

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight what is arguably the most unfair provision in the U.S. Tax Code: the marriage tax penalty. I want to thank you for your long term interest in bringing parity to the tax burden imposed on working married couples compared to a couple living together outside of marriage.

I want to thank both you and Chairman ARCHER for the pledge to bring H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, to the floor for consideration before Valentine's Day. This is truly one of the best Valentine's Day presents we can give to America's working couples. As you know, H.R. 6, as considered by the Ways and Means Committee, will provide \$182 billion in marriage penalty relief over 10 years. This is a significant increase over the \$45 billion proposal offered by President Clinton just before this year's State of the Union Address. Ultimately, as a result of H.R. 6, 28 million working couples will receive up to \$1,400 in marriage tax penalty relief.

This month President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address outlining many of the things he will spend the budget surplus on. House Republicans want to preserve 100 percent of the Social Security surplus for Social Security and Medicare and use the non-Social Security surplus for paying down the debt and to bring fairness to the Tax Code.

A surplus provided by the bipartisan budget agreement which: cut waste; put America's fiscal house in order; and held Washington's feet to the fire to balance the budget.

While President Clinton parades a long list of new spending totaling \$72 billion in new programs—we believe that a top priority after saving Social Security and paying down the national debt should be returning the budget surplus to America's families as additional middle-class tax relief.

This Congress has given more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half century.

I think the issue of the marriage penalty can best be framed by asking these questions: Do Americans feel it's fair that our tax code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel it's fair that the average married working couple pays almost \$1,400 more in taxes than a couple with almost identical income living together outside of marriage? Is it

right that our Tax Code provides an incentive to get divorced? In fact, today the only form one can file to avoid the marriage tax penalty is paperwork for divorce. And that is just wrong!

Since 1969, our tax laws have punished married couples when both spouses work. For no other reason than the decision to be joined in holy matrimony, more than 21 million couples a year are penalized. They pay more in taxes than they would if they were single. Not only is the marriage penalty unfair, it's wrong that our Tax Code punishes society's most basic institution. The marriage tax penalty exacts a disproportionate toll on working women and lower income couples with children. In many cases it is a working women's issue.

Let me give you an example of how the marriage tax penalty unfairly affects middle class married working couples.

For example, a machinist, at a Caterpillar manufacturing plant in my home district of Joliet, makes \$30,500 a year in salary. His wife is a tenured elementary school teacher, also bringing home \$30,500 a year in salary. If they would both file their taxes as singles, as individuals, they would pay 15%.

MARRIAGE PENALTY EXAMPLE

	Machinist	School teacher	Couple	H.R. 6
Adjusted Gross Income	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$63,000	\$63,000
Less Personal Exemption and Standard Deduction	6,950	6,950	12,500	13,900
Taxable Income	24,550	24,550	50,500	49,100
Tax Liability	(x .15)	(x .15)	(Partial x .28)	(x .15)
Marriage Penalty	3682.5	3682.5	8635	7,365
Relief			1270	1270

But if they chose to live their lives in holy matrimony, and now file jointly, their combined income of \$61,000 pushes them into a higher tax bracket of 28 percent, producing a tax penalty of \$1,400 in higher taxes.

On average, America's married working couples pay up to \$1,400 more a year in taxes than individuals with the same incomes. That's serious money. Millions of married couples are still stinging from April 15th's tax bite and more married couples are realizing that they are suffering the marriage tax penalty.

Particularly if you think of it in terms of: a down payment on a house or a car; one year's tuition at a local community college; or several months' worth of quality child care at a local day car center.

To that end, U.S. Representative DAVID MCINTOSH (R-IN) and U.S. Representative PAT DANNER (D-MO) and I have authored H.R. 6, The Marriage Tax Elimination Act.

H.R. 6, The Marriage Tax Elimination Act, as considered by the House Ways and Means Committee, will increase the 15 percent tax bracket (currently at 15 percent for the first \$26,250 for singles, whereas married couples filing jointly pay 15 percent on the first \$43,850 of their taxable income) to twice that

enjoyed by singles; H.R. 6 would extend a married couple's 15 percent tax bracket to \$52,500. Thus, married couples would enjoy an additional \$8,650 in taxable income subject to the low 15 percent tax rate as opposed to the current 28 percent tax rate and would result in up to \$1,200 in tax relief.

Additionally the bill will increase the standard deduction for married couples (currently \$7,350) to twice that of singles (currently at \$4,400). Under H.R. 6, the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly would be increased to \$8,800.

H.R. 6 enjoys the bipartisan support of 233 cosponsors along with family groups, including: American Association of Christian Schools, American Family Association, Christian Coalition, Concerned Women for America, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Family Research Council, Home School Legal Defense Association, the National Association of Evangelicals and the Traditional Values Coalition.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day

care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union address when the President declared emphatically that, "the era of big government is over." We must stick to our guns, and stay the course. There never was an American appetite for big government. But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business. And what better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are running a \$3 trillion surplus. It's basic math. It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it. What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty . . . a bipartisan priority. During

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

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

the State of the Union Address this year, the President signaled his willingness to work to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. We must send him a bill to eliminate the marriage penalty suffered by 28 million American working couples.

The proposal offered by the President to reduce the marriage tax penalty is a good start, but it is not enough! By doubling the standard deduction, only couples who do not itemize their income taxes receive the benefits of tax relief. In order to provide relief to couples who itemize, mainly homeowners, we must address the difference in the income tax brackets. If we follow only the President's plan, the result will be a marriage tax penalty against couples who are homeowners and couples who contribute to charities. This is not right and it is not fair!

Speaker HASTERT and House Republicans have made eliminating the marriage tax penalty a top priority. In fact, we plan to move legislation out of the House before Valentine's Day.

Last year, President Clinton and Vice-President GORE vetoed our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty for almost 28 million married working people. The Republican effort would have provided about \$120 billion in marriage tax relief. Unfortunately, President Clinton and Vice-President GORE said they would rather spend the money on new government programs than eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

This year we ask President Clinton and Vice-President GORE to join with us and sign into law a stand-alone bill to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and health to America's children, the U.S. Tax Code should not be one of them. The greatest accomplishment of the Republican Congress this past year was our success in protecting the Social Security Trust Fund and adopting a balanced budget that did not spend one dime of Social Security—the first balanced budget in over 30 years that did not raid Social Security.

Let's eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

RECOGNIZING THE SUPER BOWL
CHAMPION LONGMEADOW HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the unprecedented accomplishments of the 1999 Longmeadow High School football team. Longmeadow became the first Western Massachusetts team to win three straight titles. The Lancers captured the Division II Super Bowl with a 36–21 victory over Shrewsbury.

Longmeadow could not have asked for a better beginning as they scored on all five possessions in the first half. Running back Winston McGregor led the way with 162 yards rushing and three touchdowns. Quarterback Justin Vincent was impressive with 118 yards passing, and the Lancer defense shut out their opponents in the fourth quarter. As always, credit must be given to the linemen who gave

Vincent the time to pick apart the Shrewsbury defense and McGregor the holes through which to run.

Longmeadow Head Coach Alex Rotsko has built an impressive program at Longmeadow. The Lancers, having now three Super Bowls in a row, will be the odds on favorite in the coming season. Despite losing leaders like McGregor and Ryan McCarthy to graduation, Coach Rotsko will have his charges ready to defend their title once more, a situation with which the Lancers are intimately familiar.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to congratulate the 1999 Longmeadow High School football team. Winning a title once is something to be remembered, but winning three in a row is the start of a dynasty. I wish Coach Rotsko and his Lancers the best of luck in the 2000 season, as they return once again to defend their Super Bowl title.

HONORING JUDGE BRUCE BALTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Bruce Balter, who received the Holocaust Education award in recognition of his outstanding efforts to teach lessons of the Shoah to today's generation. The award was presented by Joe Hynes, District Attorney in Brooklyn, who commended Judge Balter for his remarkable work.

Judge Balter has a long and distinguished record of public service to the Jewish community of New York. He is a recipient of the State Medal of Israel, and has written and produced three television documentaries on the Holocaust, which have been shown on PBS and other television shows throughout the country. In addition to his television work, he has coordinated and hosted the Civil Court Holocaust Memorial Remembrance each year since being elected to the judiciary. He lectures and takes student groups on tours of the Museum of Jewish Heritage and the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Judge Balter's list of accomplishments, though, far exceeds just his work for the Holocaust. He holds the rank of Lt. Colonel in the New York guard. He is the current chairman of the surrogate's court committee of the Brooklyn Bar Association. He lectures high school students throughout the city on African-American, Jewish, and Hispanic relations. The Judge was also past counsel for prominent Sephardic schools and organizations and currently is a board member of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush and Director of the Association of Jewish Court Attaches.

It is Judge Balter's drive for accomplishment and concern for the community that has garnered him the Community Justice Award from the Appellate Division—the highest court in Brooklyn. It is important that we continue to honor such individuals, whose efforts and accomplishments are an inspiration to us all. Please join me in acknowledging the outstanding community service of Judge Bruce Balter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent on Tuesday, February 1, and consequently missed a recorded vote on H.R. 1838. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 5.

TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES
MISSION COLLEGE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educational institution in my community, Los Angeles Mission College. On February 10, 2000, Los Angeles Mission College will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Los Angeles Mission College was established to serve the northeast San Fernando Valley communities of Sylmar, San Fernando, Mission Hills, Lakeview Terrace, Arleta, Pacoima, Panorama City, Granada Hills, North Hills, Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, Sun Valley And Sunland-Tujunga. From an initial class of 1,228 students, enrollment has grown to include over 7,000 students per year. It has the fastest-growing enrollment in the L.A. Community College District. The College has enabled more than 100,000 students to earn college degrees and occupational certificates, or transfer to baccalaureate granting institutions.

With its strong record for developing innovative community based programs, Los Angeles Mission College has proven not just to be a leader among community colleges, but to be the embodiment of those values and ideals that make community colleges special. The College has developed successful employment directed programs, occupational transfer curricula, dynamic partnerships with local business and civic organizations, inventive technology applications and numerous workforce development programs. The College is unsurpassed in ensuring that its predominant first generation college students succeed in today's competitive marketplace. All of this is especially remarkable considering that its student population and financial needs have grown exponentially faster than available resources.

I have attended and enjoyed many programs at Mission College and can, therefore, attest firsthand to the high spirit and love of learning to be found on its campus. Furthermore, I have regularly relied on Mission College students to assist me in my district office where they have served as interns and staff. I am greatly impressed by the caliber and dedication of Mission College students, faculty and administration.

It is a pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Los Angeles Mission College on its 25th Anniversary. It has been an honor to have such a fine institution in the 26th Congressional District and I look forward to its continued evolution and success over the next 25 years.

RECOGNIZING THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the 1991 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. The Ludlow boys soccer team reclaimed the Massachusetts State title last November by trouncing their opponents from Needham 4-0. The Ludlow team finished the season with a record of 17-3-1, but their final game was their most impressive as they dominated Needham from start to finish. This team, like many Ludlow teams before it, played a skillful soccer style which allowed them to outplay virtually every opponent they faced.

Ludlow has been the heart of Western Massachusetts soccer for as long as anyone can remember. The town residents follow the high school teams with a fanaticism rarely seen in the United States, and during the 1990s, they have had a lot to cheer about. The Lions won the Western Massachusetts title five of the last six years, and won the state title in 1995, 1997, and 1999.

The success of the Ludlow Boys Soccer team can be linked directly to the coach. Head Coach Tony Goncalves has built a dominating program centered around skill and class. His knowledge of soccer is unparalleled in Western Massachusetts, and his coaching style is one that commands respect from his players, his opponents, and his fellow coaches. Coach Goncalves is quick to praise others, he is gracious in victory or defeat, and he is an inexhaustible resource for young coaches. He is the center of, and driving force behind, the success of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team of 1999. The players include Seniors Jonathon Witowski, Jason Chelo, Jason Dacruz, Justin Bruneau, John Reilly, Dave Fonseca, Dave Gwozdz, Rich Zina, Kevin Crespo, and Dan S. Santos, and Juniors Joe Jorge, Jason Devlin, Steve Jorge, Helder Pires, Mike Pio, Brian Cochenour, Chris Chelo, Manny Goncalves, Tim Romanski, Ray Cheria, Paul Martins, and Dennis Carvalho. The team is led by Head Coach Tony Goncalves, long time Assistant Coach Jack Vilaca, assistants, Greg Kolodziej and Jonathon Cavallo, and managers Audrey Vilaca, Sarah Russell, Jennifer Russell, and Jillian Dube. Mr. Speaker, once again I am proud and honored to congratulate the 1999 Massachusetts State Champion boys soccer team from Ludlow High School in Ludlow, Massachusetts.

HONORING THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF
REVEREND VALENTINE H.
SHEPPARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard. Rev-

erend Sheppard's compassionate spirit touches all of those who know him.

Through vision, diligence and dedication he founded Hebron Baptist Church in 1983. Seventeen years later the Church is a thriving house of worship and love. He is not only the founder and pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, but also an active member of the Brooklyn community.

Reverend Sheppard is a past-president of the Baptist Pastor's and Church's Union of Brooklyn and Long Island. He is the program chairperson for their Annual Emancipation Day Service and Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Service. He has held several offices in the Eastern Baptist Association and is a member of the executive board of the Hampton University Minister's Conference. Reverend Sheppard is a graduate of Nzazrene Theological Seminary of Trinidad and is in his 40th year in the ministry. He is a graduate of the American Institute of Banking and a winner of their Regional Public Speaking contest for 3 consecutive years. He served as chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Roundtable Senior Citizen Center of Brooklyn.

Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard is the father of three children and the spiritual father of countless others. Mr. Speaker, I would like you along with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me honoring Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard on his 60th birthday.

HONORING RICHARD DESILVA

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard A. DeSilva, a businessman and community leader in northern New Jersey who has made many contributions to our local schools, economy and quality of life. Mr. DeSilva is a hard-working entrepreneur who has found success and, in the tradition of many successful businessmen before him, has chosen to "give back" to the community. He is one of our outstanding citizens and a role model for our young people.

Mr. DeSilva, the owner of Liberty Subaru Inc., in Oradell, New Jersey, last month received the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award, presented each year jointly by Time Magazine and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Last year, he received the All-Star Dealer Award from the American International Automobile Dealers Association. Both of these awards are presented not just in recognition of excellence in automobile sales and service but also for excellence in community service.

Mr. DeSilva started in the retail automobile business as a teenager working at the Ford dealership where his father was the service manager. He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in marketing in 1974 and sold new cars for a short period before opening a used-car dealership in Paterson. His "big break" came in 1976, when he and his brother acquired a franchise from Subaru. The brothers started off selling an average 14 cars a month, but the dealership now sells nearly 1,100 a year.

As might be expected, Mr. DeSilva has been active within the automobile industry. He is a member of the AIADA board of directors,

has been on the Subaru National Dealer Advisory Board since 1989 and has served as chairman three times. He is also active with the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers.

It has been Mr. DeSilva's level of involvement in his community, however, that has brought him recognition. Mr. DeSilva and his wife, Wendy, a grammar school and physical education teacher, have been involved in the Mahwah public school system for many years. Mr. DeSilva coached wrestling and was active in the Mahwah Sports Booster program while their sons were in school. In 1991 and 1992, he chaired the demographics committee for the Mahwah Schools facilities Ad Hoc Committee, a group charged with studying future student enrollment and making recommendations to the school board. In 1995, he was selected to finish the term of a former school board member. He was elected to his first full, three-year term on the board in 1996 and re-elected last year.

Mr. Speaker, Rick DeSilva is an outstanding member of our community. He is a successful businessman who helps drive the local economy. He is an active and respected member of the local school board, helping guide the education and future of our youth. And he has been an involved parent, coaching young people on the athletic field and instilling the spirit of teamwork that is so crucial to success in the adult world. He has been recognized by his peers in his own industry. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in that recognition by congratulating him on the work he has done and wishing him the best in the future.

REMARKS OF SENATOR JOSEPH I.
LIEBERMAN AT THE 48TH NA-
TIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday morning the 48th National Prayer Breakfast was held here in Washington. This annual event dates to 1952 when the first gathering was held to pray for President-elect Dwight Eisenhower and his administration. Each year since 1952, the President and Vice President, Cabinet Secretaries, Members of Congress, international government leaders, clergy and others have met to reaffirm their faith and to seek divine guidance in making critical decisions.

At the National Prayer Breakfast last week, our colleague from the Senate, JOSEPH LIEBERMAN of Connecticut, was one of the principal speakers, and his remarks were outstanding. Mr. Speaker, I ask that Senator LIEBERMAN's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues in the House to give his speech careful and thoughtful attention.

REMARKS OF SENATOR JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
AT THE 48TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton, Speaker Hastert, Reverend Clergy, Nuncio Montalvo, Dr. Graham, General and Mrs. Ralston, other head table guests and honored guests in the hall, ladies and gentlemen: To each and every one of you I say, Blessed be they who come in the name of the Lord.

This morning, in this place, this very temporal city comes together to reach up to touch the timeless. It brings to mind the story of the man who is blessed to be able to speak with G-d, and in awe of the Lord's freedom from human constraints of time and space, he asks: "Lord, what is a second like to you?"

And G-d answers, "A second to me is like a thousand years."

The man then asks, "And Lord, what is a penny like to you?"

"To me," the Lord declares, "a penny is a like a million dollars."

The man pauses, thinks for a minute, and then asks, "Lord, would you give me a penny?"

And G-d answers, "I will. In a second."

I am honored to have been asked to speak to you this morning, but as the story shows, I proceed with a profound sense of my own human limitations.

I want to begin by talking with you about the weekly Senate Prayer Breakfasts—those still-small gatherings that have, along with their counterpart in the House, spawned this magnificent National Prayer Breakfast as well as similar meetings in every American state and so many countries around the world.

When I was first invited years ago to the Senate Prayer Breakfast, I found a lot of excuses not to go. Some were good—like my reluctance to leave my family so early on a weekday morning. But some excuses were not-so-good—like my apprehension that the Senate Prayer Breakfast was really a Christian breakfast and that, because I am Jewish, I might feel awkward or my presence might inhibit my Christian friends in their expressions of faith. I was wrong on both counts.

The regular participants in the breakfast, and our wonderful chaplain, Lloyd Ogilvie, persisted and finally convinced me to attend by employing a tactic that usually works with us politicians: they asked me to be the speaker.

That was a very important morning in my now 11 years in Washington. We began with prayer and readings from the bible and then called on the chaplain, who told us about some people in the Senate family we might want to pray for, because they were ill or had lost loved ones. Then it was my turn. I spoke about the Passover holiday and answered some very thoughtful questions. At the end, we joined hands and prayed together.

All in all, it lasted less than an hour, but I was moved that morning. More than that, I felt at home.

Today, I can tell you that the weekly Prayer Breakfasts have become the time in my hectic life in the Senate when I feel most at home, most tied to a community. Because we are at those breakfasts not as Senators; not as Republicans or Democrats, or liberals or conservatives; not even particularly as Christians or Jews. We are there as men and women of faith linked by a bond that transcends all the other descriptors and dividers—our shared love of G-d and acceptance of His Sovereignty over us, and our common commitment to try to live according to the universal moral laws of the Lord.

I pray that all of you who have come here this morning feel those same unifying, humanizing, elevating sentiments. And I also pray, as we begin this new session of Congress, that your presence will inspire those of us who are privileged to serve in government to appreciate the truth that is so palpable at these breakfasts: What unites us is much greater than what divides us.

The work that needs to be done for the people we in government serve will best be done if we work together, and we will work

together best if we understand that we are blessed not only to be citizens of the same beloved country, but children of the same awesome G-d.

Praying for the Lord's guidance and strength as we begin a new Congress has been the traditional purpose of this National Prayer Breakfast. But there is another stated aspiration and that is "to reaffirm our faith and renew the dedication of our Nation and ourselves to God and his purposes." I want to speak with you about that second goal this morning because I believe it is critically important at this moment in our national history when our economic life is thriving, but our moral life is stagnating. Although so much is so good in our country today, there are other ways in which we desperately need to do better. There is compelling evidence, for example, that our culture has coarsened; that our standards of decency and civility have eroded; and that the traditional sources of values in our society—faith, family, and community—are in a life-and-death struggle with the darker forces of immorality, inhumanity, and greed.

From the beginning of our existence, we Americans have known where to turn in such times of moral challenge. "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people," John Adams wrote. George Washington warned us never to "indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion." That is why we pledge our allegiance to "one nation under G-d." And why faith has played such a central role in our nation's history. Great spiritual awakenings have brought strength and purpose to the American experience. In the 18th Century, the first Great Awakening put America on the road to independence, freedom, and equality. In the 19th Century, the Second Awakening gave birth to the abolitionist movement, which removed the stain of slavery from American life and made the promise of equality more real. And in the early 20th Century, a third religious awakening led to great acts of justice and charity toward the poor and the exploited, which expressed themselves ultimately in a progressive burst of social legislation.

In recent years, I believe, there have been clear signs of a new American spiritual awakening. This one began in the hearts of millions of Americans who felt threatened by the vulgarity and violence in our society, and turned to religion as the best way to rebuild a wall of principle and purpose around themselves and their families. Christians flocked to their churches, Jews to their synagogues, Muslims to their Mosques, and Buddhists and Hindus to their temples. Others chose alternate spiritual movements as their way to values, order, and peace of mind. It has been as if millions of modern men and women were hearing the ancient voice of the prophet Hosea saying, "Thou hast stumbled in thine iniquity . . . Therefore, turn to thy G-d . . . keep mercy and justice."

This morning, I want to ask all who are here to think about how we can strengthen and expand the current spiritual awakening so it not only inspires us individually and within our separate faith communities, but also renews and elevates the moral and cultural life of our nation?

Let me suggest that we begin by talking more to each other about our beliefs and our values, talking in the spirit of this prayer breakfast—open, generous, and mutually respectful—so that we may strengthen each other in our common quest. The Catholic theologian, Michael Novak, has written wisely:

"Americans are starved for good conversations about important matters of the human spirit. In Victorian England, religious devotion was not a forbidden topic of conversa-

tion, sex was. In America today, the inhibitions are reversed."

So let us break through those inhibitions to talk together, study together, and pray together, remembering the call in Chronicles to "give thanks to G-d, to declare His name and make His acts known among the peoples . . . to sing to Him and speak of all His wonders."

We who believe and observe have an additional opportunity and responsibility to reach out to those who may neither believe nor observe, to reassure them that we share with them the core values of America, that our faith is not inconsistent with their freedom, and that our values do not make us intolerant of their differences.

Discussion, study, and prayer are only the beginning, because we know that in the end we will be judged by our behavior. In the Koran, the Prophet says: "So woe to the praying ones who are unmindful of their prayer—and refrain from acts of kindness." Isaiah summarizes the Torah in two acts: "Keep justice and do righteousness." And the Beatitudes inspire and direct us: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled; blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see G-d. Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of G-d."

Turning faith into action is particularly appropriate in this millennial year, whose significance will be determined not by turning a page on our calendars at home or work, but by turning a page on the calendar of our hearts and deeds.

To make a difference, we must take our religious beliefs and values—our sense of justice, of right and wrong—into America's cultural and communal life.

In fact, that has begun to happen. In our nation's public places, including our schools, people are finding constitutional ways to honor and express faith in G-d. In the entertainment industry, a surge of persistent public pressure—a revolt of the revolted—has prodded at least some executives to acknowledge their civic and moral responsibility to our society and our children. It's even happening in government, where we have come together in recent years under President Clinton's leadership to embrace some of our best values by enacting new laws and programs that help the poor by reforming welfare, that protect the innocent by combating crime, and that restore responsibility by balancing our budget.

In communities across America, people of faith are working to repair some of the worst effects of our damaged moral and cultural life, like teenage pregnancy, family disintegration, drug dependency, and homelessness. Charitable giving is up, more of the young are turning to community service, and because our economy is booming, or perhaps in spite of it, people are finding they need more than material wealth to achieve happiness. They want spiritual fulfillment, cultural elevation, more time with their families, and more confidence that they are making a difference for the better.

So there is reason in this millennial year to go forward from this 48th National Prayer Breakfast with hope, ready to serve God with gladness by transforming these good beginnings into America's next Great Spiritual Awakening—one that will secure the moral future of our nation and raise up the quality of life of all our people.

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus said, "so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

If we do, then in time, as Isaiah prophesied: "Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the

rough places smooth. For the earth will be full of the glory of the Lord."

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. EARL SMITH, U.S. ARMY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we carry out the business of the American people here in Washington, we are occasionally fortunate enough to get to know some truly outstanding individual Americans. Today, I would like to mention one such person, who has become a good friend to many of us.

It is a great pleasure to rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Earl Smith, who is retiring from the U.S. Army on April 1st of this year after 22 years of service to our nation.

Along with many other Members, I came to know Lt. Col. Smith in his capacity as Congressional Liaison Officer to the House of Representatives. Lt. Col. Smith and I have traveled to many places together, where I have always found him to define the Army's values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

The American diplomat George Kennan wrote that "only he is capable of exercising leadership over others who is capable of some real degree of mastery over himself." Lt. Col. Smith is a living example of the truth of that statement.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. Smith distinguished himself in numerous command and staff positions overseas, as well as in the continental United States. His career began as an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader in West Berlin, Germany, during the final decade of the Cold War. As recently as 1996, he served in Bosnia as an Operations Officer on the Joint/Combined Staff for the military headquarters responsible for implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The American position in the world—that of lone superpower—is due to the sacrifices made by Lt. Col. Smith and men and women like him. Without their selfless dedication, America would not enjoy the peace and prosperity it is blessed with today.

We all should congratulate Lt. Col. Smith on a career marked by the finest personal qualities and professional excellence. We wish Earl and his wife, Arnette, our best on this important milestone and good luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Ludlow girls soccer team won the program's third Western Massachusetts title last year by defeating defending state champion Cathedral High School. The Lions de-

feated Central Massachusetts Champion Shrewsbury en route to the state final match, where they fell just short of their goal.

The Ludlow girls soccer team finished the year with a record of 19–2–1. Ludlow was able to dominate a tough league in Western Massachusetts in 1999 by employing a highly skillful style of play. A team that was tough when it needed to be, Ludlow was capable of outclassing most of its opponents. As a result of their high class style, the Lions enjoyed the fervent support of the residents of the Town of Ludlow throughout the season.

Head Coach Jim Calheno has built a very successful program at Ludlow High School. Coach Calheno is well-respected in the coaching community and his team is duly feared. The Ludlow talent pool runs very deep, and the Lions are certain to be the team to beat in 2000. Two All-America selections, Liz Dyjak and Stephanie Santos, are among a group of talented Juniors who will be looking to claim the state title next season.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Seniors are: Melissa Dominique, Sandy Salvador, Angela Goncalves, Jen Crespo, Marcy Bousquet, Lynsey Calheno, Jenn Genovevo, and Leana Alves. The Juniors are: Nicole Gebo, Lindsay Robillard, Lindsay Haluch, Kara Williamson, Sarah Davis, Liz Dyjak, Stephanie Santos, Tina Santos, and Jessica Vital. The Sophomores are: Michele Goncalves, Lindsey Palatino, and Kristine Goncalves. The Freshmen are: Natalie Gebo, Lauren Pereira, Beth Cochenour, Darcie Rickson, and Amy Rodrigues. The Head Coach is Jim Calheno, and he is assisted by Saul Chelo, Nuno Pereira, Melanie Pszeniczny, and Mario Monsalve. The managers are Melissa Santos and Elizabeth Barrow.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to congratulate the Ludlow High School girls soccer team on a season well played. I wish them the best of luck for the 2000 season.

TRIBUTE TO LEWANDA DENISE MILLER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lewanda Denise Miller, a woman described by those who know her as a Christian, a family person, an educator, a community helper, a mentor, and a friend.

As the daughter of Roy Lee and Mildred Miller, and as a lifelong member of St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Lewanda credits her southern, Christian upbringing and family, as sources of strength that have helped to teach her ways to help others.

In 1993, Lewanda received her Bachelor's Degree with SUNY College at Old Westbury. While studying Accounting and Business, Lewanda quietly yearned to teach. In her last year of undergraduate study, she applied for a teaching license. Immediately after graduation, she obtained her temporary license in Business. She taught many programs at Boys and Girls High School. Two years later, Lewanda enrolled in Brooklyn College's graduate program to become an English teacher. After

studying on an undergraduate and graduate level, she successfully completed her studies in 1999. Lewanda graduates this millennium with her Masters of Arts in Secondary Education-English. During this time, she obtained provisional certification in English and Business. Lewanda still mentors and tutors students daily at Boys and Girls High School.

Professionally, Ms. Miller has worked on several committees to improve the academic experience for her students. She worked on the Curriculum Interdisciplinary Team, staff developer of ELA Regents Curriculum, and taught one of the Saturday School programs at Boys and Girls High School for the last five years.

Since 1998, Lewanda has been a member of The Women's Caucus, a volunteer organization of women who work closely with me on community activities, and the Interfaith Medical Auxiliary.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing positive young role models, like Lewanda Denise Miller.

IN CELEBRATION OF LUNAR NEW YEAR 4698, THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join members of the Asian American Business Development Center in celebration of the Lunar New Year, the largest and most festive of all celebrations in most of Asia. The Lunar New Year is a time when families and friends congregate, when social bonds are strengthened, and life celebrated.

The celebration of the Lunar New Year, Mr. Speaker, underscores many commonalities throughout our diverse cultures, like an appreciation for the cyclical nature of life and the need for reunion and renewal. I wish everyone in America and throughout Asia who celebrates this occasion a very happy New Year full of good fortune and good health.

This Lunar New Year 4698, which falls on February 5, is a special one marking the Year of the Dragon. In Chinese mythology, the Dragon is a symbol of supreme power, controlling the wind and rain to benefit the earth or, sometimes, unleashing a destructive typhoon.

Dragons, as we know, are found in Western mythology as well, carved on the helm of Viking ships and woven into children's stories about European Princesses and gallant knights. The Dragon, then, is very much a part of our world culture as is the celebration of the annual renewal of life.

Mr. Speaker, today in New York City, I joined the Asian American Business Development Center in celebrating the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is a triumphant occasion for millions of people throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me and the Asian American Business Development Center in celebration of this special holiday.

THE FOUR YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ACT OF 1996

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, on the fourth anniversary of the passage of the Telecommunications Act, the benefits of deregulation are plainly evident. Consumers are paying the lowest prices in history for telecommunications services and enjoying new technologies that were unimaginable just 4 years ago. The deregulation that resulted from the act has provided tremendous stimulation to the telecommunications industry and the American economy.

Unfortunately, future progress is being held hostage by a Federal agency resistant to change. The telecommunications industry now moves on Internet time but is regulated by an FCC that relies on Depression-era rules and regulations. The FCC is too big, too powerful, and too unresponsive to the mandates of the law, congressional intent, and the needs of the American consumer.

Congress thought it deregulated the telecommunications industry 4 years ago, and to a large extent we did. What we didn't know was the extent to which the FCC would subvert congressional intent and implement its own agenda. The prologue of the 1996 act states that its goal is to reduce regulation. What we now know is that the only way to do so is to sharply curtail the power of the FCC.

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING
DEMOCRACY IN MONTENEGRO

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week I chaired a hearing before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe on promoting and protecting democracy in Montenegro. Montenegro is a small republic with only about 700,000 inhabitants, and yet it is among the strongest proponents of democratic change in the Balkans. As a result, Montenegro has the potential of being the target of the next phase of the Yugoslav conflict which began in 1991.

Montenegro, with a south Slavic population of Eastern Orthodox heritage, is the Only other former Yugoslav republic to have maintained ties in a federation with Serbia. Since 1997, Montenegro has moved toward democratic reform, and its leaders have distanced themselves from earlier involvement in the ethnic intolerance and violence which devastated neighboring Croatia, Bosnia, and Kosovo. In contrast, the Belgrade regime of Slobodan Milosevic has become more entrenched in power and more determined to bring ruin to Serbia, if necessary to maintain this power. The divergence of paths has made the existing federation almost untenable, especially in the aftermath of last year's conflict in Kosovo. We now hear reports of a confrontation with Milosevic and possible conflict in Montenegro as a result.

One witness Janusz Bugajski of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, presented the conflict scenarios. He said: "Other than surrendering Montenegro altogether, Belgrade has three options: a military coup and occupation; the promotion of regional and ethnic conflicts; or the provocation of civil war. More likely Milosevic will engage in various provocations, intimidations and even assassinations to unbalance the Montenegrin leadership. He will endeavor to sow conflict between the parties in the governing coalition, heat up tensions in the Sandjak region of Montenegro by pitting Muslims against Christian Orthodox, and threaten to partition northern Montenegro if Podgorica [the capital of Montenegro] pushes toward statehood. The political environment will continue to heat up before the planned referendum" on independence.

In addition to the ongoing operations to keep the peace and provide justice and democratic governance in Bosnia and Kosovo, Mr. Speaker, the United States and the rest of the international community will face the challenge this year of promoting and protecting democracy in Montenegro. Srdjan Darmanovic, head of the Center for Democracy and Human rights in Montenegro, said it is logical and understandable that the international community encourages the Montenegrin authorities to follow a policy of ambiguity on the republic's future. On the one hand, the international community already has the burden of two peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslav region and doesn't want another, yet it does not want Milosevic to seize Montenegro and stop the democratic development taking place there. Darmonovic concluded, however, that this situation "creates a very narrow space in which the Montenegrin Government has to play a dangerous chess game with the Milosevic regime in which the price of failure or miscalculation could be very high. . . . The 'politics of ambiguity' has very dangerous limits. It cannot last forever."

Veselin Vukotic, head of the Center for Entrepreneurship in Montenegro, described the economic steps which Montenegro has taken to distance itself from Serbia. He said that Montenegrin citizens cannot wait for the day when Milosevic resigns, which may never come. Economic change must begin now. The introduction of the Deutsche mark as a second currency has allowed the Montenegrin economy to move away from that of Yugoslavia as a whole. This has led to a decrease in Serbian-Montenegrin commerce and permits Montenegro to receive outside assistance even as Serbia remains under international sanctions. Still, he noted that the Montenegrin economy needs to be transformed into a market economy. This will require transparency to deter the continuing problem of corruption, as well as the development of a more open society.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, Montenegro is no longer alone in seeking to base its future on multi-ethnic accord, democracy and openness, rather than the nationalism of the 1990s. Beginning in late 1998, a similar trend began in Macedonia, and now in Croatia, new government leaders were elected who will reverse the nationalist authoritarianism of the Tudjman years. Hopefully, this will resonate in Serbia itself, where change is needed. The bottom line, as the Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Marc Grossman said in a conversation, is that there must be change in

Serbia itself. As long as Milosevic is in power, there will be regional instability.

In testimony before the Senate Committee on Armed Services last week, Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet made clear: "Of the many threats to peace and stability in the year ahead, the greatest remains Slobodan Milosevic—the world's only sitting president indicted for crimes against humanity. . . . He retains control of the security forces, military commands, and an effective media machine."

With good judgment and resolve, Mr. Speaker, conflict can be avoided in Montenegro, and those seeking conflict deterred. As democracy is strengthened in Montenegro, the international community can also give those in Serbia struggling to bring democracy to their republic a chance to succeed. The people of Serbia deserve support. Democracy-building is vital for Serbs, Montenegrins and others living in the entire southeastern region of Europe.

Mr. Speaker, in the past decade, those of us who follow world affairs have had an in-depth lesson in the history, geography and demography of southeastern Europe. Places like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo were little known and little understood. Unfortunately, too many policymakers became aware of them only as the news reports of ethnic cleansing began to pour in.

The Helsinki Commission, which I have now had the honor of chairing for the past 5 years, has sought for over two decades to inform Members of Congress, the U.S. Government and the American public, of developing issues in countries of Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Hopefully, with timely and well-informed attention, we can more effectively and quickly respond to a potential crisis, and perhaps save lives.

HONORING THE CAREER OF GENE
DIXON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the long-time service of Gene Dixon of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who will soon retire as the golf professional at The Country Club at Stones River. Gene has been a tremendous ambassador for the game of golf throughout Tennessee and the nation.

A native Tennessean, Gene attended the University of Memphis. His college roommate was 1975 U.S. Open Champion Lou Graham. Gene was the 1958 Tennessee State Amateur Champion, the Memphis City Champion and finished fourth in the NCAA Championship.

After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Gene arrived at Stones River Country Club in 1967. An outstanding golfer in his own right, winning numerous PGA Chapter Championships and participating in four Senior PGA Championships, he has helped develop and mentor many young golfers. Several of these youngsters earned collegiate scholarships, and two have been Tennessee State High School Champions.

Described by Tennessee PGA Executive Director Dick Horton as "the cream of the crop", Dixon will leave a void in the state golfing community when he retires. I congratulate Gene Dixon on his admirable and distinguished career and wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CLEO DUNAWAY
CRAIG

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cleo Dunaway Craig. Later this week in Marion, Illinois, she will celebrate her 110th birthday. Cleo Dunaway Craig was born on February 12, 1890 in Marion, to Thomas and Emma Dunaway. In 1909 she married Edgar Craig and together they had one daughter, Elizabeth, who passed away when she was fifty-five years old. Edgar passed away in 1958. She has two grandsons, Craig Brosi who resides in Hackessin, Delaware and Brian Brosi, who lives in Marion and visits his grandmother daily.

Cleo Craig taught for one year at Lincoln Grade School and during World War I she worked as a reporter for her hometown newspaper. In 1928 she and her husband moved to Metropolis, Illinois and in 1930 her family moved to Chicago until the passing of her husband. After Chicago, Cleo moved back to Marion and lived with her sister until she was one hundred years old. In 1990 she moved to Fountains Nursing Home and still is residing there. Everyday Cleo reads the Chicago Tribune, every week she reads Newsweek. She is an avid sports fan and every summer she robustly cheers on her favorite baseball team: the Chicago Cubs, who have not won a World Series since she was 18 years old. I hope she will not have to wait another 92 years to celebrate a Cub's World Series victory!

Mr. Speaker, Cleo Craig is a living example of the evolvement of our country as the strongest nation in the world. She represents the spirit of America: hard work, perseverance and a positive outlook. Perhaps the most amazing thing about Cleo, is that besides some hearing loss, she is in perfect health and does not take any medications. Everyone at the Fountains Nursing Home will be celebrating this momentous birthday with her on Friday. She is truly an inspiration to us all. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Cleo Craig a happy 110th birthday and God's Speed.

RECOGNIZING THE SUPER BOWL
CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL OF
COMMERCE FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the wonderful accomplishments of the football team from the High School of Commerce in Springfield, MA. The Commerce football team finished the season 10-1 and captured the first State title in school history. This was the first Super Bowl game for Commerce since 1978, and the players made the most of their chance by beating Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical 33-15.

The Commerce team became the Division IIIA Super Bowl Champions on the strength of their defense which was able to come up with

three fumble recoveries and an interception. The Red Raiders scored three touchdowns in just 42 seconds during the second quarter and never looked back. Commerce amassed over 200 yards on the ground behind the superb running of Julius Walker, who gained over 100 yards by himself. Credit must be given to the offensive line. Although they are accustomed to throwing the ball, the Commerce offense adjusted to the Bay Path game plan and ran the ball successfully.

Head Coach Todd Kosel leads a program which recently endured a winless season. However, Coach Kosel has turned all of that around and now has a team feared and respected for its intelligence, its determination, and its commitment. The depth of this squad can be seen on the score sheet as touchdowns were scored by five different players: Alfonso Dixon, Brandon Bass, Wister Figueroa, Julius Walker, and Michael Vaz.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to recognize and congratulate the Super Bowl Champions from the High School of Commerce. I wish all of the student-athletes on this team the best of luck in 2000 as they return to defend their title.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE BOLUS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Ms. Josephine Bolus. As a registered nurse (RN) in New York, she has served her community well.

Ms. Bolus started her community activities during the "Korean conflict", as a member of the Civilian Air Patrol, monitoring the New York City skies for foreign aircraft. She then became a volunteer for the American Red Cross; and later became a licensed practical nurse, under former President Kennedy's educational initiatives. Deciding to further her education, she attended New York City Community College, and graduated in 1971 with a degree in nursing. After graduation she started working at Brooklyn's King's County Hospital Center, and remained there until her retirement in December of 1997.

During those 27 years, Josephine continued her education and with the combined help of a new program offered by King's County Hospital and the State University Hospital of Brooklyn, she became a pediatric nurse practitioner in 1975. She testified before New York Senate Committees on the need for prescriptive privileges for nurse practitioners, as well as the need for New York State Nurse Practitioner Certification. Both issues were enacted into law by the New York State Legislature. As a member of the American Nurse Association, she also serves as the congressional liaison to the 10th congressional district.

She is an active member of the New York State Nurses Association [NYSNA] which represents over 35,000 RNs. After serving in numerous positions, she now serves on the NYSNA Board of Directors and is vice-chair of the NYSNA Political Action Committee. Josephine is also a member of the Women's Caucus, a volunteer organization of women who work on Brooklyn community services

projects; the Brooklyn College Alumni Board of Directors; and the Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Community Advisory Board. She is also on the board's health committee and does special projects for New York State Senator John Sampson.

Depending on the day of the week, Ms. Bolus can be found volunteering in my office, as well as the offices of New York State Assemblyman Frank Seddio, and the campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton. In her "spare time" she has organized health fairs, CPR courses, tennis lessons for asthmatics, and diabetic counseling groups. She has also created unique cloth dolls, which she exchanges for donations to her church.

Josephine is the recipient of several awards, including the 1999 NYSNA Delegate Assembly, the Central Baptist Church's "Humanitarian Award", and the Maggie Jacobs RN Service Award. She has conducted research in collaboration with Tuft's University School of Medicine and the State University Hospital of Brooklyn. Ms. Bolus is married to Henry A. Bolus, and they have two children.

It is an honor to pay tribute to community leaders like Ms. Josephine Bolus.

IN MEMORY OF DON HUTSON

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Don Hutson, of Lebanon, Missouri. He was 68.

Mr. Hutson was born on November 4, 1931, in Kansas City, MO, to Alpha Henry and Lola Hutson. He graduated as valedictorian from Oak Grove High School and went on to graduate with honors from Central College. In 1958, he earned a juris doctor degree with honors from George Washington University Law School. He then spent 4 years as a staff assistant to Senator Stuart Symington. This gave him an opportunity to work on many legislative issues beneficial to the state of Missouri.

Mr. Hutson was a well known and respected attorney, who practiced law in Kansas City and Lebanon for 40 years. Prior to entering private practice, he was appointed assistant prosecuting attorney for Jackson County, serving as chief trial attorney for most of the major felony cases in Kansas City. He was commended for successfully prosecuting and convicting dozens of organized-crime figures during one of the first national organized-crime drives.

Mr. Hutson was recognized for his numerous achievements throughout his life. He was named in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the Midwest and Who's Who in American Law. In addition, he was active in his community and civic affairs. Mr. Hutson was an ordained minister in the Christian Church and served as a Christian Church minister at Oak Grove, Lone Jack and other churches in Missouri. He was the founder of the Lebanon Arts Council and involved with the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and the Lebanon Concert Association.

I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his son, Eric; his three daughters, Sheila, Robin, and Heather; and five grandchildren.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF ANGELO
PETRARCA

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Angelo Petrarca who retired on January 31, 2000 after 40 years of service in South Chicago Heights.

Fire Chief Petrarca joined the South Chicago Heights Fire Department in June 1970. He became a Lieutenant in May 1971 and was appointed Assistant Fire Chief in May 1973. On May 1, 1974, Mr. Petrarca was appointed as Fire Chief.

Chief Petrarca has been a resident of South Chicago Heights since 1959, and is known to be completely dedicated to his career as well as to ensuring the health and well-being of the community. The major highlight of Chief Petrarca's career this past year involves the improvement of the fire departments response time which was previously, on average 6–7 minutes, before November 1998. The response time is now an impressive two minutes from the time of call to the actual arrival of EMS personnel on site. This is mostly due to Chief Petrarca's decision to staff the fire department with a 24 hour a day on duty paramedic along with another EMS professional on call seven days a week.

Chief Petrarca also believes in giving of his time to various organizations both professionally and for the good of the community. Some of his affiliations include: Member of the Illinois Fire Chief Association; Past President of the WILCO Fire Chiefs Association; Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators; Chairperson of the ETSB; Member of the National Emergency Number Association; and Member of South Chicago Heights Y2K Readiness Committee.

Fire Chief Angelo Petrarca's commitment and impact on his community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Fire Chief Petrarca is both timely and appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and enlightened America's communities.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN V. HAYS

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. John Hays, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and owner/operator of Rouse Brothers Ranch in Unity, OR. John Hays is a fierce-

ly independent man who is committed to preserving and protecting the rights of America's farmers and ranchers.

Through hard work and dedication, John has had a stellar career championing the rights of private property owners. When John is not fighting to preserve the rights of land owners, he is speaking out against the high levels of agribusiness consolidation and the many related problems affecting agricultural producers, rural communities, and consumers.

After thinking about various events in John's life, I am reminded of a passage in Theodore Roosevelt's letter to Marcus Alonzo Hanna (June 27, 1900): "I am as strong as a bull moose and you can use me to the limit."

Mr. Speaker, I must tell you, it has been an honor to know John and to be his friend. Truly, he is dedicated to preserving the unique integrity of our proud western heritage.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I commend the example of John Hays to my colleagues, and hereby submit to the RECORD for their consideration a January 11, 2000 article appearing in *The Bulletin* (Bend, Oregon).

[*The Bulletin*, Jan. 11, 2000]

CATTLEMEN'S LEADER WORKS TO PRESERVE
RANCHING

(By Jim Witty)

JOHN DAY.—It's not easy being a cattleman in Oregon at the dawn of the 21st century.

To hear John Hays tell it, the Western rancher should join the northern spotted owl, the blackfooted ferret and the gray wolf on the endangered list.

Hays, a bull of a man with a gregarious streak a mile wide and at least as deep, sees red when the topic turns to cows and those who would interfere with their unfettered husbandry.

"We kind of look at ourselves as an endangered species," Hays says. "If you look at the last five or six years, we've been nearly regulated out of business."

Hays, the newly elected president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, has come out with both guns blazing.

One of his first communiqués is illustrative.

Shortly after a federal court ordered the Bureau of Land Management to eliminate cattle grazing along 18 miles of the Owyhee River in Southeastern Oregon, Hays shot out a press release to Oregon media outlets accusing U.S. District Judge James Redden of bias and calling the principal litigant—the Oregon Natural Desert Association of Bend—the "eliminate the food chain group of America."

Hays concluded the news release by declaring: "This type of judgment is why people fled Europe during the time of Hitler. It is a very sad time in my life as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association."

Strong words. But Hays is no shrinking violet.

He has vowed to fight a triple threat he believes is ripping the guts from the ranching industry: the Endangered Species Act, which cattlemen complain has produced a spate of unwanted regulations (listings or potential listings of steelhead, salmon and trout species, for instance, have restricted the way ranchers can do business on their property); the buyout of dozens of medium-size packing plants by a couple of large corporations, IBP and Con Agra; and the subsequent homogenization of the market—the loss of ranchers' ability to command a premium for premium beef.

This day, Hays is at the senior center in John day taking a break from the environmental wars, rallying the troops for an assault on the marketing front.

'We want to get back in control of our market,' says Hays, 57, sipping coffee in an anteroom before he's scheduled to outline his plans before several dozen ranchers in the main hall.

To regain that control, the former restaurateur and sports agent is promoting a premium product produced by the state's ranchers, called Oregon Trail Branded Beef, that will be processed in a cattlemen-owned plant. That way, says Hays, ranchers can sell contaminant-free beef that they control from rangeland to retailer.

'People get E. coli and who do they point to?' says Hays. 'The cattlemen, right off the bat. We don't have any control of the product.'

While the ambitious co-op marketing campaign is occupying most of his time these days, the battle on the ground is never far from his mind.

'Grazing is a target,' says Hays. '(Environmentalists) found out with the spotted oil that they could get rid of the timber industry. Grazing is the next thing they're pushing for.'

Bill Marlett of Bend-based Oregon Natural Desert Association is Hays' arch nemesis. The two have never met.

'As a human being, I give everybody a chance,' says Hays. '(But) I hate to see anything progressive being torn down.'

ONDA argues that cows have trampled riverbanks, fouled streams and chewed up fragile desert topsoil on more than 13 million acres of public land in Oregon. And the organization's goal is to remove all cattle from the state's BLM- and Forest Service-administered land.

Marlett says he doesn't quite know what to make of Hays.

'I don't know where he's coming from to be honest,' says Marlett. 'To make the inference about Nazi Germany—aside from being irrelevant—is crazy. Why would you say something like that? If he's going to base policy on rhetoric, there's probably not a lot of progress we can make communicating. . . . It's kind of extreme.'

Hays, in turn, argues that those pushing to rid the range of cattle are outside the mainstream.

'We are the table,' says Hays, referring to the cattleman's place in the scheme of things. 'I don't consider the people who don't own property as even the tablecloth, the salt and pepper shaker. . . . A lot of it is lifestyle. They could care less about lifestyle.'

But Hays is concerned that lifestyle is in trouble as are communities dependent on ranching.

He contends that ranchers are the best land stewards because their livelihoods depend on it.

'You don't make a living if you trash your ranch,' Hays says. 'We're some of the better environmentalists in the world. . . . It's like anything else, if you don't harvest the grass, it will turn to weeds.'

But Hays says he sees the Endangered Species Act being used as a tool to take cattle off the range. For instance, he says, when a threatened trout is found on a rancher's grazing allotment, they can't use the creek anymore unless they invest in a costly fencing regimen.

Hays subscribes to the theory that there is an overarching plan guiding the environmental movement that will move more and more private land into government ownership.

'These are apostles of the one world movement to get people off the land,' he says. ' . . . Eventually it's a government takeover.'

Most environmentalists pooh pooh the notion, saying that it's difficult enough organizing their own groups, let alone a monolithic movement.

Although he served a 5-year stint in the Marine Corps, 17 years in the restaurant business and a few more in partnership with former NFL greats Mel Renfro and Darryl Lamonica putting together contracts, his first love is ranching, Hays says.

On his home place in Unity, about 60 miles west of the Idaho border, hays runs about 3,000 head of cattle on 23,000 privately owned acres and 80,000 acres owned by the federal government. His family has operated the Rouse ranch since the 1850s, he says.

Hays argues that society has mixed up its priorities.

'I see it in the logging industry in my hometown.' 'One fellow there had 30 some people employed there. It kept the town going. He had to let them go. Now our town's full of drugs. Some have had to leave. . . . It hurts your kids, it hurts your schools, your community.'

So, says Hays, does the Endangered Species Act.

'Why is a fish dominant over everything else?' he queries. 'People are taking this ESA and using it as a tool to get what they want.'

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of votes that I missed while in Michigan recuperating from surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 2—H. Con. Res 244—"yes"; Rollcall No. 3—H.R. 2130—"yes"; Rollcall No. 4—H.R. 764—"yes"; Rollcall No. 5—H.R. 1838—"yes"; Rollcall No. 6—Instructing Conferees on H.R. 2990—"yes"; and Rollcall No. 7—H.R. 2005—"no."

IN HONOR OF MAURY MEYERS,
MAYOR OF BEAUMONT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Maury Meyers, who will be receiving the Jay C. Crager Award from the American Heart Association. This award is given to outstanding citizens who have distinguished themselves with unselfish civic responsibility and community service. It is fitting that Maury Meyers is receiving this award because he has dedicated his life to serving his community.

Maury meets the description of a leader, he has been involved with every aspect of the community, and taught us as a community to believe in ourselves. Maury has contributed so much to the community of Beaumont and the people who live there. He believes in Beaumont and its residents, and has unfalteringly placed his time and energy into its progression.

Maury's first two terms as Mayor, from 1978–1982, changed the face of Beaumont and the character of the community through unparalleled initiatives. Maury returned to the Mayor's office in 1986 and faced a city that was suffering economically and was experiencing problems in the public and private sectors.

The problem of economic recovery and the creation of jobs was Maury's top priority upon his return to office, he wanted to invigorate Beaumont and the people who lived there. To address this problem, he created the "Worlds Largest Economic Development Committee" when 8,000 residents of all ages and walks of life filled the Beaumont Civic Center to participate in an economic summit.

Maury Meyers is a people person, and he took that spirit to the Mayor's office. He believed that everybody had a role and a voice in their community, and during his time in office hundreds of private citizens served on city-appointed advisory committees, neighborhood town-hall meetings and public hearings. An organization known as "Planning Economic Progress" was created by Maury and brought labor and management together on issues affecting commercial and industrial growth, as well as community development.

The Texas Energy Museum is in Beaumont because of Maury's hard work and perseverance. Competition for the museum between Beaumont and other major cities and Universities was fierce, and conditions made it necessary to organize a strictly private effort. In just a few days, he was able to raise more than \$1 million and brought the museum to Beaumont. He also founded the Southeast Texas Inc., a non-profit organization focusing on innovative regional economic development.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to speak on behalf of Mr. Maury Meyers and all of his accomplishments. He is a man that I look to for inspiration as I continue to work for the communities and neighborhoods of Texas. While I can not be with him when he receives his award, I am proud to recognize him on the floor of the House. He is a man who has committed his life not to himself, but to the people of Southeast Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TOM COFFEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the residents of Maries County, Missouri, are gathering to honor one of their leading citizens, Mr. Tom Coffey, on his 94th birthday.

Mr. Coffey has a long history of public service. He began by volunteering to defend his country in the European Theater during World War II. After the war, he returned to Vienna and has remained a lifetime resident. He adopted the people of the city of Vienna and Maries County and has made significant contributions to the community over the past 50 years. Mr. Coffey provided generous financial support to build a fire station in Vienna, donated land for a business development site and established three scholarships for graduates of Vienna High School. He also purchased land to build the American Legion Hall and then deeded the property to the city.

Additionally, Mr. Coffey has been the leading force behind the Maries County Fair for more than 40 years and was one of five citizens to establish the Old Jail and Historical Society. He is planning to continue to support the community for many years into the future as he has designated more than 30 organiza-

tions to receive annual grants from his trust. I am not surprised that the city of Vienna wants to express their gratitude to Mr. Coffey on the occasion of his 94th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to Mr. Coffey for his outstanding dedication to the community and selfless public service.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF
MONEE AND ITS
QUASQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Monee and its quasiquicentennial celebration. The village of Monee was formed in the year 1874 and the residents of Monee have celebrated their 125 years of history with dozens of different events throughout the year 1999. It has been my great privilege and honor to serve the residents of Monee. I am pleased to recognize their strong and admirable sense of community pride.

The village of Monee, which lies in my 11th congressional district, is situated in northern Will County. Although the village is located less than 30 miles from the city of Chicago, the village has been able to maintain its small-town ambiance and sense of pride in its history and progress. Both the village and local organizations contribute time and money to hosting family-orientated events and activities.

The village of Monee was founded by Augustus Herbert in November of 1853 when he recorded his plat of land at the Will County Courthouse. The village is believed to be named for a French-Ottawa Indian woman, Marie LeFevre Bailly. The French called Marie "Mah-ree" but the Ottawa Indians had no sound for the letter "r" and called her "Mah-nee." French treaty clerks later wrote the name as "Mo-nee." The Indian princess, Marie was renowned as one of the most beautiful women in the northwest area. In 1833, the Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe made with the Pottawatomie Tribe made a gift of property to the four daughters of Marie and her husband Joseph Bailly. This gift of property is possibly the only connection between "Princess Monee" and the village named in her honor.

Today, the village of Monee has a growing population of approximately 1,044. The current village president is the Honorable Larry Kochel.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other towns and villages in their own districts which are proudly celebrating special occasions.

THE PASSING OF DR. LAURA
THOMPSON, A FRIEND OF THE
CHAMORRO PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn and pay tribute to the passing of a

great anthropologist and true friend of Guam, Dr. Laura Thompson. Dr. Thompson was an anthropologist who not only studied various cultures in the world, she contributed to the growth of the discipline during her lifetime. For the people of Guam and researchers everywhere, her work, "Guam and Its People", is the seminal work on the essence of the Chamorro culture. She was the first anthropologist to formally study the culture of the people of Guam and every student, researcher or any person interested in serious thinking about Guam must begin by reading and understanding her work.

Dr. Thompson was born in Honolulu on January 23, 1905 and died last month right after her 95th birthday. During her life, she published nine books in anthropology and more than 70 articles in professional journals. She was a compelling and provocative speaker who willingly addressed professional meetings, spoke to community groups and frequently appeared on radio and television programs. She spoke about her experience, the role of women in society and the advancement of her discipline. In the course of her work, she spoke out as an advocate for the advancement of Pacific island peoples.

Dr. Thompson came to Guam in 1938 at the invitation of the Naval Government of Guam to study the Chamorro people. She served as a consultant to the naval governor of Guam. The assumption at the time was that naval officers needed to learn more about the nature of the Chamorro people so that the task of governing Guam would be more efficiently and effectively accomplished. It was ultimately a self-defeating assumption, because the only way that Guam should have been governed was by the people of Guam themselves. Dr. Thompson stayed for six months in the village of Malessos and learned a great deal about the rhythm of Chamorro life, particularly in the southern end of Guam which was acknowledged as the more traditional part of Guam.

Her work gave all of us insights into the hybrid culture of the Chamorro people, a mixture of Spanish, Mexican and Filipino influences interspersed with the pre-Western contact Chamorro traditions. The account of the culture was powerful because the strengths of Chamorro character and industry were being celebrated for the first time in recorded history. Under American and Spanish colonial rule, Chamorros were only discussed as a problem. For the first time, Chamorros were being discussed as human beings who had designed a dynamic and strong framework for life. It was an invigorating vision made more powerful by the fact that it was conducted in the name of science.

Guam went on to be occupied by Japan during World War II and the Chamorro people endured a new challenge to their existence. They survived and their heroic story inspired their fellow Americans at the time. However, naval officials decided that the military should continue to govern Guam even as America had just prevailed in a war to preserve democracy and defeat fascism and militarism. The post World War II military government of Guam was an anomaly whose future was dim. And one of the persons who wanted to ensure that military government would come to an end was Dr. Laura Thompson.

She was refused the opportunity to go back to Guam by the Navy and visit the Chamorro people. Along with a few friends, she worked

to end military rule in Guam and advocated the granting of U.S. citizenship to the Chamorro people. Her husband, John Collier, was Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She prevailed upon him, their friend, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes and others like Pearl Buck to assist her in her advocacy of Guam issues. She worked with the Institute of Ethnic Affairs and they began to issue statements on the true nature of the military government in Guam. She testified in front of numerous Congressional committees. This lobbying effort was counteracted by the Navy who established an office across the street from the Institute to issue the Navy's point of view. The objectives of their lobbying were both the Executive Branch and Congress. Congress eventually realized that the Navy must go.

The role of the Institute, the articles by Harold Ickes, the articles in *Asia Magazine* by Richard Wels and the letters to the editor in the *New York Times* facilitated by Foster Hailey in moving Guam to civilian government has not been fully understood by many except the most committed historians. In combination with the efforts of Antonio Won-Pat, F.B. Leon Guerrero and the willingness of the Guam Congress to protest the decisions of the naval governor of Guam, the people of Guam finally saw the end of naval rule. It is one of the Guam history's greatest ironies that a young woman brought out to help naval officers understand Guam more eventually ended the power of naval officers over Guam.

Dr. Thompson did not return to Guam until 1976 at my invitation to an event I organized called the Chamorro Studies Convention. She came and delivered an inspirational message of hope and understanding about the Chamorro people. The event helped rekindle her interest and subsequent contacts with the people of Guam. She became good friends with Dr. Becky Stephenson, an anthropologist at the University of Guam, who edited a publication about Dr. Thompson's life story. Entitled "Beyond The Dream: A Search for Meaning", the work recounts the growth of Dr. Thompson as a scholar and anthropology as a discipline. Dr. Stephenson remarked about her colleague, "Laura was a good friend of Guam. She was a woman who loved Guam."

Dr. Thompson obtained a B.A. from Mills College in Oakland California and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1933. She is the 1979 recipient of the Bronislaw Malinowski Award for the Society of Applied Anthropology. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Fiji, Hawaii, Iceland, West Germany, the mainland U.S. with Native American communities as well as Guam.

Si Yu'os ma'ase' Dr. Thompson for all of your efforts on behalf of the people of Guam. To her nieces and nephew and those who cared for her in her later years, we thank you for sharing her talent, her strength and her inspiration with the people of Guam.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY
SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to

honor the 90th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The organization was first established on February 8, 1910 and has since then been dedicated to the growth and maturity of young adults in America. It has given youth the opportunity to have a healthy start in life by allowing them to participate in programs dedicated to building character, developing personal fitness, and raising community service awareness. For ninety years, the Boy Scouts of America have continually renewed their commitment by nurturing our children into young adults that stand for values of honesty, integrity, and respect.

We must not forget those strong energetic individuals that have made the Boy Scouts what it is today. The organization would not be in existence if it were not for co-founders Daniel Carter Beard, Ernest Thompson Seton, William D. Boyce, and James E. West. All of these men heavily influenced the early development of the Boy Scouts. Daniel Carter Beard, remembered for his buckskin outfits, was a pioneer of the Boy Scouts who merged his own boys' organization with the Boy Scouts of America. Ernest Thompson Seton, the first Chief Scout, wrote numerous volumes on Scouting. Also worth mentioning is William D. Boyce, who incorporated the Boy Scouts of America soon after being inspired by a scout in Europe. Lastly, there was James E. West, who was the first Chief Scout Executive and also an inspiration to us all. Although orphaned and physically handicapped, Mr. West had the perseverance to graduate from law school and became a successful attorney. This same determination helped build Scouting into the largest and most effective youth organization in the world. When he retired in 1943, Mr. West was recognized throughout the country as the true architect of the Boy Scouts of America. All these great men contributed to making a dream into reality.

Presently over 5 million Americans are members in the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts grow up to become strong leaders with strong values. Their strong leadership can be seen even in the 106th Congress, where more than half of the Members of Congress have participated in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America have also been continually dedicated to community service. I commend the organization for volunteering countless hours in their communities, especially in Suffolk County, New York, where programs such as toy drives for the disadvantaged and food collection for the hungry improve the quality of life for thousands of people. The tradition of serving the community has been emphasized throughout the last ninety years, and I hope to see it continue.

Once again, congratulations to the Boy Scouts of America. They are truly an asset to our great country and I applaud them for all they have done. I wish them many more years of growth and success.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support of House Resolution 409 honoring the Catholic Schools of America for their

invaluable contribution to the education of our children. I understand it is the first time such a resolution has been before the House. I would like to join my House colleagues in extolling the virtues of Catholic educational institutions that have provided consistently excellent alternatives to our public school system—even though I am a product of our public schools.

I am proud to represent and participate in a Catholic society as rich in culture and heritage as El Paso's. Many products of the Catholic education system can be found at all levels of society today, including Sister Elizabeth Anne Swartz, Superintendent of the Diocese Schools in El Paso, whom I would like to commend for the fine job she is doing. I would also like to take a moment to congratulate Bishop Armando X. Ochoa on the great job he is doing, too!

In my district, there are 13 Diocese schools which support 4,607 students and 300 educators. Most Diocese schools posted enrollment increases this year. One school, Father Yermo Elementary School, is celebrating its 40th year. Another, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is celebrating its 81st year.

Last Saturday night, I was privileged to attend an event recognizing the supporters of Catholic education in El Paso. The organizers of this year's "Supporters of Catholic Education in the El Paso Diocese," or SEED, Awards were: Marissa Alvarado; Elvia Borrego; Sr. Kathleen Corbett, SL; Debra Fraire; Bobbie Hernandez; the Honorable Sue Kurita; Manny Lopez; Carmen Montes; Bertha Schachtsneider; Sr. Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND; Olga Torres; Alfred Torres; and Luis Villalobos. I congratulate each and every one of them for all the hard work they put into making this event a great success.

I would also like to recognize the members of the Diocesan Board of Education: Sister Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND, Superintendent; Manny Lopez, President; Adriana Sierra-Loya, Vice-President; Marie Doyle; the Honorable Martha "Sue" Kurita; Robert Lopez; Rev. Marcus McFadin; Mary Alice Szostek; Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Smith; and Luis Villalobos.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2000 SEED awards. From Blessed Sacrament, Best Faculty/Staff; Juanita Reyes; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Elena Aguirre; Best Volunteer: Kathy Cortez; and Best Alumni: James Towle. From Cathedral High School, Best Faculty/Staff; Luz Ulrickson; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Adrian Martinez; Best Volunteer: Menira De La Fuente; and Best Alumni: Jaime Rivera. From Father Yermo Elementary, Best Faculty/Staff: Rose Chavez. From Father Yermo High School, Best Faculty/Staff: Alfredo Palacio; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Yadro Lizardo; Best Volunteer: Mary Lou Vega; and Best Alumni: Gladys Saucedo. From Holy Trinity, Best Faculty/Staff: Alena VanHouten; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Mark Smith; Best Volunteer: Jude Hicks; and Best Alumni: Carlos Sanchez. From Loreto Academy, Best Faculty/Staff: Shelly Wilson, Angie Davila, and Gerri Mearns; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Sister Mary Ann Coyle, SL; Best Volunteer: Jesus Marrufo; and Best Alumni: Cindy Manzanares. From Our Lady of Assumption, Best Faculty/Staff: Anne Johnson; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Cynthia Kelley; and Best Volunteer: Edward Martinez. From Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Best Faculty/Staff: Edward Frias; Best

Benefactor/Supporter: Jose Armendariz; Best Volunteer: Dolores Bustamante; and Best Alumni: Pedro Tapia. From St. Joseph's, Best Faculty/Staff: Irma Gemoest; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Eduardo Fuentes; Best Volunteer: Belinda Garcia; and Best Alumni: Luis Villalobos. From St. Patrick's, Best Faculty/Staff: Lee Nunez; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Noe Carreon; Best Volunteer: Richard Flores; and Best Alumni: Msgr. A. Dixon Hartford. From St. Pius X, Best Faculty/Staff: Sister Mary Ljundahl; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Margie Escobedo; Best Volunteer: Roger Razo; and Best Alumni: Patricia Martinez. From St. Raphael, Best Faculty/Staff: Tony Brown; Best Benefactor/Supporter: Bruce Galyan; and Best Volunteer: Frank Lujan. From the Diocese of El Paso, Best Benefactor/Supporter: Bishop Armando X. Ochoa and Sr. Elizabeth Anne Swartz, SSND.

And on one final note, as a representative of a largely Catholic district, I, too, am concerned about the controversy surrounding the selection of a new House Chaplain. The House has never had a Catholic Chaplain. Although a bipartisan committee gave Catholic candidate Timothy O'Brien the majority of "first" rankings, the House leadership was unfortunately under no obligation to follow their rankings. Instead, the House leadership conducted a final round of interviews of the three finalists. The Leadership made their decision based upon these interviews, with House minority leader DICK GEPHARDT voting for Mr. O'Brien and Speaker HASTERT and Majority Leader ARMEY recommending Charles Wright.

I believe this controversy exists, at least in part, because everyone was not clear on how the selection process would work from the outset. Many of my Democratic colleagues and I felt that if the committee had a clear consensus on a candidate, as they did on Father O'Brien, then the leadership would naturally follow. Others argue that the bipartisan committee only functioned to screen candidates, leaving the final determination to the leadership. I bear no ill-tidings toward Reverend Wright; but I believe we have missed an opportunity here, which is unfortunate.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT BEYKIRCH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Robert (Bob) Beykirch of Sedalia, Missouri.

Bob Beykirch was born on November 24, 1928, in East St. Louis, Illinois, a son of Christopher and Marie Walters Beykirch. He was a staff sergeant in the Illinois National Guard and was stationed in Germany for a year during the Korean War. Bob was a graduate of St. Louis University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1955.

In 1957, Bob and his family moved to Sedalia, Missouri, after acquiring an Anheuser-Busch wholesale distributorship that was renamed County Distributing Co. Bob served as president of the Missouri Beer Wholesaler Association and was a member of the Anheuser-Busch Wholesaler Advisory Panel.

Bob served on the Sedalia Park Board, was a board member of the Missouri Chamber of

Commerce, was a past president of the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Sedalia Area Tourism Commission. In addition, Bob sat on the board of Citizens Against Spouse Abuse, Children's Therapy Center, and the Sedalia Airport Board. Bob was also involved with the Sedalia-Pettis County United Way, local sports teams, and was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, Bob was a successful businessman, civic leader, and a good friend. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Dorothy; his four sons, daughter, and 12 grandchildren.

HONORING MS. ELIZABETH (BETH) S. RUYLE

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) S. Ruyle for her 21 years of service and dedication as executive director for the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA).

Ms. Ruyle became the executive director of South Suburban Mayors and Managers in June 1978. South Suburban Mayors and Managers is a council of government which includes 38 municipalities in South Suburban Cook and Eastern Will Counties. Through Beth's hard work, many of the communities' goals have been realized. These goals include the development of regional planning programs in transportation, solid waste, flood management, and housing. Twenty municipalities now have an intergovernmental self insurance pool for property and casualty. Twelve municipalities can now boast they have an intergovernmental self insurance pool for employee benefits. All thirty-eight municipalities can now rely on fire, police, and public works mutual aid agreements in times of emergency. Under the direction of Ms. Ruyle, the SSMMA was one of the first entities to establish a multimunicipal bond bank which now has \$50 million in assets.

Before coming to work at the SSMMA, Beth and her husband, Craig Hullinger, lived in Atlanta, GA where she had the position of governmental relations coordinator for the Atlanta Regional Commission. Beth completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida in 1968. In 1975, She received her M.P.A. graduate degree from the University of Georgia.

Beth has won several Urban Innovations awards during her career such as an award for Employee Assistance Program, an award for South Suburban Drug Enforcement Program, and a reward for Cost Savings/Revenue Enhancement. In January 1996, Beth was listed in "Crain's Chicago Business" as one of the "100 Most Influential Women In Chicago".

Beth Ruyle's commitment and impact on her community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our Nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Beth Ruyle is both timely and appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and enlightened America's communities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EARL
LESTER COLE

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earl Lester Cole, one of the great pioneers whose exemplary years of service as an educator at Grambling State University spanned nearly half a century. Earl Lester Cole's tenure at Grambling began in 1936 as a science teacher; advancing through the ranks of the faculty, becoming dean in 1946 and was appointed vice president in 1969.

"Dean Cole" as he was affectionately called even after assuming the vice presidency, can be remembered for his active involvement in implementing curriculum which is considered to be the cornerstone to courses now being offered at Grambling State University. Even after his retirement in 1977, Earl Lester Cole continued to advise members of the faculty and administrators.

Mr. Cole was highly respected by his former colleagues and students and is described as a true professional, a good administrator, and a truly outstanding man who is credited for the positive influence in the educational advancement of his former students. Honesty and a fullness of integrity were accolades from those who knew him well. Over the years, he had been recognized for his numerous contributions to Grambling, culminating 10 years ago in the naming of the university's honors college, the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

His influential involvement in the community brought several businesses to the university and as an active member of New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, "Dean Cole" was instrumental in the construction of a building for the church.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Lester Cole recently succumbed after a prolonged illness at the age of 89. He can be remembered as a man who gave much to the field of higher education at a historically black university, always exuded a commanding presence during his lifetime. In his passing "Dean Cole" will be deeply missed by his family, colleagues and friends. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Garnett, his two children, and Elouise Martin, his sister-in-law.

MARTIN BANDA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending an outstanding young man from my district in South Texas, Martin Banda, who was the Southwest Region Youth of the Year in 1999 as part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the National Youth of the Year Program. They only choose five winners nationally, so this was an enormous honor.

Martin Banda is an 11-year member of the Boys and Girls Club of Harlingen, Texas. The circumstances of Martin's life are the sort that would make many people lose hope. Growing up in the Lemoyne Gardens housing project in Harlingen, Martin could easily have chosen an easy but dangerous life on the streets.

But a higher power led Martin to join the Boys and Girls Club. He thanks the Lord for guiding him to the Club because it is a safe sanctuary from the street. But Martin's obstacles were not just on the streets. His father was incarcerated when Martin was just 5 years old, quickly making Martin the man of the house. This responsible young man took care of his mother and two sisters by disciplining himself and focusing his life around positive things.

I understand the trauma with losing a father early; my own father died when I was 16, leaving me the oldest male in the house. But young Martin had to face that reality and responsibility much earlier in life than I did, and under different circumstances, so it is hard to see how difficult that event marked his young life.

While Martin is grateful to them, the Boys and Girls Club and Harlingen are grateful to Martin as well. Martin is a role model for the other young people in the Boys and Girls Club. He has great athletic ability, having played on several championship football teams. But he is mostly admired for his strong leadership skills, developed first by his participation in the Torch Club and later by his service as vice president of the Keystone Club. At last count, Martin has already won \$29,000 in scholarships. This is a very determined young man who will continue his education on his merit.

Martin is a senior in high school and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society with a 3.75 GPA. It isn't just a pleasure, it is an honor, for me to represent this young man in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Martin Banda, the Southwest Youth of the Year winner for his triumph over the odds and his dedication to excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Monday, January 31, 2000 through Wednesday February 2, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 2 through 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 2, "yes" on rollcall vote 3, "yes" on rollcall vote 4, "yes" on rollcall vote 5, "yes" on rollcall vote 6, and "no" on rollcall vote 7.

HONORING WYCKOFF HEIGHTS
MEDICAL CENTER FOR ITS DEDICATED SERVICE TO BROOKLYN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the unwavering service and dedication

of the administrators, physicians, nurses and other staff of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, a renowned 350-bed hospital within Brooklyn's 10th Congressional District. For over 100 years, this facility has served the residents of Brooklyn with pride.

I also ask that we take a moment out of our daily business to commend Wyckoff for its extraordinary work throughout the years, and for going that extra mile this month by sponsoring the 1st annual men's health symposium. This symposium entitled "The First Step of Empowerment is Taking Care of Your Health" will be held on Monday, February 14, 2000, and will take the extraordinary step of focusing on men's health in Brooklyn, and throughout this nation.

Although there are numerous individuals who have worked to create this program, I want to applaud the efforts of four individuals: Dominick Gio, president & CEO; Pradeep Chandra, MD, chairman, Internal Medicine; Nirmal Matto, MD, senior vice president, Medical Affairs/director of Nephrology; and William Green, vice president, Ambulatory Services. They each have worked tirelessly to ensure that Wyckoff does not lose the focus of its mission: to provide excellence in care through prevention, education and treatment. In today's health care environment, their unwavering energy and steadfast determination toward improving our health care delivery system is truly a beacon of hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my esteemed colleagues join me in commending the work of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and its dedicated staff. It is truly a shining star in Brooklyn!

THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join today with Rep. SHERROD BROWN, the ranking Democrat on the Commerce Health Subcommittee, and my California colleagues Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, GEORGE MILLER, BOB MATSUI, ANNA ESHOO, TOM LANTOS, XAVIER BECERRA and LYNN WOOLSEY to introduce the State Children's Health Insurance Program Integrity Act of 2000.

This legislation would prohibit any State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) from allowing a health plan to simultaneously administer and participate in the state plan. While it is simply a technical correction to S-CHIP, it is important technical correction that would eliminate a very real potential for conflict of interest problems caused by health plans playing dual roles in state programs.

The need for this legislation was first brought to our attention in 1998 when California initially granted a contract to a participating health plan to also administer the state CHIP plan. In fact, that health plan withdrew its application and the State went with a non-health plan alternative administrator.

We are now reintroducing the bill and urging its swift passage because it may soon be an issue in California again and could easily become an issue elsewhere since there is nothing in federal law that prohibits states from

granting such contracts. The second administrative vendor contract will be negotiated in California later this year. Without Congressional action on this issue, it is likely that there will once again be competition among participating health plans to obtain the vendor contract.

To further describe the seriousness of this conflict of interest, under California's program the administrative vendor performs a wide variety of functions including: providing trained staff on the program's toll free telephone lines, making eligibility determinations and redeterminations, collecting premiums, enrolling and disenrolling members, transmitting enrollment information and updates to participating health plans, administering the annual open enrollment process, and the list goes on and on. These are clearly functions over which a participating health plan has tremendous interest and will certainly attempt to influence in any system.

Clearly, allowing plans to play both roles creates an inherent bias. And, at a time when there are numerous alternatives to selecting a health plan with a financial interest in that market, it is a bias that can be easily avoided.

Further evidence that our legislation has real merit can be found in another provision of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) which included the S-CHIP program. The BBA allows state Medicaid programs to choose private enrollment brokers to handle the day-to-day enrollment functions of their Medicaid programs. However, in allowing these enrollment brokers, the law clearly stipulates that the enrollment broker be free of any conflicts of interest. Specifically, the law requires that, "The broker is independent of any such entity and of any health care providers (whether or not any such provider participates in the State plan under this title) that provide coverage of services in the same State in which the broker is conducting enrollment activities."

Our legislation would apply the same conflict-of-interest standard that exists in the Medicaid enrollment broker law to the S-CHIP law.

This is an important bill that would protect the integrity of S-CHIP programs across the country. We look forward to working with our colleagues for passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Integrity Act this year.

THE JOSEPH ILETO POST OFFICE
(H.R. 3189)

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my fellow colleagues that H.R. 3189, the Joseph Iletto Post Office in Chino Hills, California, has the support of the California congressional delegation.

Today, I am submitting the names of 19 California Members who recently agreed to support my legislation which will name the soon-to-completed U.S. Post Office in Chino Hills, CA after Mr. Joseph Iletto. These 19 names will be added to the 33 Members of the California delegation who support passage of the Joseph Iletto Post Office. H.R. 3189 passed the House of Representatives on No-

vember 8, 1999 by voice vote and currently awaits action in the U.S. Senate.

You may remember that Mr. Iletto, a resident of Chino Hills, was the postal employee who was murdered on August 10, 1999 by Buford Furrow, the gunman who shot and wounded five children and employees at the North Valley Jewish Community Center (in suburban Los Angeles).

At the time of H.R. 3189's passage, I was listed as the only sponsor of the bill. The Postal Subcommittee of the House Government Reform Committee allowed me to introduce H.R. 3189 with the understanding that I would need to seek additional support within the California delegation. Even though my California colleagues will not be listed as cosponsors of H.R. 3189, they have graciously agreed to be listed as supporters.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, please add the following 19 Members as supporters of H.R. 3189:

Representative WALLY HERGER, Representative DOUG OSE, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative BARBARA LEE, Representative ELLEN TAUSCHER, Representative RICHARD POMBO, Representative TOM CAMPBELL, Representative ZOE LOFGREN, Representative GARY CONDIT, Representative GEORGE RADANOVICH, Representative CALVIN DOOLEY, Representative BILL THOMAS, Representative XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LUCILLE ROYAL-ALLARD, Representative GRACE NAPOLITANO, Representative STEVE KUYKENDALL, Representative JOE BACA, and Representative RON PACKARD.

THE HOLOCAUST AND THE MILLENNIUM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, just barely five weeks ago the world celebrated a new millennium. There were fireworks and galas and celebrations galore. We all hoped to wipe the slate clean and begin a new year, a new era—free of our old prejudices, free of our old nightmares.

That was a lofty goal and I endorse it wholeheartedly: we ought to strive for peace and harmony every chance we get. A new year and new millennium is as good a chance as you can get.

But that doesn't mean forgetting the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, or forgetting the history that has shaped our lives.

This weekend in Salinas in my home district, the community will honor Harold Gordon. Remember the Academy Award-winning film "Life is Beautiful"? Harold Gordon is "Life is Beautiful" for real.

Harold Gordon was a shy, happy child growing up in Poland when suddenly the world turned dark. He, along with the rest of his family, was trundled off to the Polish ghetto, then work camps, then concentration camps. Most of his family was killed. All of his friends disappeared. Auschwitz, Dachau, Buchenwald . . . these are words that instill fear in all of us, even though we did not live through the torture of those places. But Harold Gordon knows it first hand.

In the movie "Life is Beautiful" the child survives the concentration camp because his father is clever enough to hide him each day. The child is led to believe that he is playing a game with the SS soldiers. Harold Gordon and his father survived the concentration camp through no special gimmicks. There was no fantasy and no games. This was life-and-death reality at its worst.

And yet, Harold Gordon has written of his experience during that awful time a book that is an inspiration to us all. The Last Sunrise is Harold Gordon's memoir of his daily struggles to avoid the gas chambers and give strength to those around him, even though he was just a boy at the time.

I marvel at Mr. Gordon's ability to present a story of death at a pace that reads like a Number One Bestseller on the New York Times book list. You simply cannot put it down. I think the appeal of The Last Sunrise is that its real story is not even that of the war or of the concentration camps. It is a story ultimately of hope and survival.

Despite the gruesome realities of daily existence, Harold carried with him the belief that human spirit will overcome, that the power of humanity will survive beyond the walls of the concentration camp. Certainly, even those who lost their lives during this terrible time in mankind's history have not been forgotten but serve daily as a reminder to us all not ever to let it happen again.

At one point, Harold asks himself, "Why was I being spared?" The answer to that question is: so we can all learn from Harold's experience. It is the same question we should all ask ourselves: why are we here and what is it that we bring to this life that will benefit others? Harold found the answer by writing a most compelling book to remind us of the value of life, the power of hope and the inspiration of another day.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I commend to you The Last Sunrise and hope that you will join me in honoring Harold Gordon.

SEVENTH REPORT OF THE SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON THE HONG KONG TRANSITION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the Sixth Report of the Speaker's Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition. It has been approximately two and half years since Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997. Prior to that historic event, at the request of Speaker Gingrich, this Member formed the House Task Force on Hong Kong's Transition. In addition to myself as Chairman, the bipartisan Task Force includes Representatives HOWARD BERMAN, SHERROD BROWN, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, ALCEE HASTINGS, DON MANZULLO, and MATT SALMON.

To date, the Task Force has prepared six reports assessing how the revision has affected Hong Kong. The seventh report, which I submit today, covers the period of March 31, 1999, through December 31, 1999. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Task Force report to be printed in full in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

SEVENTH REPORT—FEBRUARY 7, 2000

Presented by the Honorable Doug Bereuter,
Chairman

This is the seventh report of the Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition. It follows the first report dated October 1, 1997, the second report dated February 25, 1998, the third report dated May 22, 1998, the fourth report dated July 23, 1998, the fifth report dated February 2, 1999, and the sixth report dated May 27, 1999. This report focuses on events and development relevant to United States interests in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) between May 27, 1999, and December 31, 1999.

It has been over two years since Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997. It remains a vibrant economy that the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute recently ranked as the freest in the world. During the past six months, Hong Kong's economy showed signs of recovering from the recession induced by the Asian regional financial crisis, although economic indicators were mixed. China's World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement with the U.S., and agreement to build a major Disney theme park in Hong Kong contributed to the mood of economic optimism and business confidence. Hong Kong continued to operate independently in economic decision-making and to voice its own views in international fora, including the WTO and APEC.

In the six months covered by this report, concerns have grown about the long term prospects for the independence of Hong Kong's judiciary. These concerns were prompted by the decision of the National People's Congress, (NPC) at the request of the Hong Kong Government, to reinterpret the Basic Law and reverse the Court of Final Appeal's (CFA) "right of abode" decision for mainland Chinese. The NPC's interpretation and the CFA's acknowledgement of the NPC's authority over the matter drew considerable domestic and international criticism, including that of the UN Human Rights Committee (UNHRC). On November 5, the UNHRC released a report critical of Hong Kong's post-transition record in a number of human rights related areas. (In addition to the question of judicial independence, the report expressed concern about the abolition of municipal councils, phone monitoring and freedom of association.) A recommendation by the Hong Kong Law Reform Commission to establish an independent "privacy commission" to monitor media excesses also created concern because of the implications for media freedoms. The Government initially remained neutral, but in October the Chief Executive expressed the hope that the press could regulate itself.

On May 21, 1999, following the mistaken bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, the PRC halted U.S. naval and air visits to Hong Kong. At least seven military aircraft and ten warships were denied permission to visit. After a two month ban, the Chinese Government began granting permission for plane visits on July 29, 1999, and a U.S. Navy destroyer was permitted to visit in October. Since then, other visits have taken place and a carrier task force and nuclear submarine were granted permission to visit in February.

The reversion of Macau to Chinese administrative control on December 20, 1999, went smoothly. Like Hong Kong, Macau will become a Special Administrative Region within a "One Country, Two Systems" formula under which the legislature elected under colonial rule will remain in place. However Macau faces a number of daunting economic and political challenges. Macau's civil service is inexperienced compared to Hong Kong. The judicial system is also poorly developed and there are few trained or experienced

judges. The economy is heavily reliant on gambling and tourist related industries. Crime, corruption and violence are serious problems that have begun to affect the tourist/gaming industry. For a variety of reasons, Macau's evolution under the One Country, Two Systems model is likely to differ considerably from Hong Kong's.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Developments on the economic front in the past six months have been positive. A survey by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal once again ranked Hong Kong as the world's freest economy. In January 2000, the Cato Institute came to a similar conclusion in its report. Hong Kong's economy showed signs of recovering from the recession induced by the Asian regional financial crisis, although economic indicators were mixed. After four consecutive quarters of negative economic growth, the recession in Hong Kong appears to have bottomed out, with positive growth of 0.7% projected for the second quarter. In September, The IMF forecast that Hong Kong would have GDP growth of 1.2% this year and 3.6% next year. The Government projected budget deficit for the 1999-2000 fiscal year that began April 1 was estimated at HK \$32 billion (US \$4.1 billion), although overall foreign exchange reserves remained high at over US \$90 billion. However, unemployment remained at historically high levels. The figure for the August-October quarter was 6.2%, up from 6.1% the previous quarter. Underemployment remained steady at 3.1%. Weak demand and falling asset values brought about continued significant deflation, with consumer prices falling 6.0% in September over a year earlier. Investment spending remained sluggish. Exports, tourism and retail sales were up in recent months. The stock market has more than doubled since the government decided to intervene in August 1998, although concern remains about Government intervention in the economy.

Export performance improved considerably in recent months. However, for the first ten months of 1999, the volume of re-exports was down 0.7% and the volume of domestic exports was down 12.2%. Imports for the first ten months of the year also declined by 5.6%. The trend towards increased reliance on re-exports and offshore trade makes the economy susceptible to external factors beyond Hong Kong's control. The Government sought to address this problem in part through its ambitious "Cyberport" project aimed at attracting world class information technology companies. While this initiative was widely welcomed, questions were raised by the government's decision to sell the land for the project without an open, transparent bidding process.

Tourism was another sector with mixed indicators. The Hong Kong Tourist Association projected in August that total arrivals would exceed 10 million, an increase of over 6% from 1998. However, although arrivals did increase 13% in the first quarter, spending was actually down by 0.8%. This reflected the changing nature of tourism in Hong Kong, with lower spending arrivals from the mainland making up an increasingly large percentage of total visitors.

Overall, Hong Kong's Government's massive intervention in the currency and stock markets in August 1998 appears to have been a success despite earlier concerns. The market rose to over 15,000 in November 1999, compared to 6,660 in March 1998 before the intervention. Trading volume has also risen sharply. The equities purchased by the Government have increased greatly in value and the Government's unprecedented ownership of significant amounts of equities, both in Hong Kong-based companies and in PRC-re-

lated "Red Chips" has raised questions about the potential to affect official decision-making in ways contrary to Hong Kong's traditions of free markets and transparency. To allay these fears, authorities have placed the equities in the hands of an independent appointed board and in November began the first steps to liquidate its holdings by selling approximately 20% to the public through an indexed tracking fund ("The Tracker Fund").

Positive developments included the U.S.-China agreement on China's accession to the WTO. Most analysts believe that WTO membership for China should be an economic boon for Hong Kong, both in the short and long term. China's accession to the WTO is expected to benefit Hong Kong's business by allowing it to capture its portion of China's expanding trade and investment. However, Hong Kong is also likely to face increased competition from the mainland in several fields and will have to find new ways to keep serving as a bridge between China and its global partners. Another plus was the HKSAR's agreement with the Disney Corp. to build a major theme park. Although some questioned the terms of the deal and the fact that most of the investment would come from the Hong Kong Government, most observers felt that the development would provide a positive economic stimulus, particularly for the tourism sector.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Under the Basic Law that serves as Hong Kong's Constitution, directly elected representatives to the Legislative Council (Legco) from geographic constituencies make up only 20 of the 60 members. That number will increase to 24 in the year 2000 and 30 in 2004. The Basic Law allows for (but does not mandate) the remaining 30 functional seats to be converted to directly elected positions. It would also permit the direct election of the Chief Executive in 2008. Some elected members of Legco, as well as other political activists, have been lobbying for some time for a faster transition to a more democratic system. On January 3, 2000, the three major political parties in Hong Kong, joined to urge full democracy by 2008, arguing that the present system is "unsustainable." However, in his 1999 policy address in October, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa said he would restrict democratic development to that laid down by the Basic Law. He was quoted as saying, "We must allow time for further study and for the present political system to mature."

The current political system in Hong Kong is heavily weighted towards concentrating power in the executive rather than the legislature. Legco acts primarily as a monitoring body that can block or amend government legislation and hold hearings. In this capacity, Legco performed well, ensuring that views critical of the Government were vigorously voiced and pursued. Legco forced the Government to become more transparent than might otherwise have been the case, involving and informing the public and maintaining a vibrant political debate on issues of public concern. However, some critics complained that Legco had few tangible achievements since the Basic Law leaves the Government with an overwhelming preponderance of power. They cite Legco's inquiry into problems at the new airport, Government intervention in the stock market, the non-prosecution of a well-connected editor, acquiescence on criminal jurisdiction of the Hong Kong courts and the right of abode debate as examples of Legco's ultimate inability to affect government policies. Differences between many of Legco's elected representatives and the Executive created tensions and

caused Tung to pledge that "my administration will make still greater efforts to maintain communication with Legco and secure its greater support." He said that the two had explored ways to establish a cooperative relationship.

The Government's decision to eliminate elected municipal councils by the end of the year brought widespread criticism. The UNCHR said that abolishing the councils, which are largely elected, would diminish the opportunity for the public to take part in public affairs. The report urged the government to "take all necessary measures to maintain and strengthen democratic representation of SAR residents in public affairs." In addition, Chief Executive Tung's decision to appoint additional members to the 18 local level councils was seen by some as undemocratic and regressive. The Democratic Party and the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB) were the biggest winners with 86 and 83 seats respectively. The DAB's showing, in particular, was markedly better than in the last District Council elections.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE—RIGHT OF ABODE DECISION CREATES CONCERN

A fair and independent judicial system is a critical element of international confidence in Hong Kong. However, two incidents involving the "Right of Abode" judgment raised concerns about whether the independence and authority of Hong Kong's judiciary would be maintained. The Hong Kong Government's request for a clarification of sections of the judgment referring to the court's right of judicial review, and the Hong Kong Government's request for interpretation by the National People's Congress of the section of the Basic Law affecting the ruling.

In January, the Court of Final Appeal issued rulings in three cases, known collectively as the "Right of Abode" ruling. The ruling declared some Hong Kong immigration regulations (discriminating against children born out of wedlock) inconsistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights subsumed in the Basic Law and confirmed that all children of Hong Kong residents had right of abode in Hong Kong. The ruling also asserted the Court's right of judicial review over not only the Basic Law, but also over acts of the National People's Congress as they affected Hong Kong.

In February, in response to criticism from Chinese officials, the Hong Kong Government requested an unprecedented "clarification" of the ruling. The Court responded with a statement stressing that it did not question the power of China's NPC to interpret the Basic Law, but reserved its power to test acts of the NPC against the Basic Law. Human rights advocates and some lawyers and legislators expressed concern that the clarification set a dangerous precedent.

In May, after releasing reports suggesting that the ruling would result in an influx of 1.6 million new immigrants, the Hong Kong Government asked the Standing Committee of the NPC to interpret two sections of the Basic Law relevant to the Right of Abode ruling. Hundreds of Hong Kong lawyers who viewed the request as a post-judicial remedy which undermined the authority and independence of Hong Kong's judiciary marched in protest. Although the NPC interpretation issued in June, did not affect the original litigants in the case, it overturned the prescriptive effect of the CFA judgment and reduced the number of people eligible for right of abode in Hong Kong to 160,000. The UN Human Rights Committee expressed concern that the interpretation could undermine the independence of the Hong Kong courts and interfere with the right to a fair trial. Legal

scholars and activists said the interpretation raised the question of "how final is the Court of Final Appeal?"

In a judgment on a separate appeal in December, the CFA upheld the NPC interpretation saying it was "valid and binding" on courts in Hong Kong. The decision provoked street clashes between protestors and police and caused a widespread outcry from opposition legislators academics and newspaper editorials. Legco legal sector representative, Margaret Ng, for example, said that the ruling means the NPC Standing Committee can interpret any part of the Basic Law at any time, and the interpretation has a binding effect on the Hong Kong courts. The South China Morning Post in a December 4, 1999, editorial said, "it has now become clear that the Basic Law means only what the NPC Standing Committee wants it to mean, even if the SAR judges disagree."

Another case that generated concern among some was the CFA's December 15 decision that desecration of the national and regional flags was indeed a criminal offense. While this is the case in many countries, including Germany and Italy, some critics viewed the decision as inconsistent with the guarantee of freedom of expression and motivated by political considerations.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES

The people of Hong Kong continued to enjoy a tradition of free speech and free press. Political debate is dynamic and raucous. Thousands of demonstrations or petitions have been filed or held since the reversion. A wide and diverse range of opinions, including those critical of the Hong Kong and PRC Governments, are routinely aired in the mass media and public fora. Government owned, but independently operated, Radio and Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is among the media that has been routinely critical of the government. In August, RTHK was criticized by a member of the NPC Standing Committee for airing the views of Taiwan's unofficial representative in Hong Kong to discuss Taiwan President Lee's "state to state" theory of China-Taiwan relations. The NPC member urged RTHK to exercise self-censorship on this issue and not provide a channel for "splittist views." The subsequent reassignment of the widely respected, long time director of broadcasting for RTHK, Cheung man-ye, in October was seen by some as Government retribution for RTHK's independent editorial policy. Democratic Party Chairman Martin Lee labeled the "exile" of Cheung as a Government effort to control the press. Cheung however, expressed continued confidence in the editorial integrity and independence of RTHK under her deputy and successor.

On August 20, 1999, a subcommittee of Hong Kong's Law Commission issued a recommendation that proposed establishing an independent "privacy commission" to deal with complaints about media excesses. The commission would be empowered to hear complaints about unwarranted or offensive media intrusions into peoples' personal lives (acknowledged even by the media to be a serious problem), to make decisions about the merits of those complaints, and to award compensation to complainants. The media and public, given until November 30, 1999, to comment on the proposal, gave the subcommittee an earful. Ms. Margaret Ng, a Legco representative of the law profession voiced the concern of many calling the proposed privacy commission a measure to control the press, not protect privacy. A Freedom Forum representative described the proposal as "dangerous to press freedom." The U.S. consul general in Hong Kong also expressed concern about the proposal in a wide-

ly quoted speech. Thus far, the Government has not taken a position on the proposal and for the time being at least, Hong Kong media remains vibrant, critical and sometimes intrusive into the private lives of individuals.

Another area of concern has been the prosecution in China of Hong Kong residents for crimes committed elsewhere. The conviction and execution in China of two persons, one a Hong Kong resident and the other a PRC national, who was wanted for committing crimes in Hong Kong in December 1998, first brought the issue to public attention. Most recently, the arrest and rendition of a Hong Kong resident from Thailand to China has created fears that Hong Kong residents can be apprehended by PRC authorities while overseas.

The denial of visas for Hong Kong residents to visit China and for Chinese dissidents to visit Hong Kong was another issue of concern. In March 1999, a number of well known exiled Chinese dissidents were denied Hong Kong visas to attend an NGO organized conference on the future of democracy in China, although several of the dissidents had visited Hong Kong prior to reversion. In August, the Government refused a visa to Chang King-yuk, a former senior Taiwan official, who wished to attend an academic conference on unification at Hong Kong University. However, a number of prominent Chinese dissidents including Labor Rights activists Han Kongfang and Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy Movements in China Director Lu Siqing continue to operate freely in Hong Kong.

In September, Legco legal representative Margaret Ng, who led public protest against the Hong Kong Government's decision to seek NPC interpretation in the Right of Abode case, had her Chinese visa revoked to prevent her from attending a legal conference on the PRC Constitution. Human Rights activists fear that the action, and the Hong Kong Government's failure to protest it, may have a "chilling effect" on public discourse. The Hong Kong Government's failure to include any representatives of the democratic parties on its delegations to attend National Day in Beijing or the Macau Handover Ceremony on December 20 was seen by some as an effort to placate the PRC at the expense of promoting pluralism in Hong Kong.

In May, the failure of the PRC, which has responsibility for Hong Kong's defense and foreign affairs, to allow a visit to Hong Kong by Pope John Paul II during his trip to Asia last fall was also of concern to many. Many religious, political and human rights leaders publicly expressed disappointment that the visit was canceled.

Despite China's crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual organization, adherents continued to practice freely in Hong Kong and held a continuing demonstration outside the office of China's Xinhua News Agency. In December 1999, about 1,000 members held an international conference in Hong Kong and conducted a march through the city. Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa warned that the demonstrators "must comply strictly with Hong Kong laws and must not act in any manner which are against the interest of China, Hong Kong or 'One Country, Two Systems.'" In another development, the Hong Kong telecom authority ruled that a private company could refuse to relay messages referring to Falun Gong to subscribers on the mainland but was required by Hong Kong law to relay such messages to customers in Hong Kong.

Article 23 of the Basic Law provides that Hong Kong shall enact laws on its own to prohibit subversion, secession, treason and sedition against the Chinese Government. The Government has moved cautiously and

deliberately in this regard and has sought to conduct wide public consultations; no such legislation appears to be on the horizon. Xu Simin, a senior local adviser to the Chinese Government said in August that such laws were not urgently needed and that the time was not right to enact such legislation.

U.S. SHIP AND PLANE VISITS

Following the accidental NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade last May, PRC authorities denied at least ten U.S. warships and seven planes permission to stop over or visit Hong Kong. After more than a two month ban, the Chinese government began granting permission for plane visits on July 29, 1999, and a U.S. destroyer, the O'Brien, was given permission to visit in October, 1999. In addition, a carrier task force and a nuclear submarine were given permission to visit in February 2000. No ship or plane visits have been denied since September 1999, but the Chinese authorities denied permission for several routine training flights by long-range P-3 aircraft without offering any explanation. However, Chinese authorities have not publicly stated that visits will be routinely approved as had been the case previously. It appears as though such visits are now being considered on a "case by case" basis creating a degree of unpredictability that may detract from Hong Kong's image of autonomy and openness.

IPR PROTECTION

The continued widespread availability of pirated movie, audio software and trademark goods remains a serious issue. An elite special task force of 185 Customs officers was established this year to deal with this issue. The Task Force is employed to keep pirate retailers off balance, while Custom's Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau (IPIB) is used to take down pirate factories and distribution networks. In the first nine months of the year, IPIB and the Task Force seized 12.3 million pirate discs, 61% of which were VCD or DVD movies. United States industry representatives have emphasized the need to extend the Task Force's mandate past December to make it permanent. At the behest of United States and local industry, the Task Force now has a permanent mandate. Under the direction of the new Customs Commissioner, John Tsang, there has been a marked improvement in IPR enforcement, although local film and music retailers are still losing millions of dollars to pirates. Hong Kong Customs has also pledged early action on outstanding legislation, including amendments to re-categorize piracy as an organized and serious crime and to criminalize the abuse of corporate licenses. Improvements in IPR enforcement led the U.S. Trade Representative to remove Hong Kong from the Special 301 Watch List after an out-of-cycle review in February 1999. The Legislative Council's January 2000 re-classification of piracy under Hong Kong's Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO) will provide additional tools for Custom's effort to dismantle pirate networks.

Another looming issue is the problem of internet piracy in which local distributors of counterfeit discs use U.S. or Hong Kong based web-sites to sell their products to overseas customers. U.S. industry has identified numerous sites, accessible through Hong Kong-based internet service providers that offer downloads of pirate products. Hong Kong has requested U.S. training in internet crime detection and prosecution.

MONEY LAUNDERING

To combat money laundering, the U.S. continues to urge the Hong Kong Government to adopt mandatory financial transaction and foreign exchange reporting requirements and to explore options to dis-

courage the illicit use of non-bank remittance centers. The Hong Kong Government has begun the legislative process to bring such centers under regulatory oversight. The U.S. has also urged Hong Kong to establish mandatory minimum-value currency entry and exit reporting requirements and penalties for illicit cross-border currency movements and bank deposits.

EXPORT CONTROLS

Hong Kong has one of the finest systems of export controls in the world and the reversion to Chinese sovereignty appears to have had no major impact on the exercise of export controls. U.S. Government agencies report no evidence of Chinese interference in Hong Kong's export control system. Chinese officials have recognized that export control matters fall within the trade, rather than foreign policy area, thereby placing export controls within the Hong Kong Government's exclusive purview. Hong Kong requires both import as well as export licenses, enabling authorities to track controlled commodities as they enter or leave the HKSAR. Hong Kong also refuses to issue re-export licenses for products unless it is sure that the original exporting country would export the product to the ultimate end user.

The Hong Kong Government is exceptionally transparent regarding export controls and cooperates closely with many countries, including the United States, to ensure compliance with multilateral and country specific export control regimes. Hong Kong adheres fully to international control regimes such as the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Agreement. United States Department of Commerce officials continue to conduct regular pre-license and post-shipment inspections as part of dual-use licensing process. United States Department of State and Customs officials also carry out pre-license and post-shipment checks of munitions items under the "Blue Lantern" program. In all such cases, Hong Kong officials are neither informed of such checks nor involved in making them. Hong Kong has not imposed any limitations on pre- or post-shipment verification by U.S. agencies and in some instances U.S. investigators have conducted two and even three post-shipment inspections to ensure that the end user remains in compliance with its license. American and other countries' officials have been directly seconded to work directly on export control issues. In addition, Hong Kong officials regularly receive training in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Hong Kong's record of enforcement of its export control regime is good. Examples in recent years include confiscation of a PRC armored personnel carrier that a PRC supplier attempted to return through Hong Kong after a show in Thailand, and the "Changsha" case involving unlicensed import and export of high speed computers to the PRC and confiscation of approximately U.S. \$800,000 of aluminum percolate in 1996. A House Select Committee report issued in May 1999, (the Cox report) expressed concern about the transshipment of technology through Hong Kong, especially the lack of customs inspection of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) vehicles when they cross the border between Hong Kong and China. A recent visit to Hong Kong by staff members of the House International Relations Committee found that there is no evidence to suggest that the PLA is smuggling controlled items into China. Hong Kong officials have assured the U.S. that they have full authority to stop any truck they believe is carrying contraband, but have had no intelligence to suggest the need to inspect

PLA trucks beyond reviewing the manifest and making a visual inspection. Although no stops have been made, an instructive case involves the shipment of a PLA troop transporter back from a military show in Thailand. Because the PLA did not have the proper licenses, the Hong Kong authorities seized the transporter in accordance with Hong Kong law, and the Hong Kong police are currently using it.

MACAU

Like Hong Kong before it, Macau reverted to Chinese sovereignty on December 20, 1999, after 442 years as a Portuguese colony and, like Hong Kong, Macau became a special administrative region of China, under the "One Nation, Two Systems" concept. Macau's Basic Law is also modeled upon the Hong Kong law. The Legislative Assembly consists of 23 members, 16 indirectly elected from territorial and functional constituencies and 7 appointed by the Chief Executive. Unlike Hong Kong, the elected members of the legislature remained in office following the reversion. Moreover, there is no provision in the Macau Basic Law for the eventual direct election of all members of the Assembly. On May 15, 1999, Edmund Ho Hau-wah was elected Chief Executive by a 199 member selection committee. He in turn appointed five policy secretaries in August. Because Macau's civil service was "localized" only very recently by the Portuguese, Macau's bureaucracy is largely inexperienced.

Macau's judiciary is independent. After the handover, Macau's legal system is governed by conventional law derived from the Portuguese legal system and the Basic Law, Macau's mini-constitution. Human rights and legal activists have expressed concern that the shortage of experienced bilingual judges, lawyers and law officers could stymie development of the legal system.

Immediately prior to Macau's reversion to Chinese control, authorities acted to bar entry to, or in some instances deport, members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement. Shortly after the handover, Macau authorities denied permission to enter to Lui Yuklin, a member of the April 5 Movement, a Hong Kong protest group. The Government later said the denial was a mistake, the result of mistaken identity and said Ms. Lui was welcome to visit Macau.

China has established a 900 person strong garrison in Macau to "safeguard sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and the stability and development of Macau," according to Xinhua." Chinese officials have also said that, "when necessary, the Macau Government may ask the Central People's Government to let the troops help maintain social order or conduct rescue work in cases of disaster." However, at the same time the officials have emphasized that the force "would not interfere in the affairs of the territory." Crime, particularly organized crime syndicates (triads) fighting for control of the gambling and vice trade, has been a major problem in Macau. Many Macau residents welcomed the PLA, hoping the garrison would have a positive influence on Macau's serious triad (organized crime) problem. There have been 34 murders in this year alone in the tiny territory whose population is only about 500,000. Both Chief Executive Ho and many Macau residents have welcomed the introduction of Chinese troops in the hope that they will bring the crime problem under control. Macau's economy remains heavily dependent on revenues from gambling and tourism. Yet there is understandable concern that the crime problem has hurt Macau's international image and contributed to the economic slowdown that has plagued Macau since the onset of the Asian regional financial crisis.

While U.S. trade with Macau is relatively small, 40% of Macau's exports go to the U.S. Furthermore, 80% of Macau's total exports consist of textiles, and the transshipment of textiles produced elsewhere through Macau has long been a major concern. The violations of Intellectual property rights is very legitimately a major and continuing concern for the U.S. There has been marked improvement in recent months in the legislative framework for combating piracy of intellectual property, including adoption of a new copyright law. However, although millions of Patacas in fines have been levied, there have been no criminal convictions of intellectual property pirates. Macau was placed on the USTR's Priority Watch List for IPR in April 1998 as a result of widespread piracy, particularly of videos and optical disks. Certainly, corruption plays a role in contributing to the transshipment and piracy problems. Macau's laws on trade also lack effective enforcement mechanisms in the areas of money laundering and export control. The new Chief Executive has pledged to work closely with the U.S. on trying to deal with these issues. The problem of money laundering, through Macau's casinos and banks, particularly by organized crime gangs, but also on behalf on North Korea is a continuing problem.

The nature and extent of North Korean activity in Macao is emerging as a concern. Weekly flights from Pyongyang support significant activity. Press reports suggest that North Korea takes advantage of weak banking laws to launder money and facilitate the sale of ballistic missiles and their components. Recent evidence suggests that Pyongyang also has used Macao to launder counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills. It also has been reported that banks in Macao serve as a repository for the proceeds of North Korea's growing trade in meth-amphetamines and other illegal drugs.

The Hong Kong Policy Act provides a legislative basis to continue to treat Hong Kong as a separate entity from China. However, although a similar Macau Policy Act was introduced in the 106th Congress, it was not enacted into legislation. This has created considerable uncertainty as to how Macau is to be treated in regard to such matters as export controls and the sale of certain items such as riot control equipment that are prohibited from shipment to China. It has also terminated availability of U.S. trade promotion programs including those of the Trade and Development Agency (TDA) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in Macau. This uncertainty in turn has created serious concerns in Macau about U.S. interest for the territory.

CONCLUSION

The picture of Hong Kong two and a half years after reversion to Chinese sovereignty is largely positive. It remains a bastion of free-market capitalism, as shown by its ranking as the world's freest economy in the recent Heritage/Wall Street journal report. After two difficult years economically, Hong Kong seems well on the road to economic recovery. It continues to formulate an independent economic policy and maintain its own membership in international economic organizations. People's Republic of China companies are subject to the same laws and prudential supervision as all other companies. Hong Kong's excellent system of export controls remains intact, although continued vigilance to potential violations or loopholes is required. Trade related issues, particularly Intellectual Property Rights piracy and money laundering, also require continued close attention.

Hong Kong's political system continues to evolve. The Hong Kong media remains free and continues to comment critically on the

PRC, although concerns about self-censorship and the proposal for a "privacy council" watchdog over the press bear continued scrutiny. Demonstrations continue to be held. There is vigorous public debate on the issues of democracy and the law. The legislature and free press have used their roles to increase government accountability and transparency.

However, the controversy over the "right of abode" case has cast a pall over the issue of Hong Kong's future judicial autonomy and the rule of law. This is a fundamental issue that business and the international community will be watching closely. If the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress continues to intervene in decisions primarily affecting Hong Kong, confidence in Hong Kong's future could be seriously undermined. Willingness by the Hong Kong Government to speed up the pace of democratization of elections for Chief Executive, Legco, and local government could help ease some of the fears that the "right of abode" case has raised.

OSCAR ZEPEDA WINS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly pay tribute to a fellow Arizonan—a little boy who lives in the Second Congressional District and who has proclaimed to the world his pride in being an American, an Arizonan, a Latino, and bilingual.

Oscar Zepeda, from Tucson, has recently won the 2000 Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students in the sixth to eighth grade category sponsored by the National Association for Bilingual Education. This is a tremendous accomplishment as he competed against thousands of young boys and girls who live in all parts of the United States, who are bilingual in various languages, and who have recognized the importance of being bilingual in the 21st Century.

Oscar will receive his award at the National Association for Bilingual Education's 29th Annual Conference to be held in San Antonio later this month. This is indeed a prestigious award in an acclaimed contest as the winner receives a \$5,000 scholarship, roundtrip airfare and accommodation for himself, a member of his family, and his bilingual teacher, and free registration to the Conference.

As all of us serving in Congress know, we sometimes have great and illustrious debates on the values and merits of bilingual education in our school systems. We all know that English is the language of economic opportunity within the United States, but sometimes we ignore the value of knowing and speaking another language. But, I wish all my colleagues would read Oscar's essay. Oscar is proud to be bilingual and he uses the simple arguments best expressed by a child to explain why we should cherish our differences and look to diversity as one of the strengths of our country.

Oscar enjoys living in a bilingual world, and in fact, he would have it no other way. He can learn from and cherish his Latino side by celebrating the courage of Cesar Chavez and watching Tlemundo and Univision while also

appreciating and developing his "American side," as he puts it, by celebrating the accomplishments of Bill Clinton and watching MTV.

Oscar closes his essay by asking the simple, but poignant question, "So why won't we just work together and make this an easier world for all of us?" Mr. Speaker, I agree. Oscar and classmates have ignored the politics of bilingualism and just keep living their lives with the grace and courage and enthusiasm that is unique to children who are sometimes caught unknowingly in adult arguments. We should all feel proud for Oscar that he made a complex issue very simple.

I hope all my colleagues will read Oscar's essay which I am submitting for the RECORD. Oscar, we are all proud of you and your accomplishments. But mainly, we are humbled by your words. And maybe, we can live up to your dream—that we "just work together" to make the world an easier place for us all.

PROUD TO BE BILINGUAL

Proud to be bilingual is not a question, it's an answer that you and I would give when asked why we're proud to be bilingual. Being bilingual is a gift that GOD gave me, to use and show other people what I can do with it. Sometimes I sit and think if I weren't bilingual I wouldn't have a lot of the things I have now. Some of them may be friends, a better education and opportunities for better jobs in the future.

I was talking to a staff member of a school the other day that was speaking English very well. She started saying, "I hate it when students come in here and don't know how to speak English". "I'm against bilingual education." "They should learn Spanish at home and English in school." Meanwhile I was just looking around and ignoring her. Then I laughed as she spoke in Spanish. It was the worst Spanish I had ever heard, and she was saying that her mother had taught her; what an insult to her mother. I can't understand why a Mexican would deny her own native language; it was just incredible to me.

Let's come down to the facts of what being proud means. Being proud means having something different and positive from one another, therefore, this thing that's good should make everybody proud of themselves. It doesn't matter if you speak Chinese and Japanese, French and German, or Spanish and English you're still bilingual and unique. Being different means good. If we would all be the same, it would be a dull world.

I'm a Chicano (Mexican-American) and being proud of it means being involved in everything that goes with it, from supporting Cesar Chavez' N.F.W.A. (National Farm Workers Association) to watching "Telemundo and Univision" to speaking and practicing Spanish. I also have to be in touch with my American side in order to be "cool", anything from Bill Clinton to "MTV and NBC" to of course speaking English. So why won't we just work together and make this an easier world for all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. This organization was

founded with the purpose of helping to give young men a sense of self worth and satisfaction from knowing they can accomplish the goals they set and a sense that they are part of a winning team. Today, this organization continues to provide young men with values and experiences that cultivate discipline and a sense of responsibility; traits that they carry with them throughout their lives.

The Boy Scouts of America teaches values of community and service to our Nation. In the wake of such tragedies as Columbine and an increase in the number of reports of alienation of youngsters at school, we need only to turn to the Scout Oath as a fine example for what is right with our youth. Do my best, to do my duty, to God and my country, to obey the Scout Law, and to help other people at all times. These are solid values that youth should use to build a foundation for their lives. The Boy Scouts instill values that make our community much stronger: public service, volunteerism and good citizenship. Scouting develops both self reliance and teamwork.

From its beginning in 1911, the Boy Scouts have grown in size to more than 5 million active members in 1999. In the 90 years since their incorporation, the Boy Scouts have influenced more than 100 million boys, young men and women.

While much has changed in the past 90 years, the Boy Scouts remain committed to their founding principles. The Boy Scouts have strengthened efforts to provide value-based curriculum and character building youth programs. By providing youth with the tools to make good decisions and providing the clues to their own inner strength the Boy Scouts have imbued in their members a commitment to improving the world around them.

Recently, I was honored by the Central New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America as their Good Scout Honoree of 1999. I am honored and inspired by their commitment to pursuing the best for the youth of our Country. As a former Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster, I share the values set forth in the Scout Law and Scout Oath. I see them demonstrated regularly when I attend Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in my district.

I thank the Scouters, volunteers and parents who contribute their time and energy to making the Boy Scouts of America a place that young men, and now young women, can turn for guidance, leadership and worthy life experiences.

The impact of Scouting on youth is truly a life changing experience. On this 90th Anniversary of Scouting, I wish the Boy Scouts of America continued success in the future as they strive to help build character and strengthen the communities around the country for the next generations of Americans.

THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY BUY AMERICAN COMPLIANCE ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, after a strong earthquake shook Northridge, CA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made funds available to the Los Angeles De-

partment of Water and Power to improve the power system's resistance to earthquakes. A \$2 million contract for open air disconnect switches went to a foreign firm. That is not right. FEMA is subject to Buy American provisions, but there is a loophole once a grant is made. That loophole needs to be closed.

I have introduced legislation today which will apply the requirements of the Buy American Act to non-emergency Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance payments.

As you know, the Buy American Act was designed to provide a preference to American businesses in federal procurement. Each year FEMA awards a number of grants for non-emergency projects. Currently, the Agency adheres to the requirements of the Buy American Act. However, once the Agency awards taxpayer funds to a state or local entity in the form of a grant, that entity is not required to comply with Buy American when spending those funds. I believe this needs to be changed. Mr. Speaker, the Buy American requirements should be applied whether the federal government is directly spending the money, or whether it is passing the funds down to a state or municipality to be spent.

The Buy American Act is necessary to protect American firms from the dumping of cheap foreign-made products. Many of the nations we trade with have significantly lower labor costs than the U.S. Without the safeguard provided by the Buy American Act, foreign companies are able to underbid American companies on U.S. government contracts.

It is important to understand the Buy American Act's criteria for determining whether a product is foreign or domestic. The nation where the corporation is headquartered is irrelevant, Buy American is focused upon the origin of the materials used in the construction project. In order to be considered an American product, the product in question has to fulfill these two criteria: (1) the product must be manufactured in the United States, and (2) the cost of the components manufactured in the United States must constitute over 50% of the cost of all the components used in the item.

My proposed legislation would stipulate that taxpayer funds distributed by FEMA as financial assistance could only be used for projects in which the manufactured products are American made, according to the criteria established by the Buy American Act.

Mr. Speaker, it does not make sense that FEMA should have to comply with the Buy American Act when making an expenditure, while these same funds are somehow exempt once passed down from FEMA to another government agency. If FEMA gives a grant for a project, those taxpayer funds should still be managed according to the terms of the Buy American Act.

Mr. Speaker, I introduce this legislation in order to ensure there is consistency in the law, with regard to FEMA and the provisions of the Buy American Act. I hope the members of this House will join me in support of this pro-American measure.

HONORING RICHARD HOFFNER-MCCALL

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of Richard Hoffner-McCall. Richard is being named as one of our country's top student volunteers in the fifth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for the year 2000.

The awards are presented through a partnership between The Prudential Insurance Company of America and the National Association of Secondary School Principals with the goal to honor and recognize outstanding community service by young people. All recipients receive a bronze Distinguished Finalist medallion from the Prudential Company at a ceremony in his/her hometown.

Richard Hoffner-McCall is among the winners from my home state of Pennsylvania. Richard is a junior at Cardinal O'Hara High School and will be given his award in his hometown of Media, PA. Richard organized a program which collected over an astounding 5,000 items to be donated to the non-for-profit organization Operation Smile that provides free facial surgeries to underprivileged children around the globe.

Mr. Hoffner-McCall should be proud to be a part of such an extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers. Richard is a stand-out citizen whose actions have made our community a better place. His generous and selfless attitude has made a positive impact on the lives of others. I applaud Richard's initiative to seek out aid for those less fortunate. I express my sincerest gratitude to him for showing that the youth of today will lead us into the future with care and concern for those less fortunate. He is a credit to his family, his community and our Congressional District.

INTRODUCING THE INSTALLMENT TAX CORRECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with my good friends and colleagues, Mr. SWEENEY and Mr. TANNER, to announce the introduction of our bipartisan legislation—the Installment Tax Correction Act of 2000.

It is no secret that small business is the engine driving our current economic success. America's small businesses provide the entrepreneurship and innovation to keep our economy moving forward. Unfortunately, many small business owners now face a tax burden which threatens to erode the value of their business and which has erected an unnecessary barrier to small business ownership. The legislation we are introducing today is necessary to correct a provision of the tax code which is imposing a serious burden on thousands of small businesses across America.

Mr. Speaker, most small business owners have chosen to use the installment sales method when selling their business because

bank financing is often not available. Under an installment sale, the buyer makes a down payment up front and pays for the rest of the business over a period of years. Such sales grant greater flexibility to both the buyer and seller and have enabled thousands of Americans, who would otherwise be unable to buy a business, the opportunity to make their dream of small business ownership a reality.

Last year the President proposed, and Congress accepted as part of larger tax package, a provision to repeal the use of installment sales for certain taxpayers. This provision appeared to target larger businesses when they sold a particular asset or assets. Small business groups, Congress, and even the administration did not expect the serious effect this provision would have on small businesses across America. Unfortunately, the unintended consequences are now a reality and it is our job to fix the problem. Our legislation will do just that, by once again allowing businesses to make use of installment sales.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a theoretical discussion. The burden being felt by small business owners across America is all too real. It is affecting taxpayers such as Harold and Mary Owens who own a small family business in my district in Redding, CA. They have built up their business through 12 years of hard work and are counting on the sale of this business to provide for their retirement. To pull the rug of retirement security out from under them at this time is simply wrong. And this is just one example out of the thousands of businesses each year which will see the value of their businesses eroded if our legislation is not enacted.

I was hopeful that the President would propose a solution to this problem in his fiscal year 2001 budget, released just yesterday. While I am disappointed that the President's budget does not address this important issue, I remain hopeful that all of us—both Republican and Democrat—will work with the administration to fix this situation on behalf of our Nation's small businesses.

I am pleased by the support our effort has received so far. The legislation we are introducing has more than 70 bipartisan cosponsors. Furthermore, a coalition of more than 50 groups—including the National Federation of Independent Business, the US Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Realtors, and the National Taxpayers Union, among others—has made enactment of our legislation a top priority this year.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to small businesses and women across America to have a tax code which treats them fairly. It is imperative that we pass the Installment Tax Correction Act this year, and I urge all my colleagues to join this worthy, bipartisan effort.

**WORKPLACE GOODS JOB GROWTH
AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF
1999**

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2005) to establish

a statute of repose for durable goods used in a trade or business:

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2005, the Workplace Goods Job Growth and Competitiveness Act.

As Chairman of the Commerce Committee, I have worked on numerous liability reform bills to try to bring some balance and fairness back into our legal system. Lawsuits continue to be filed at a record pace. But consumers somehow are still ending up with the short end of the stick as they pay more and more money in legal fees and higher product prices, while the trial lawyers run around the country searching for ever higher payoffs and contingency fees to line their own pockets. Unfortunately, our basic values of responsibility and integrity have been left behind in this race to the courthouse.

H.R. 2005 establishes critical protections for American manufacturing jobs by establishing a uniform guarantee for durable goods used in the workplace. It says that manufacturers have to stand behind their product for 18 years. After that, responsibility for using the product passes to the product owner to determine the further useful life of the product. The bill only applies where the plaintiff is eligible for workers compensation, essentially transferring liability for a durable good from the manufacturer to the product owner after the 18 year time period.

Nineteen States have a shorter time period for product life cycles, varying from State to State. Thirty-One States haven't yet enacted liability limits, although several of these States that have tried have watched them be struck down by the Courts as not within the power of the State legislatures. This creates a crazy patchwork of laws for a company trying to sell nationwide—a patchwork full of loopholes allowing enterprising trial lawyers to forum shop for the State with the weakest laws. This is an abuse and corruption of our legal system, which only Congress has the power to restrain.

The Japanese and the European Union have set a 10 year liability time limit on the useful life of their durable goods—guaranteeing only half the useful life for their products that we are allowing. But without this bill, Japanese and European manufacturers that are new entrants into the American market won't have the same long tail liability exposure as American companies. This means that they pay less for claims-made liability insurance, giving them an unfair competitive advantage, taking jobs away from Americans and transferring them overseas. We can not allow this to continue.

In addition to the 19 States and our foreign competitors who have recognized the need for a limit on a product's useful life, we have a proven track record in Congress of success in enacting uniform liability reforms. In 1994, Congress established a similar 18 year time limit on liability to save jobs in the aviation industry. We had the same doom and gloom predictions from many Members back then that the sky was falling for worker protection, but guess what—the law works well, it revitalized a disappearing industry, and it has earned wide scale support over the last five years. In fact, that bill, with the same type of liability limit that we're talking about today, created over 25,000 new jobs in the aviation industry alone. I would rather protect the hard working wage earners of America than the

contingency fee jackpot hopes of a few trial lawyers.

Despite the claims you heard in the debate on this bill, no worker will be denied compensation as a result of this reform. The liability limits only apply where the plaintiff has full access to workers compensation. The critics of the bill aren't talking about compensation, they are talking about punishing companies by pushing them into bankruptcy for something that was made generations ago by workers long since retired. The trial lawyers don't ever want a business to be able to limit the lifespan of a product. They don't want businesses to be able to say that after 18 years the responsibility for determining whether a product is safe should rest with the product owner. Responsibility is a dirty word to these people because it eliminates potential deep pockets that they can go after to extort settlement money. Keep in mind that this bill doesn't in any way limit the responsibility or liability of the employer—it only takes away the deep pocket manufacturer after 18 years from a product's first sale. Many of the Members who have opposed this simple notion of responsibility have opposed every single effort at liability reform in Congress.

Last November, our Committee agreed to discharge this bill to bring it to the floor as quickly as possible. We recognized the importance of protecting American jobs and bringing fairness and responsibility back into our legal system.

This bill was taken from legislation negotiated in previous years on a bipartisan, bicameral basis with the Administration. The provisions are the result of years of bipartisan work by the Commerce Committee and the Judiciary Committee on legal reform. Past product liability bills containing these provisions have received strong majorities in both Houses.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his work in bringing this piece of the product liability bill forward, and urge your support for its passage.

**WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS**

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, at today's important international drug summit conference sponsored by you, along with the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP), I had the opportunity at the morning session to raise the issue of the world's contribution to the U.N. in our fight against the scourge of illicit drugs.

Regrettably, when we examine the record of contributions to the UNDCP, we observe that less than 25 nations and the European Commission contribute less than \$75 million annually to help fight an illicit narcotics trade estimated to produce \$400 billion annually.

The list of those helping this very modest UNDCP program, the glaring absence, for example, of any Middle East nation making contributions to help fight drugs, is noteworthy and disappointing.

Attached for the RECORD is the latest data on the contributions by the producer, transit or

user nations of the world to the UNDCP. Let us hope that as the world comes to realize the far greater societal cost that these illicit drugs impose upon all these nations, that future contributions will substantially increase to face the magnitude of the challenges of the Drug War.

FUND OF UNDCP PLEDGES DURING THE PERIOD 1995–1999; STATUS AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

(U.S. dollars)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	Estimate 1999	Percentage change	
						1998/97	1999/98
United States	5,909,164	6,344,000	9,720,400	4,033,600	25,305,000	-59	527
Italy	8,731,310	9,746,887	6,881,720	8,499,089	9,000,000	24	6
United Kingdom	10,093,025	6,213,481	6,802,199	11,575,353	8,000,000	70	-31
Sweden	4,302,686	4,213,816	4,716,382	5,233,471	4,700,000	11	-10
Japan	5,962,733	6,700,000	5,000,000	3,817,000	4,300,000	-24	13
European Commission	5,917,231	3,171,702	1,001,660	4,886,528	4,000,000	388	-18
Germany	7,124,818	3,207,158	3,205,324	3,368,763	2,100,000	5	-38
Norway	1,734,553	5,414,090	629,749	1,058,170	2,000,000	68	89
France	1,725,563	1,467,710	1,352,810	1,404,796	1,600,000	4	14
Denmark	2,343,465	2,248,364	1,661,732	1,677,114	1,300,000	1	-22
Australia	554,625	894,069	547,107	481,701	1,131,000	-12	135
Netherlands	432,761	583,069	1,139,278	1,241,211	1,000,000	9	-19
Canada	510,801	500,000	500,000	685,205	800,000	37	17
Switzerland	777,461	679,450	617,505	736,584	750,000	19	2
Luxembourg	71,067	63,271	55,987	1,777,180	738,000	3074	-58
Austria	548,994	994,441	430,285	558,873	617,000	30	10
Spain	533,447	541,353	444,063	570,104	570,000	28	0
Belgium	354,066	194,672	329,660	313,040	385,000	-5	23
Finland		50,000	345,000	125,000	347,000	-64	178
Total major donors	57,627,770	53,227,533	45,380,861	52,042,782	68,643,000	15	32
Turkey	75,000	100,000	150,000	200,000	250,000	33	25
Ireland		244,500	215,175	297,000	236,000	38	-21
Colombia				300,000	100,000	0	-67
Mexico	50,000	50,000	50,000	300,000	100,000	500	-67
Republic of Korea	40,000	79,000	154,000	100,000	100,000	-35	0
Argentina			300,000			-100	0
Other member states	280,007	343,536	440,137	404,963	500,000	-8	23
Total voluntary	58,072,777	54,044,569	46,690,173	53,644,745	69,929,000	15	30
Cost-sharing							
Brazil		1,759,125		4,220,128	3,219,000	0	-24
Peru					528,000	0	0
Bolivia	130,442	161,528	500,000		500,000	-100	0
Colombia	472,331	70,000	1,192,041	539,025	500,000	-55	-7
UNAIDS				242,000		0	-100
Total cost-sharing	602,773	1,990,653	1,692,041	5,001,153	4,747,000	196	-5
Public donations	914,603	852,639	620,305	1,258,285	655,000	103	-48
Total	59,590,153	56,887,861	49,002,519	59,904,183	75,331,000	22	25

NOTES: Ranked by pledges made in 1999. Earmarked multi-year contributions are shown according to the year in which they are pledged irrespective of the year(s) for which they are meant. Unearmarked contributions are shown according to the year for which they are pledged.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Public Safety Reimbursement Act of 2000. The bill provides an annual federal contribution to reimburse the District for the considerable services the Metropolitan Police Department provides every year to cover the many national events and activities that occur here because the District is the national seat of government. Examples of these services are too numerous to detail. Some of the most familiar are the many events and demonstrations, from the Million Man March to the federal Millennium event at the Lincoln Memorial last month. Events, large and small, of every variety occur with great frequency and cannot proceed without the work of our police force. The MPD is at the center, from the extensive logistical preparations to the on duty time protective services. The bill is strongly supported by D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey, who joined me at a press conference on the bill here in the Capitol earlier today.

The annual amount provided in the bill would reimburse the District for the considerable services the Metropolitan Police Department provides every year to cover the many national events and activities that occur here because the District is the national seat of government. Examples of these services are

too numerous to detail. Some of the most familiar are the many events and demonstrations, from the Million Man March to the federal Millennium event at the Lincoln Memorial last month. Events, large and small, of every variety occur with great frequency and cannot proceed without the work of our police force. The MPD is at the center, from the extensive logistical preparations to the on duty time guarding and facilitating the event itself.

Further, residents see our police every time the President moves outside the White House complex because all traffic stops while our police line the streets to assure the President's safe passage. The Congress itself frequently uses our police department—from the annual State of the Union address, when officials and citizens converge on the Hill, to unusual events, such as the funeral following the tragic killing of the two Capitol Police officers almost two years ago. Cabinet officials, the President, and Members of the House and Senate, not to mention other federal officials and agencies all use the MPD as if it were a hometown police force they had bought and paid for. Actually they pay nothing. In countless ways on a daily basis, federal officials and tourists alike get excellent D.C. police protection free of charge.

A prominent example from last year dramatically points up how the cost of federal events has been transferred to the taxpayers of the District of Columbia. A ragtag gang of racists and anti-Semites calling themselves the American Nationalist Party came to Washington in August to petition their federal government for redress of their grievances, such as they were. However, it was the District government that picked up the tab to the tune of a half million dollars for police protection. At

the same time, pro-human rights groups held a large, peaceful rally at the Lincoln Memorial to counter the Nazis. Whether marginal and extreme, like the Nazis, or mainstream and pro-democracy like the counter-rally last summer, D.C. police participation is indispensable to every demonstration and national event that occurs in this city. The right to assemble is a precious constitutional right available to all and must be protected for all. However, those who come here seek the attention of the national government, not the D.C. government, and the cost should be borne by American taxpayers, not D.C. taxpayers.

The bill I introduced today places financial responsibility where it belongs. There are two important grounds for this bill, one statutory and the other historical precedent. The statutory basis is the 1997 Revitalization Act, where we traded the federal payment for a much larger federal assumption of state costs. However, we nevertheless preserved the right of the District to receive a federal contribution. We wrote language into the Act providing: "The unique status of the District of Columbia as the seat of the government . . . imposes unusual costs and requirements which are not imposed on other jurisdictions and many of which are not reimbursed by the federal government." The Revitalization Act (Section 11601) therefore allows "for each subsequent fiscal year [after FY 1998], such amount as may be necessary for such contribution."

The second basis for a designated public safety contribution is historical precedent. Separate from the annual federal payment, the Congress has traditionally appropriated additional funds for public safety purposes. Amounts have ranged from five million dollars

to 30 million dollars, depending on the need and public safety issues arising in the particular year. Such funds have been appropriated for national events in other jurisdictions as well. Just last year, Congress included five million dollars to help cover police costs during the WTO meeting in Seattle. Here in the District, there has always been a consistent congressional understanding that police work in the nation's capital necessarily involves the federal and national interest and deserves special and unique support. Thus, I am asking the Congress to return to its original understanding of its responsibility for a share of public safety in this city, specifically for police protection for national and federal events.

I will be conferring with other Members of Congress and with Police Chief Ramsey concerning a specific amount for FY 2001. However, I want to emphasize that I do not intro-

duce the bill simply to get extra money from the federal government, as desirable as that would be. This is the first in a series of bills I will be sponsoring to try to get ahead of revenue problems beyond the District's control that are on the way. We are proud that with a large assist from the \$5,000 Homebuyer Credit, the District has begun stabilizing its population. However, it will be years before the District has a tax base of residents and businesses adequate to support the city through good, moderate, and bad economic times. This important financial issue has been masked by today's excellent economy. However, our surplus is not largely a product of that economy, but of the state costs the Revitalization Act removed from the city. The D.C. Police Safety Reimbursement Act I introduced today is among several bills that will be nec-

essary to make up for a decline in the economic output expected by next year, according to regional analysts, including Professor Stephen Fuller of George Mason University. It would be foolish to await another crisis. The time to prepare is now. This and other bills designed to ward off forecasted trouble is the only way to keep the District's finances on an upward trajectory. The D.C. Public Reimbursement Act builds on cost justification the Congress itself has long accepted. The annual amounts would not be a gift from the federal government. They would be payment for services rendered to the President, Congress and the federal government by the Metropolitan Police Department.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill vital to the continuing recovery of the nation's capital.