403, providing for the hour of meeting of the House. Pages H6–7

Joint Session to Receive the Annual Message from the President: Agreed to H. Con. Res. 241, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive the a message from the President on the State of the Union. Page H7

Meeting Hour Monday, Jan. 31: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31, 2000. Page H7

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Feb. 2, 2000. Page H7

Extension of Remarks: Agreed that all members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the record entitled ''Extensions of Remarks.'' Page H7

National Reconnaissance Office Review: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Goss and from private life Mr. Eli S. Jacobs of New York and Mr. Larry D. Cox of Maryland to the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office. Page H7

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Read a letter from Chairman Shuster of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions agreed to by the Committee on Nov. 10, 1999. Page H8

Web Based Education Commission: Read a letter from Chairman Goodling of the Committee on Education and the Workforce wherein he announced his appointment of Representative Johnny Isakson to the Web-Based Education Commission. Page H8

Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Charles E. Vela of Maryland to the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology. Pages H7–8

Recess: The House recessed at 3:16 p.m. and reconvened at 8:48 p.m. Page H28

State of the Union Address: President Clinton delivered his State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Armey, DeLay, Watts of Oklahoma, Cox, Hutchinson, Pryce of Ohio, Gephardt, Bonior, Frost, Menendez, Berry, and Snyder and Senators Lott, Nickles, Thurmond, Craig, Warner, Hutchison, Daschle, Reid of Nevada, Mikulski, Murray, Dorgan, Breaux, Rockefeller, Durbin, and Lautenberg. The President's message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed as a House Document (H. Doc. 106–160). Pages H29–35

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today and on December 6, 1999 appear on pages H6–7.

Referrals: Senate bills referred to House committees appear on pages H36–37.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One Quorum Call, Roll No. 1, developed during the proceedings of the House today and appears on page H5. There were no recorded votes.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:00 noon and adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative held a hearing on the House of Representatives and the Library of Congress. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the House of Representatives: James M. Eagen III, Chief Administrative Officer; Jeff Trandahl, Clerk; Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms; Robert B. Frey, Acting Inspector General; Geraldine R. Gennet, General Counsel; John R. Miller, Law Revision Counsel; M. Pope Barrow, Jr., Legislative Counsel; and John F. Eisold, M.D., Attending Physician; and James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress.

DOD DRUG INTERDICTION PROGRAM

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources held a hearing on ''The Decline of DOD Assets in the Fight Against Illegal Drugs.'' Testimony was heard from Jess T. Ford, Associate Director, International Relations and Trade Issues, National Security and International Affairs, GAO; Ana Maria

Salazar, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Drug Enforcement Policy and Support, Department of Defense; Rear Adm. Ernest R. Riutta, USCG, Assistant Commandant, Operations, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation; and Charles Stallworth, Executive Director, Air and Marine Interdiction Division, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

"Y2K—IN RETROSPECT"

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology and the Subcommittee on Technology of the Committee on Science held a joint hearing on "The Year 2000 Computer Problem: Did the World Overreact and What Did We Learn?" Testimony was heard from John Koskinen, Chair, President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion; Charles Rossotti, Commissioner, IRS, Department of the Treasury; Fernando Burbano, Chief Information Officer, Department of State; Joel Willemssen, Director, Civil Agencies Information Systems, GAO; and public witnesses.

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE—PENALTY AND INTEREST PROVISIONS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on Penalty and Interest Provisions in the Internal Revenue Code. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Treasury: Joseph M. Mikrut, Tax Legislative Counsel; and W. Val Oveson, National Taxpayer Advocate; Lindy Paull, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation; and public witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2000

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee On Oversight and Investigations, hearing on OSHA's Enforcement Policy on Employees Working at Home, 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 31 through February 5, 2000

Senate Chamber

On *Monday and Tuesday,* Senate will resume consideration of S. 625, Bankruptcy Reform Act.

During the remainder of the week, Senate may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: February 1, to hold hearings to examine the authority of grain inspection packers and stockyards administration, 9 a.m., SR–328A.

February 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the proposed loan guarantee program, focusing on rural satellite and cable system delivery of local broadcast stations to viewers not having access to local television stations, 9 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: February 1, business meeting to markup the nomination of Alan Greenspan, of New York, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; followed by an open hearing to examine loan guarantees and rural television service, 10 a.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Budget: February 1, to hold hearings on federal spending priorities, 10 a.m., SD–608.

February 2, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine federalism in the information age, focusing on internet tax issues, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: February 3, Committee on Environment and Public Works, to hold hearings on the nomination of Eric D. Eberhard, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship & Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation; and the nomination of W. Michael McCabe, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: February 1, to hold hearings to examine medical errors, focusing on understanding adverse drug events, 10 a.m., SD–430.

February 2, Subcommittee on Public Health, to hold hearings to examine gene therapy, focusing on promoting patient safety, 9:30 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: February 1, Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information, to hold hearings to examine the vulnerability of U.S. systems to cyber attack, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House Chamber

To be announced.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, February 1, Subcommittee on Legislative, on Joint Economic Committee; Architect of the Capitol; and GPO, 9:30 a.m., and on the Joint Committee on Taxation; the GAO; and the Capitol Police Board, 1:30 p.m., H–144 Capitol.

February 2, Subcommittee on Legislative, on Members of Congress; Office of Compliance; CBO; Financial Managers Council; and outside witnesses, 9:30 a.m., H–144 Capitol.

Committee on Commerce, February 2, Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, hearing on Decimals: Report on Industry Implementation, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, February 2, Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, hearing on Kyoto and the Internet: The Energy Implications of the Digital Economy, 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

February 2, Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans' Affairs and International Relations, hearing on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses: The Current Research Agenda, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, February 2, hearing on Changing American Diplomacy for the New Century, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, February 1, to continue markup of H.R. 2366, Small Business Liability Reform Act of 1999, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, February 2, hearing on H.R. 3160, Common Sense Protections for Endangered Species Act, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, January 31, to consider H.R. 1838, Taiwan Security Enhancement Act, 6:30 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Monday, January 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 2 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of S. 625, Bankruptcy Reform.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Monday, January 31

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Barcia, James A., Mich., E13
Bentsen, Ken, Tex., E18
Blunt, Roy, Mo., E17
Brady, Kevin, Tex., E19
Camp, Dave, Mich., E19
Capps, Lois, Calif., E21
Carson, Julia, Ind., E20
Crane, Philip M., Ill., E15
Cunningham, Randy ''Duke'', Calif., E17
Deutsch, Peter, Fla., E8, E10, E11
Hayes, Robin, N.C., E12
Inslee, Jay, Wash., E20
Istook, Ernest J., Jr., Okla., E24
Knollenberg, Joe, Mich., E14
Kucinich, Dennis J., Ohio, E21
Kuykendall, Steven T., Calif., E15, E18
LaFalce, John J., N.Y., E16
McInnis, Scott, Colo., E7, E8, E10, E11, E12, E13, E15, E16, E18, E19
McIntosh, David M., Ind., E22
Martinez, Matthew G., Calif., E22, E23
Meek, Carrie P., Fla., E14
Menendez, Robert, N.J., E7, E8, E10, E11, E12, E13, E15
Murtha, John P., Pa., E23
Ortiz, Solomon P., Tex., E20, E21, E22
Oxley, Michael G., Ohio, E16
Portman, Rob, Ohio, E19, E21, E23
Rothman, Steven R., N.J., E12
Shaw, E. Clay, Jr., Fla., E13
Stark, Fortney Pete, Calif., E7, E8, E10
Tancredo, Thomas G., Colo., E13
Towns, Edolphus, N.Y., E15, E16, E18
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E7
Walsh, James T., N.Y., E24

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including cellular phones and computers on the Floor of the House. Page H6

Quorum of Each House Assembled: Agreed to H. Res. 401, providing for a committee to notify the President that a quorum of each House has been assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make. Page H6

Subsequently, Representatives Armey and Gephardt were appointed to the committee. Page H7

Senate Notification: Agreed to H. Res. 402, informing the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled. Page H6

Hour of Meeting for the Second Session: Agreed to H. Res. 403, providing for the hour of meeting of the House. Pages H6–7

Joint Session to Receive the Annual Message from the President: Agreed to H. Con. Res. 241, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive the a message from the President on the State of the Union. Page H7

Meeting Hour Monday, Jan. 31: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31, 2000. Page H7

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Feb. 2, 2000. Page H7

Extension of Remarks: Agreed that all members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the record entitled ''Extensions of Remarks.'' Page H7

National Reconnaissance Office Review: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Goss and from private life Mr. Eli S. Jacobs of New York and Mr. Larry D. Cox of Maryland to the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office. Page H7

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Read a letter from Chairman Shuster of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions agreed to by the Committee on Nov. 10, 1999. Page H8

Web Based Education Commission: Read a letter from Chairman Goodling of the Committee on Education and the Workforce wherein he announced his appointment of Representative Johnny Isakson to the Web-Based Education Commission. Page H8

Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Charles E. Vela of Maryland to the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology. Pages H7–8

Recess: The House recessed at 3:16 p.m. and reconvened at 8:48 p.m. Page H28

State of the Union Address: President Clinton delivered his State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Armey, DeLay, Watts of Oklahoma, Cox, Hutchinson, Pryce of Ohio, Gephardt, Bonior, Frost, Menendez, Berry, and Snyder and Senators Lott, Nickles, Thurmond, Craig, Warner, Hutchison, Daschle, Reid of Nevada, Mikulski, Murray, Dorgan, Breaux, Rockefeller, Durbin, and Lautenberg. The President's message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed as a House Document (H. Doc. 106–160). Pages H29–35

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today and on December 6, 1999 appear on pages H6–7.

Referrals: Senate bills referred to House committees appear on pages H36–37.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One Quorum Call, Roll No. 1, developed during the proceedings of the House today and appears on page H5. There were no recorded votes.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:00 noon and adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative held a hearing on the House of Representatives and the Library of Congress. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the House of Representatives: James M. Eagen III, Chief Administrative Officer; Jeff Trandahl, Clerk; Wilson Livingood, Sergeant at Arms; Robert B. Frey, Acting Inspector General; Geraldine R. Gennet, General Counsel; John R. Miller, Law Revision Counsel; M. Pope Barrow, Jr., Legislative Counsel; and John F. Eisold, M.D., Attending Physician; and James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress.

DOD DRUG INTERDICTION PROGRAM

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources held a hearing on ''The Decline of DOD Assets in the Fight Against Illegal Drugs.'' Testimony was heard from Jess T. Ford, Associate Director, International Relations and Trade Issues, National Security and International Affairs, GAO; Ana Maria

Salazar, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Drug Enforcement Policy and Support, Department of Defense; Rear Adm. Ernest R. Riutta, USCG, Assistant Commandant, Operations, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation; and Charles Stallworth, Executive Director, Air and Marine Interdiction Division, U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

"Y2K—IN RETROSPECT"

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology and the Subcommittee on Technology of the Committee on Science held a joint hearing on "The Year 2000 Computer Problem: Did the World Overreact and What Did We Learn?" Testimony was heard from John Koskinen, Chair, President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion; Charles Rossotti, Commissioner, IRS, Department of the Treasury; Fernando Burbano, Chief Information Officer, Department of State; Joel Willemssen, Director, Civil Agencies Information Systems, GAO; and public witnesses.

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2000

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Week of January 31 through February 5, 2000

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12 noon, Monday, January 31

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12:30 p.m., Monday, January 31

House Chamber

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McInnis, Scott, Colo., E7, E8, E10, E11, E12, E13, E15, E16, E18, E19
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Martinez, Matthew G., Calif., E22, E23
Meek, Carrie P., Fla., E14
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Murtha, John P., Pa., E23
Ortiz, Solomon P., Tex., E20, E21, E22
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