

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DAVID E.
RUSSELL

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Judge David E. Russell, Chief Bankruptcy Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eastern District of California. After 14 years as a Bankruptcy Judge and 40 years of service in the legal profession, Judge Russell has announced his retirement. He will be honored at a retirement party on Friday, November 3, 2000 at the Tsakopoulos Library in Sacramento. As his friends and family gather to celebrate, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his remarkable career.

David E. Russell was born on March 19, 1935 in Chicago Heights, Illinois. He was married on October 31, 1982 to Sandra Niemeyer, and they are the proud parents of seven children.

He began his education at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He went on to obtain his Jurisprudence Doctorate from Boalt Hall, University of California at Berkeley in 1960.

David Russell began his career as an accountant for Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery in San Francisco, CA. Here he stayed for three years, during which time he was admitted to the California Bar in 1961. In 1965, he became a partner with Russell, Humphreys and Estabrook. Later to be known as Russell, Jarvis, Estabrook and Dashiell, he continued to work with the firm as a lawyer until 1986.

In 1986, David Russell was appointed to a 14-year term as a United States Bankruptcy Judge. In those 14 years, Judge Russell has developed a reputation as a fair and honest man, and he has served his appointment admirably. I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate Judge Russell as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, as Judge David Russell's friends and family gather to celebrate his retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a truly remarkable person. His career with the United States Court of Appeals has indeed been commendable. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors.

MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH
DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support of S. 1880, the

Health Care Fairness Act of 2000. As an original co-sponsor of H.R. 3250, the House companion measure, I have long-supported legislation to expand research and education on the biomedical, behavioral, economic, institutional, and environmental factors contributing to health disparities in minority and underserved populations.

I would like to commend my colleagues, Representatives CLYBURN, LEWIS, THOMPSON, JACKSON, RODRIGUEZ, ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, who have worked long and hard to get this bill to the floor.

In recent years, advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease has improved the health status and quality of medical care to the overall U.S. population. However, while we are experiencing remarkable improvements in the health status of the overall U.S. population, we find this has not translated into similar benefits for minority populations. In fact, minority populations continue to experience disproportionate rates of disease, morbidity, and mortality. Numerous studies have proven that race and ethnicity correlate with persistent, and often increasing, health disparities among U.S. populations. These alarming disparities deserve our focused attention and call for action.

The passage of the Health Care Fairness Act would, for the first time, focus research and attention to health disparities such as those that exist in Guam, with the creation of a National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities within the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on minority health problems and commission the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of the data collection systems and practices of the Department of Health and Human Services. S. 1880 would also establish pilot projects in medical schools to develop educational tools that will reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. These improvements will increase our knowledge to the nature and causes of these disparities, as well as improve the quality and outcomes of health care services to minority and underserved populations.

As the Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I am keenly aware of the health care needs of minority communities. Particular needs regarding language and cultural competency are often not being met in our public health centers and hospitals.

On the island of Guam, Chamorros, who are the indigenous population, and other Asian and Pacific Islander groups represent a large majority of the 150,000 population. With an island largely comprised of minority populations, it is challenging to meet specific health needs of our diverse community with the limited resources that are currently available. In the case of Chamorros, diabetes affects Chamorros at five times the national average and infant mortality rates are more than double the national average. Chamorros also suffer from higher than average rates of cardio-

vascular disease, cancer, and Lytico-Bodig, a disease endemic to Guam, which is a combination of Parkinsonian dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The case of mental illness is also a great concern to Guam residents with rising incidences of attempted and completed suicides.

The overall Asian Pacific American population is often mislabeled as the "model minority" with few health or social problems. This is a huge misnomer as emerging data reveals significant health disparities and barriers to health care and social service access exist within Asian Pacific American communities. As a group, Asian Pacific Americans experience the highest incidences of tuberculosis. Particular Asian Pacific Americans sub-population groups experience diabetes, hepatitis B, cervical cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer, and mental illness at alarming rates. Recognizing the challenges presented by the great diversity of Asian Pacific Americans and other minority populations is key to addressing the health care needs of all Americans.

The Asian Pacific American population includes indigenous and immigrant populations, which comprises 10.4 million Americans or approximately 5 percent of the U.S. population. Asian Pacific Americans represent the fastest growing and most diverse racial and ethnic group in the U.S. with more than 30 different sub-populations and are expected to reach 10 percent of the U.S. population by 2050. Approximately 20 percent of Asian Pacific Americans are currently uninsured.

It is clear that the face of America is becoming increasingly diverse as its minority populations continue to grow. And as our minority populations increase, so does the complexity of our health needs. Therefore, I urge your support of S. 1880, the Health Care Fairness Act, to develop programs and comprehensive strategies to address the health disparities among ethnic and minority groups. This bill represents a comprehensive bi-partisan effort to address the inequities in health care for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF HAROLD
NICHOLSON

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a dedicated and hardworking gentleman on the occasion of his retirement. Harold Nicholson devoted thirty-three years of his life to the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Somerset, PA. He was its manager for the past nineteen years, longer than any other manager in the entity's sixty-one year history.

But Mr. Nicholson not only managed the cooperative, he was in many ways its heart, soul and voice. Originally hired to provide member

• 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.

services, he started the SREC's monthly newsletter for which he also wrote and photographed. It became the precursor of the statewide Penn Lines magazine. Mr. Nicholson served on numerous committees within the National Rural Electric Association and was chairman of its Marketing and Energy Management committee. Additionally, he was active with the statewide Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, where he served on the Power Supply and Engineering Committee, Transmission Policy, and Risk Management Committees and co-chaired its Consumer Choice Marketing and Consumer, Employee and Board Education Task Force committees.

He has been named Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Man of the Year (1992), the organization's highest honor.

In addition to his many career-related credits and initiatives, he has served his community in a variety of other capacities. They include Managing Editor of the Meyersdale Republican; board member and past president of the Meyersdale Lions Club; on the Economic Development Committee of the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission; was a charter member and secretary of the Long Range Planning Committee with the Somerset County Vocational Technical School; served on the board of the Appalachian Intermediate Unit 8 serving the area's school districts; served for sixteen years including as president on the Meyersdale Area School Board; member of the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce; and a member of the Partnership for Rural Industrial Development Enterprises (PRIDE) as Secretary.

Harold Nicholson has been and continues to be an outstanding member of his community. I wish him all the best for a fulfilling and happy retirement to enjoy with his wife, four children and nine grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF THE FRANCISCAN
FRIARS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Franciscan Friars. The Franciscan Friars of the Santa Barbara Province have been compassionately responding to the needs of San Franciscans since 1887. It is my pleasure to honor them for their tremendous contributions on the Fiftieth Anniversary of one of their most successful projects, the St. Anthony Foundation.

The Franciscan Friars improve our city through their work at St. Boniface Church. For years, they have been feeding the poor and homeless and caring for those in need. In particular, the Friars have ministered to the immigrant communities of San Francisco's Tenderloin District, first with the German community and expanding more recently to the Hispanic, Vietnamese and Filipino communities.

The St. Anthony Foundation was founded by Franciscan Friar Alfred Boeddeker, while pastor of St. Boniface Church, to "feed, clothe, heal and shelter the needy, empower the powerless, and promote a social order in which all persons flourish." Today, the Foundation serves an extraordinary number of people with their drug rehabilitation, food, health, housing,

and other social service programs. The Franciscan Friars have provided the spirit, vision, and direction for the St. Anthony Foundation to complete 50 years of service to the most marginalized in our community.

The Franciscan Friars and the St. Anthony Foundation make San Francisco a better place. Their selfless dedication to those in need calls us to a higher standard. It is my honor to commend them on fifty years of service through the St. Anthony Foundation.

THANK YOU TO ADAM TUNE FOR
SERVICE ON MY STAFF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I want to give thanks and special recognition to an intern in my office, Adam Tune

Adam attends my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. While still in high school he managed to work 25 hours each week, took college level preparatory courses and maintained good grades.

Interns play an invaluable role in helping congressional offices function efficiently and effectively, often performing the most thankless but essential tasks required. Adam pitches in where ever and when ever he is needed, never complaining and always accomplishing his work on-time and of the higher quality.

Adam loves politics and admires this institution. This high regard is reflected each and every day in his attitude and dependability.

Adam has been an invaluable member of my staff and deserves the highest praise for his contribution.

It has been a pleasure to have Adam Tune serve in my office and I join my staff in thanking him for all his hard work.

TRIBUTE TO ROXCY BOLTON

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Florida's pioneer feminist, a great woman, and a friend, Ms. Roxcy Bolton. There are not many people around like Roxcy, and I am so proud to recognize her many accomplishments.

She is a trail blazer, a persistent advocate, a remarkable woman. She put the spotlight on women, showcased their problems, and encouraged other women to take action and expand the fight for equal rights. She has proven time and again that one person can make a difference.

Roxcy O'Neal Bolton was born in 1926 in Mississippi. She became a businesswoman and was active in community and political organizations. She married Commander David Bolton U.S.N. who was later president of Men for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

In 1966, Bolton helped form Florida's National Organization for Women, serving as charter president of the Miami Chapter and National Vice President in 1969.

In 1972, she founded Women in Distress, a non-profit agency providing emergency housing, rescue service and multi-discipline assistance to women in situations of personal crisis. It was the first women's rescue shelter in Florida.

In 1974 she was instrumental in establishing the Rape Treatment Center, the first of its kind at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. That same year, Bolton organized Florida's first Crime Watch program to help stem crime against women.

She also founded the Women's Park in Miami and has been the recipient of numerous awards relating to her work in women's rights. In 1984, she was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

Less trumpeted are her countless acts of compassion: for the woman about to be replaced in her job by someone younger and better connected; for the man who is demoted from his city job because he cannot read; for the prostitute working to earn her high school equivalency diploma; for the woman who sleeps and eventually dies on the steps of a downtown church.

It is no wonder why any letter addressed simply Roxcy, Coral Gables, Fla. arrives in due course at Bolton's house.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bolton has been called, and rightly so, South Florida's "Mother of Feminism". I strongly believe that my state of Florida is a much better place for women . . . and all people . . . because of Roxcy Bolton. On behalf of the people of the 17th Congressional District, I salute her.

A TRIBUTE TO AMELIA MARY
HALLE HINKLEY

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Amelia Hinckley, of Warner Robins, Georgia, who passed away on September 22, 2000. Amelia, or Amy as she was known to her friends and family, was born in West Palm Beach, Florida on December 29, 1962, to Roger and Phyllis Halle.

She graduated from Stetson University in Deland, Florida, in 1984 with a double major in History and Spanish. On December 29, 1984, Amy married James Hinckley, also a Stetson graduate. Amy was a talented and dedicated educator. She began her teaching career in Texas, where she taught English as a second language to disadvantaged children of inner-city Dallas, Texas.

After several years, she and Jim moved to Florida where she nurtured new immigrant children in Central Florida. Amy loved every minute of her work. When her husband got a job as the junior high school band teacher in Warner Robins, Amy found a home at the Stratford Academy in Macon, Georgia, where she taught Spanish to high school students for nearly nine years.

Amy was a kind and loving woman, who was very involved in her community. She was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Warner Robins, where she was active as a pianist for the Praise Band and also served as their organist. Amy was an avid traveler—organizing and chaperoning annual trips to Spain and

France with her Stratford students. The itinerary for those trips always included lots of learning and lots of fun.

Mr. Speaker, the state of Florida, the Stetson graduating Class of 1984, and the community of Warner Robins will miss Amelia Mary Halle Hinckley and the wonderful contributions she made to everyone she touched.

TRIBUTE TO BILL WILLIAMS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this calendar year, another remarkable chapter in the history of East Tennessee will come to an end. Mr. Bill Williams, co-anchor of Channel 10 News (NBC), will soon be retiring.

Mr. Williams is one of East Tennessee's most highly respected broadcast journalists. Seen every weeknight on WBIR-TV's top rated newscast, Bill is recognized for his superb handling of the daily news and for his compassion in dealing with human issues. He is best known for "Monday's Child," an adoption program originated by Bill back in 1980 and broadcast weekly on Action 10 News. More than 570 of the special needs children introduced on the program have found permanent homes and loving families.

Since joining the WBIR news team in 1977, Bill has been recognized frequently for his contributions to broadcast journalism. Included among his many other honors are the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award presented by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and induction into the "Silver Circle" by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

In May of this year Bill was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Carson Newman College, and "Child Help U-S-A" honored Bill with that organization's annual "Angel Award," in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of area children.

After 23 years on the 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. desk, Bill is now easing into retirement and will be leaving in December. However, Bill plans to remain a part of WBIR for a long time, especially continuing his hosting of Monday's Child, the Children's Hospital Telethon and Mission of Hope.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with the citizens of the City of Knoxville in congratulating Bill Williams for his service and devotion to the people of East Tennessee. I wish him well in the years to come. I ask my fellow colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in thanking Bill Williams for his many years of service and contributions to East Tennessee. Our Nation is certainly a better place because of people like Bill Williams and his family.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT OF NEBRASKA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my comments to the many voices honoring BILL

BARRETT, the honorable gentleman from Nebraska, who is retiring from a long career of public service at the end of this Congress.

Congressman BILL BARRETT has been a valuable and influential voice in agriculture. He has served his constituents well, and has been an able leader in the House of Representatives. Congressman BARRETT came to the House with a background in community service in local government, a member of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, and with business experience in a 3-generation firm specializing in insurance and real estate. This foundation of government and business has served him well in his ten years in the House of Representatives. During his years of service he has gained the respect and admiration of members on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I have served with Congressman BARRETT on the Agriculture Committee and have come to appreciate his leadership as Vice-Chairman as well as his role as Chairman of the General Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation and Credit Subcommittee. His close and frequent contact with his constituents, combined with his seniority has made him an effective leader in Congress. As we have faced difficult decisions he has always worked hard on behalf of his constituents, and with respect for his fellow Members. I share his concern for balancing the federal budget and for wise and disciplined use of taxpayers money.

As Chairman of the General Farm Commodities Subcommittee, he has extended his courtesy to me as we brought an oversight field hearing in Minnesota, lending his influence to issues of conservation and preservation of the environment in Minnesota.

I am especially proud to have worked with Congressman BARRETT as we served as two of the four co-chairs of the Alcohol Fuels Caucus. During our work to promote ethanol, I have found Congressman BARRETT to be innovative and enthusiastic in his advocacy on behalf of all corn growers. Through co-authorship of bills supporting the usage of renewable resources in the production of energy, he has helped to provide economic opportunity for agricultural producers, a self-sustaining energy program, and a cleaner environment for the nation.

This legislative body will miss the wise and thoughtful influence of one of its leaders. I will miss a good friend and colleague.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES REV. DAVID H. MCALPIN, JR., FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I today pay tribute to an individual who, throughout his long and distinguished career has been tireless in his efforts to help the people of central New Jersey and the Nation. This Friday, November 3, Rev. David H. McAlpin, Jr., is being honored as he steps down as president of the Trenton Area Habitat for Humanity. I want to take this moment to thank him and Habitat for Humanity for their long service to the Nation and its needs.

We are all very familiar with the fine work that the Habitat for Humanity does in providing affordable housing and creating safe, self-sustaining communities. Habitat has built over 61,000 houses throughout the world for needy families. Their programs are a classic example of providing opportunities for deserving Americans, through their selling of completed houses with no-interest mortgages to families who complete 500 hours of work hours or "sweat equity," earned through participating in other building projects.

Reverend McAlpin, as president of the Trenton Area Habitat for Humanity, has worked with over 2,000 committed volunteers to provide decent housing for all low-income central New Jersey residents. Since its inception in 1986, Trenton Area Habitat has completed 39 houses in the Trenton and Princeton areas. I join with the people of central New Jersey, and the nation in congratulating him on his fine efforts and the work of Habitat for Humanity. His example shows us all what the American people can be capable of if they all come together to solve the Nation's problems.

Reverend McAlpin is truly a remarkable citizen who sets an example for us all. I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing his dedication to our community and the needs of our Nation.

HONORING DONNA MCPHERSON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I honor Ms. Donna McPherson, an operations supervisor, at the Pomona, CA, Social Security Administration Office.

Ms. McPherson has been with the Social Security Administration since 1989. She began her career with the agency at the Ontario, CA office as a claims representative and was later promoted to her current position of operations supervisor in Pomona, CA. She currently facilitates a variety of Social Security Administration outreach forums and ensures that the work of those under her supervision is completed in a timely and accurate manner. Additionally, she is the direct liaison for congressional inquiries.

The outstanding work of Ms. McPherson has been recognized by many. She has received the annual Special Act Award numerous times. This award is given to Social Security Administration employees who excel at their duties above and beyond what is required, or accomplish something unique on the job. Ms. McPherson has done both, and as a result, she received this award in 1991, 1993, 1997, and 1999. In addition, she has also received the Performance Award which recognizes a continual commitment to the job and outstanding performance in all areas of the workplace, and the On the Spot Award for her problem-solving skills.

When she is not excelling in her responsibilities at the Social Security Administration, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, attending to the numerous cats and dogs under her care, and playing Bunko. Ms. McPherson is also active with her church and devotes much of her time to the women's prayer group.

Ms. McPherson's coworkers describe her as hard-working, reliable, dedicated, and most importantly, as a person who goes the extra mile for Social Security clients. Indeed, I have found her to be an invaluable resource. Ms. McPherson takes special consideration to ensure that her correspondence with my office is prompt and frequent, an attribute which serves to greatly assist me in responding to my constituents in an efficient manner. Her knowledge of Social Security policy is immense, and her ability to translate complex, directives into an easy to understand language is remarkable. She often invests personal time and concern in order to ensure each constituent's satisfaction.

Ms. Donna McPherson makes government work by cutting through the redtape of bureaucracy one person at a time. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this 106th Congress join me in thanking Ms. McPherson for her dedication and commitment, praising her for a consistent record of hard work, and recognizing her as an asset to the Social Security Administration and the constituents of California's 41st Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEIDELBERG COLLEGE, TIFFIN, OH

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I today express a special tribute and congratulations to Heidelberg College on the anniversary of its founding. This November 11th marks 150 years since the college first opened its doors in Tiffin, Ohio. These 150 years have marked 15 decades of service to its students and the community.

Founded by members of the German Reformed Church in 1850, Heidelberg College began humbly, on the third floor of a building in the business district in Tiffin. Since then, it has grown both in size and number far beyond what its founders could ever have dreamed.

Currently, the college is located on a 110-acre campus in northwestern Ohio. Heidelberg offers 36 courses of study in 19 different fields of concentration, both for undergraduates and graduate students. As a church-based liberal arts college, an area of particular emphasis for Heidelberg is the integration of faith into academic and professional life. Heidelberg students, and the communities into which they enter after graduation, benefit greatly from this faith-based approach.

While the college is located in Ohio, it truly has a global view. As part of their undergraduate experience at Heidelberg, many students take advantage of a variety of domestic and foreign off-campus study programs, these include opportunities to study for a semester at American University here in Washington, DC, a year at Heidelberg University in Germany, or to take classes at its Japan Campus in Sapporo, Japan.

As a mark of its dedication to the community, Heidelberg College does not just cater to the traditional student, but is also pioneering

lifelong learning opportunities for the nontraditional student. Whether through its Weekend College program on its main campus or at its Maumee Branch extension, Heidelberg offers a variety of ways for these adult learners to earn bachelor's degrees.

Another way that Heidelberg College serve the community is through its Water Quality Laboratory. With its state of the art equipment, the laboratory undertakes research directed at understanding the long-term effects of agricultural chemicals and runoff, especially in Lake Erie. The work is critical in analyzing the dangers that these chemicals may pose to humans and ecosystems in the Ohio and Great Lakes area.

Mr. Speaker, the foremost way an institution such as Heidelberg serves the community however, is through its graduates. In 150 years, Heidelberg graduates have offered the highest level of commitment to their communities, and especially Ohio. Whether they are businessmen, scientists, or artists, Heidelberg alumni have been true to the college's goal of graduating "whole persons who can act effectively with human values in a world of continuing change." I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the college on its history of service to Ohio, the Nation and the world throughout the past 150 years. Additionally, we wish the Heidelberg community the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, due to air traffic congestion, I was unavoidably detained in my district last night. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both Roll Call Votes 584 and 585.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN E. POOLE ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Susan E. Poole, who is retiring from state service after more than 28 years, most recently as Warden of the California Institution for Women. I would like to acknowledge Susan's dedication, extensive education and accomplishments. It is truly a pleasure to salute her service to the people of the State of California.

A list of positions Susan has held over the years demonstrates her long and distinguished tenure of service: Warden of the California Institution for Women; Assistant Deputy Director of Institutions Division; Correctional Administration Program Administrator; Assistant Transition Coordinator; Correctional Counselor III; Staff Services Manager; Associate Personnel

Analyst; Administrative Assistant II; Staff Services Analyst; Correctional Counselor; Correctional Sergeant; Correctional Program Supervisor; Correctional Officer; Teaching Assistant.

Susan has received a distinguished list of awards for her exemplary performance, including Outstanding Young Woman of America for 1983; Leadership Award—Brotherhood Crusade—1998; James E. Stratten Award—Association of Black Correctional Workers 1991 and 2000—for Outstanding Community Service and Dedication to Excellence; Resolution #1322—Honorable Ruben Ayala for Career and Civic Achievements as Warden at CIW for more than a decade, 1998; California's Warden of the Year Nominee for the North American Association for Wardens and Superintendents—1998; Certificate of Recognition—Honorable Larry Walker, County Supervisor, 4th District—1998; and Certificate of Recognition—Honorable Fred Aguiar, 61st Assembly District.

Susan has an unflinching commitment to public service, as demonstrated by the large number of organizations to which she has given her time and talent: American Correctional Association; Association of Black Correctional Workers; Correctional Peace Officers Foundation; Criminal Justice Advisory Council, California State University, San Bernardino; National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice; Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority; Member, Board of Directors, Mt. Baldy United Way; Member 3rd Vice Chair, Board of Directors McKinley Children's Center, Member/3rd Vice Chair, Board of Directors McKinley Children's Center; Member/Vice Chair Opportunities Unlimited; Member, Association of Women Executives in Corrections.

In addition, Susan has compiled an impressive list of work-related activities during her notable career, including Consulting to CDC Labor Relations Board; Member of Oral Interview Panel—Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department; Guest Lecturer at UCLA, USC, UCR, and Riverside City College; EEO Counselor, CDC, Consultant to National Institute of Corrections (NIC); Consultant to National Institute of Justice (NIJ); Former Chairperson CDC Training Advisory Committee (DTAC)(5 years); Former Member CDC Executive Women's Advisory Committee (EWAC)(3 years); Member, United Way Resource Allocation Committee (Mt. Baldy Region).

I know we all wish Susan joy and success in this new adventure in her life. I wish Susan my good prayers and best wishes, with the hope for a long, productive, and enjoyable retirement. The people of the State of California thank you for your service!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 589, 590, and 591 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 589, 590, and 591.

IN HONOR OF THE CHILDREN'S
ASSESSMENT CENTER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Children's Assessment Center located in Houston, Texas as it begins its tenth year of service to Harris County's children.

The Children's Assessment Center (CAC) was founded in 1991 to address the unique needs of sexually abused children in Harris County. Since the Center first opened, it has served more than 38,000 children by fulfilling its mission to protect children by providing a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children. The CAC also helps to advocate on behalf of these children through the court system. I believe that the "one-stop" shopping provided at the CAC is the right approach to ensure that these children receive services in one convenient, nurturing environment. Sexual abuse is one of the most heinous crimes and we must work together to protect these children.

The CAC is a collaborative effort between the Harris County Commissioners' Court and the Children's Assessment Center Foundation. The CAC's \$10.5 million state-of-the-art facility, located in my district, was specially designed to provide an environment that will meet each child's needs for warmth, support, and protection. The CAC is also a member of the National Children's Alliance and the largest of its kind in the nation. The Center houses professionals from fifteen partner agencies, including law enforcement, the University of Texas Health Science Center Medical School, psychological/psychiatric professionals and students, and governmental investigative entities which work cooperatively to protect children and investigate sexual abuse. This team approach is critically important to successfully helping these children to recover from sexual abuse.

Earlier this year, the CAC was awarded the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation by the National Association of Counties at a ceremony held at the U.S. Capitol. This Legacy Award for Excellence was presented to the CAC because it had shown itself to be the program that most fully embraced the spirit of volunteerism and has set itself apart from all others across the nation with its distinct and unparalleled services. Each year, the CAC works with more than 150 volunteers who assist in protecting and improving the lives of sexually abused children in Harris County. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the leadership of Ellen Cokinos, the Executive Director of the CAC. Ellen has worked tirelessly on behalf of these children and we should all thank her for her leadership in helping these children to heal.

I want to commend the Children's Assessment Center, its staff, Board members and volunteers for their leadership in helping sexually abused children and applaud their efforts to raise awareness about the special needs of sexually abused children.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY WELCOMES
KURT LANDGRAF—PRESIDENT
OF THE EDUCATION TESTING
SERVICE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Kurt Landgraf. Recently, Mr. Landgraf, former chairman and CEO of DuPont Pharmaceuticals, took over as president and CEO of the Education Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. ETS develops and annually administers over 11 million tests worldwide on behalf of clients in education, government, and business.

Mr. Landgraf served as associate marketing director of ETS from 1970 to 1974. Following that he held various marketing and financial management positions with Upjohn Co. In 1980, Mr. Landgraf joined E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., where he worked within the pharmaceuticals division.

In 1993, Mr. Landgraf was appointed president and CEO of DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Co. At the same time, the Harvard Business Review Case Study highlighted Mr. Landgraf's efforts to create a highly diverse and inclusive organization.

In 1996, Mr. Landgraf was appointed chief financial officer of E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. Later, he would be appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer and chairman of DuPont Europe.

Kurt brings solid leadership, combined with the global business experience, understanding of education issues and strong support of ETS' mission to the position. Mr. Landgraf excelled as a senior executive of a successful company and has a solid track record in identifying and developing talent, a perfect complement to ETS' mission.

Once again, I welcome Kurt Landgraf to ETS and ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing his achievements.

HONORING SUSAN POOLE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Susan Poole, Warden of the California Institution for Women, as she retires after 28 years of outstanding service.

Ms. Poole began her career with the State Department of Corrections in 1972. She has served as a Correctional Counselor III, Assistant Transition Coordinator, Program Administrator, Correctional Administrator, Assistant Deputy Director, and Warden. In each of these positions, Ms. Poole has succeeded above and beyond the call of duty.

As Warden of the California Institution for Women, Ms. Poole has been responsible for the administration and direction of all department policies. She has focused her attention on improving the internal management of the department as well as its reputation with community organizations. As a result of her leadership, the department was able to set high standards and develop clear goals and strate-

gies which contribute to the mission of California Institution for Women.

While striving to meet the high goals of the Institution, Ms. Poole also set high personal goals. After receiving a BA from the University of Redlands, Ms. Poole continued her education through career training and educational programs. She has taken courses in management, women's studies, and prison security.

Ms. Poole's hard work and expertise has been recognized by many. In 1983, she was awarded the "Outstanding Young Women of America" Award. She is also the recipient of the Leadership Award—Brotherhood Crusade, the James E. Stratten Award for Outstanding Community Service and Dedication to Excellence, and numerous accolades from local government officials. In 1998, she was nominated as California's Warden of the Year, by the North American Association for Wardens and Superintendents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this 106th Congress join me in recognizing the contributions Ms. Susan Poole has made to the California Corrections Community over her 28 years of dedicated service.

RECOGNITION OF THE LEARN
SHOP, INC.

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Learn Shop, Inc., a Montgomery County based United Way organization that is dedicated to improving economically disadvantaged school communities throughout the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan area. Entering its second year, their "Drive for Supplies" program has made significant advances towards reducing poverty in school communities by aiding underprivileged students, schools, and communities. This creative recycling program, in conjunction with Montgomery County Public Schools, encourages students at the end of the school year to donate their used but usable school supplies to impoverished students in disadvantaged school communities.

The "Drive for Supplies" program has already had significant success in its first year. At the end of last school year, with the full support of Montgomery County Public School Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast, the program collected \$75,000 in school supplies. Learn Shop Inc. is helping students realize that what was previously regarded as trash can be turned into usable school supplies, clothing, and computers. These items not only help disadvantaged students in other school communities but it also gives students a sense that they are filling a need in the world.

Along with promoting community action, the "Drive for Supplies" saves schools money each year by reducing disposal costs while also reducing waste in our community. For their innovation, "Drive for Supplies" has enjoyed a glowing recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Children and communities positively affected by the "Drive for Supplies" program have been more than grateful for Learn Shop Inc.'s efforts. Not only has Learn Shop Inc. distributed school supplies to local area children,

they have also donated supplies to refugee students affected by the war in the Balkans in Kosovo. The "Drive for Supplies" program truly has the ability to reach thousands of students across the world.

Beginning with Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region, Learn Shop hopes to expand the program around the nation, in hopes of reducing poverty nationally and helping children in need. I applaud the efforts of Learn Shop and encourage them to continue all the work that is greatly needed in our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House about my leave of absence from March 21 through March 24 of this year. I was out of the country on official business. Accordingly, I was unable to cast any votes.

If present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 75, H. Con. Res. 290, the Budget Resolution for FY 2001.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 74, on agreeing to the Spratt amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 73, on agreeing to the Sununu amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 72, on agreeing to the Stenholm amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 71, on agreeing to the DeFazio amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 70, on agreeing to the Owens amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 69, on a motion that the Committee rise to H. Con. Res. 290.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 68, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 290, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2001.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 67, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 290, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2001.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 66, on approving the Journal.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 65, on passage of H.R. 3822, the Oil Price Reduction Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 64, providing for consideration of H.R. 3822, the Oil Price Reduction Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 63, on passage to S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 62, to commit with instructions S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 61, whether the House will consider S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 60, providing for consideration of S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000 (H. Res. 444).

"No" on rollcall vote No. 59, providing for consideration of S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (H. Res. 444).

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 58, on approving the Journal.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 57, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that

the National Park Service should take full advantage of support services offered by the Department of Defense (H. Res. 182).

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN GEORGE MOHAN

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the May 16, 2000, birth of Dylan George Mohan. Dylan was born at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC, at 8:56 p.m. He is the son of Kristin Young and Matthew Mohan. Dylan is the first grandson of his grandparent George and Phyllis Young and grandparents Jim and Mary Mohan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating this new family and to wish Dylan much joy and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING REV. CURTIS COFIELD II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join the Immanuel Baptist Church and the New Haven community in paying tribute to my dear friend and an outstanding member of the New Haven, CT, community—Rev. Curtis Cofield. As a pastor and community leader, Reverend Cofield has dedicated his life to making a real difference in the lives of the residents of Greater New Haven.

The clergy has always played a vital role in our community and Reverend Cofield is a sterling example. His commitment to the service of our community through religious leadership is admired by many and rivaled by few. His involvement, not only with the congregation of the Immanuel Baptist Church, but with the entire community, has had a tremendous impact on many lives, especially those who face arduous struggles and frustrating situations in their daily lives. Working with his wife Elsie and the AIDS Interfaith Network, Reverend Cofield has helped hundreds of individuals and their families cope with the devastating effects caused by this terrible illness. For years, he has ministered to the spiritual needs of countless people in the New Haven community—strengthening the bonds of faith and helping to build stronger neighborhoods of which we can all be proud.

Throughout his decades of service to the New Haven community, Reverend Cofield has been a leading advocate for some of our country's most vulnerable citizens. He has served as a strong voice for their best interests. As a member of over 30 service and religious organizations throughout his career, he has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to ensuring that his actions and participation enriched his community. I have always held a deep admiration for community service and those who provide it. With his extraordinary record of service, Reverend Cofield serves as an example to all that one person really can make a difference.

As the first African-American chairman of the Connecticut State Freedom of Information Commission, organizing founder of the Dwight Neighborhood Corporation, and as a pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Reverend Cofield has enriched the lives of residents in New Haven and across the State of Connecticut. His dedication has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. The myriad awards and honors that adorn his walls are testimony to his unparalleled commitment and dedication.

It is with great pride that I stand today to join Elsie, his children, family, friends, and the entire New Haven community to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Reverend Curtis Cofield for all of the good work he has done. As a pastor, community leader, and friend, he has touched the lives of thousands and leaves a legacy of dedication and inspiration second to none.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for H.J. Res. 123. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I stayed in Washington until the last possible moment, hoping that Congress could finish the business of the people of the Central Coast and all Americans. There are critical unresolved issues still on the table—including school modernization, common-sense tax relief, and adequate funding for Medicare.

I am deeply dismayed that the Congressional leadership has decided to push these issues off to a lame duck session. The American people deserve better.

LAOTIAN-AMERICANS FROM PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND PARTICIPATION IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON LAOS

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents from Rhode Island recently participated in a U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos held on October 19. Laotian and Hmong leaders from around the United States and the globe gathered to present testimony to policymakers and Members of Congress. They joined in a special ceremony in Congress to honor former Congressman Bruce Vento, who recently passed away, for his leadership role on behalf of the freedom-loving for the people of Laos.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a significant Laotian and Hmong-American population in Rhode Island. I share their deep concern about their relatives and countrymen still in Laos—and the need for human rights and democracy. My uncle, President Kennedy, also believed strongly in freedom for the people of Laos, and committed the United States to that goal. I am honored to continue that

fight in the United States Congress today, and firmly believe that forums like this are an excellent way to work toward that goal. I also appreciate their efforts to honor my colleague, former congressman Bruce Vento, for his work on behalf of freedom and human rights for Laotian people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. Thongsavanh Phongsavan, of the Lao Representatives Abroad Council, based in Providence, Rhode Island, for his important work in the Laotian community. I am grateful that Laotian students from Rhode Island played a leadership role in the event, including Mr. Thongkhone Pathana, Ms. Viengsavanh Changhavong, Ms. Sotthida Bounthapanya, and Ms. Ammala Douangsavan. Many Hmong-Americans also attended from Providence including Mr. Xay Ge Kue, Mr. Xia Xue Kue, Mr. Toua Kue, and Mr. Nhia Sue Yang. I also want to thank Mr. Philip Smith, Executive Director for the Center for Public Policy Analysis, for helping to convene this important forum. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and many other important organizations were able to speak and participate with regard to the ongoing need to promote human rights and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I would commend my colleagues in Congress the following testimony of Mr. Thongsavanh Phongsavan from the Lao Representatives Abroad Council:

Thank you Mr. Philip Smith, Honorable Congressman, Honorable Senator, Your Excellency, and Distinguished Guests:

On behalf of the Laotian Representatives Abroad Council I am deeply encouraged by the promise that this historic U.S. Congressional Forum VI hold for the future. With the wisdom of our Laotian Leaders, this new era of co-operation will inspire peace and prosperity for many generations to follow. This new age will also give rise to opportunities for our peoples unimaginable only a short while ago. In the eyes of industrialized nations, no longer will we be viewed as a group of ethnicities closed and divided, but as a model of the tremendous progress that freedom, democracy and free enterprises can achieve in the Laos.

Now more than ever, we need to work together to secure this vision of hope. At this point there can be no turning back; only the swift and purposeful push towards a more productive future. Indeed, the Twenty-First Century is our oasis in the desert. It is a place where Laotian people and ideas will come together for the betterment of all of Humanity, Respect and justice to all.

Laotian Representatives Abroad Council and Lao Progressive and their emissaries have been hard at work to help bring these new developments into focus. Working not only with the Laotian people, but with peoples of all ethnicities, it has achieved tremendous economic opportunity through the expansion of business development, job opportunity, education, social orientation, and political consultations.

For more than 30 generations, the people of Laos and their leaders have stood proud despite the winds of social burden. The history of our nation runs deep and wide. And from the beginning, its many political, social and economic struggles have been overcome in the name of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

With French colonization late in the last century and the sociopolitical breakdowns that followed, Laos 65 ethnic groups were divided by pressure from within and without—as other, developing nations, aspired to progress. Men, women and children bound by

a common vision of hope fought for independence. But isolated by differences of language and culture within their own borders, their collective strength was diminished.

The ensuing years provided few signs of relief. Relations among the struggling classes and the French remained tenuous at best. And despite the growing numbers of young Laotian being educated in French universities by the 1920's higher education was yet restricted to all but Laos' social elite.

Lack of education and poor agriculture imbued further hardships for both the people and the land. The colonist, indifferent to the idea of investing in the masses through improved social opportunity, employed unskilled labor in mining operations; the harsh conditions of which caused many workers to perish. Times grew much worse for the rural and uneducated people. And without a means of unifying their philosophies, de Gaulle and other leaders could place little hope on maintaining Laos' status quo as a French colony.

Laos History in its later chapters is plagued by struggles of even greater intensity. Prolonged war ensued between the Pathet Lao and the Royal government. And this turmoil was further compounded by the fact that government control in Vientiane passed back and forth between General Phoumi Nonsavan's pro-Western alliance, and Laos' Neutralists, which were led by Prince Souvanna Phouma.

The stunning success of the LPF and its allies in winning thirteen of the twenty-one seats contested in the May 4, 1958, elections to the National Assembly changed the political atmosphere in Vientiane. This success had less to do with the LPF's adroitness than with the ineptness of the old-line nationalists, more intent on advancing their personal interests than on meeting the challenge from the LPF. The two largest parties, the Laos Progressive Party and the Independent Party, could not agree on a list of common candidates in spite of repeated prodding by the United States embassy and so split their votes among dozens of candidates. The LPF and the Peace (Santiphab) Party carefully worked out a strategy of mutual support, which succeed in winning nearly two-thirds of the seats with barely one-third of the votes cast. Souphanouvong garnered the most votes and became chairman of the National Assembly. The Laos Progressive Party and the Independent Party tardily merged to become the Rally of the Laos People (Lao Rouam Lao).

In the wake of the election fiasco, Washington concentrated on finding alternatives to Souvanna Phouma's strategy of winning over the Pathet Lao and on building up the Royal Lao Army as the only cohesive nationalist force capable of dealing with the communists' united front tactics. On June 10, 1958, a new political grouping called the Committee for the Defense of the National Interests (CDNI) made its appearance. Formed mainly of a younger generation not tied to the big families and as yet untainted by corruption, it announced a program for revitalizing the economy, forming an anticommunist front that excluded the Pathet Lao, suppressing corruption, and creating a national mystique.

Washington which was paying the entire salary cost of the Royal Lao Army, was enthusiastic about the "young turks" of the CDNI. This enthusiasm was not altogether shared by United States ambassador Horace H. Smith, who asked what right a group untested by any election had to set its sights on cabinet appointments. Whereas Souvanna Phouma tried and failed to form a government, creating a drawn-out cabinet crisis, Phoui Sunanikone eventually succeeded and included four CDNI members and Phoumi Nonsavan in a subcabinet post.

In 1961, a 14-nation conference held in Geneva sought to defuse the conflict by establishing a neutralist coalition government under Souvanna Phouma. However, the warring factions soon clashed again. And in the increasing chaos that followed, Laos' upheaval would be viewed as merely an appendage to the Vietnam War.

The final coalition government was established in April, 1974. This entity was led by Souvanna Phouma, and included his half-brother, the Pathet Lao Leader Souphanouvong. After south Vietnam's and Cambodia's fall to Communist rule in 1975, the Pathet Lao assumed full control in Laos. In December of that year, Souvanna Phouma's government was terminated and the Royal Monarchy abolished. As many as 30,000 former government and police officials were sent to political reeducation centers. And against this great body of humanity, many serious abuses of human rights were witnessed.

After 1975 an estimated 400,000 refugees, including most of Laos' educated and wealthy elite, fled the country. Laos signed a peace accord with Vietnam in 1977, and a border delineation treaty with that country in 1986. Vietnam then agreed to provide Laos with aid to develop its agriculture, forestry, industries, and transportation facilities; and to allow duty-free access to port facilities in Da Nang. Laos' alliance with Vietnam and the former Soviet bloc was bolstered after Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea in 1979.

As the Twenty-First Century is at our hand, important changes in the Lao infrastructure are again imminent. Just as the stone age wheel precede the ox cart and wagon, each advancement we make today is an investment toward the future. Among the important changes we must not prepare for is the enactment of socio-economic reforms. Surely with a strong foundation on which to build, the framework for a better tomorrow will be achieved. In terms of Indochina's pending Globalization toward a free-market economy, a serious dialogue must now begin to assume that needed improvements in education, labor, health care and many other social issues will be squarely met.

Both high level and intermediate talks among our leaders and those of the industrialized nations will aid in this transition. Participation in such dialogue will also improve relations with our neighbors; promoting understanding, while forging a new alliance among those who embrace this long awaited opportunity.

The teaching of English as a Second Language is also a vital necessity. This advantage will not only help us fulfill the promise of unifying the people of our region, but aid in the development and expansion of commercial interests throughout the world. To achieve this result without compromising our respective traditions or values, improved teaching in all areas of study shall play a decisive role, with present advancements in education, technology and industry—Televisions, Computers and internet access in the classroom are among the chosen tools for building a better future.

Laos is also blessed with an abundance of undeveloped natural resources. Gold, Oak timber, Raw minerals, Gemstones and Hydroelectric Power are among the most substantial of its treasures. Along with the installment of valid reforms, development in farming, construction and hybrid technologies will easily bring this country's economy over the top within the next five to ten years.

Educators, students and interested members of the business and private sectors may also take an active role in this development. Individually or as part of an established group, they themselves have the power to

initiate political, economic and social reforms through positive involvement in their own land.

Specific ways in which these steps can be followed include:

1. Reading and learning about the history of Southeast Asia and it's struggles.
2. Becoming involved through further sociopolitical study and debate.
3. Acquiring specific knowledge and technology in fields relation to agriculture, medicine, electronics and engineering.
4. To aid in this transition by lending your direct support to our nation and its people.

Writing or speaking with U.S. Congressmen, Senators and even the President will also help to set the wheels of progress into motion. Promoting the involvement of other nations and leaders will add credibility and support to these efforts, while establishing a dialog of wise words and encouragement that will achieve enormous benefits for this worldly cause.

Improved teaching is but one avenue to be fully explored and attended. Equally important considerations are met as we reach each new crossroad in the quest for a greater unity. Improved agriculture, communications private ownership and the recognition of minorities are just some of the prevailing elements of an economically stable system. In the context of greater struggles, political reforms and the redefinition of Civil freedoms will promote a wider approval of this cause.

Today we stand united, as the dawning of a new and enlightened age has arrived. Only with our combined efforts could such a proud and prosperous moment come to bear. And with the health and well-being of our children in our hands, together we will strive to uphold the values that will lead our people into a brighter future.

The establishment of universal reform leading to free, multi-political party elections will provide our cultures the competitive edge that is needed. This adoption of democratic systems will give our leaders not only a confident voice, but allow a greater sense of identity for our people to embrace.

Last but most important is the question of our youth. As our children come of age in the prosperous civilization that is our future, what will be the quality of their existence? With overpopulation, pollution and the twin civilians of hunger and disease. The conservation of forests, wildlife, clean air and water must not take second place to our more immediate desires—for once these diminishing resources are gone, there will be no means of replenishing them. This threatens the very core of our existence on this fragile planet, as without adequate methods to assure the protection of our natural environment, we may one day be without the life sustaining elements that we so humbly share.

The next few years 2002 will provide the test from which these hopes will be won or defeated, without the cooperation and commitment of great nations and leaders, this enormous challenge will most certainly be lost. To seize this opportunity and achieve and effective head start as the dawning of this millennium year. We must now join hands with a single vision—and with the welfare of our children in our hearts. The blueprint for a better tomorrow is already in our hands. Our social, Economic and Political struggles are being squarely met. And now, with the help of our dedicated supporters, our plea for Peace, Democracy and Freedom in finally being heard.

The ultimate realization of these goals will require the continued support of everyone who shares this vision of social and economic prosperity. It will require the active participation of people of different ideas and

ideologies to bring about such Freedom and Change. Achieving these solutions may not always be easy, but the alternatives are far less forgiving. The imprisonment, torture and eventual execution of H.R.H., King Sisavang Vathana, is but one lasting reminder of this tragic legacy.

The drive toward social reconstruction is our greatest challenge. The coming age will be the turning point from which our success or failure will be determined. In building this bridge in the 21st Century, we must be willing to follow but one voice. We must be able to look to one person who will lead us on this course, and who will speak for all who have succeeded in conquering odds that had once seemed insurmountable.

Working as a team, we will succeed together the needed resources to make this bold vision a reality. To achieve this co-operation, better means of communication among our leaders, allies and supporters must now be sought and clear.

Developing these vital links will be the first step in building a greater unity. For once a true sense of solidarity is established with our neighbors throughout this land, more ambitious roles for the Loatian people and their neighbors will begin to take shape. However, without bold intervention by the end of this year, the future of Laos as an independent nation is far less certain. With conflicting ideologies on both sides of its borders, and with its young and old gripped by the differences of age, language and culture, the Leadership's reluctance to join hands and resist oppression now threatens this best chance for Democracy and Freedom of our people.

Indeed, the key to a free and Democratic Laos may be found in the partnership of citizens young and old. While traditions live long and new ideologies are often favored over those of the past, people on both sides of the issue must come to the bargaining tables for the sake of their national sovereignty. Accomplishing this may not be an easy task, but prevailing over any struggle has never been simple. The best solution to this multi-sided issue lies with willingness of each division to set aside its differences, and to consider this new and determined plan. Laotian Representatives Abroad Council and The Lao Progressive Party will play an active role in these joint endeavors. Together, with the strong and powerful will of both our friends and former adversaries, Southeast Asia's mission to achieve free and lasting reforms will be down in history as the greatest success of the 21st Century.

The establishment of new opportunity through peaceful diplomacy will be the rising sun of our future. Working in partnership toward this common vision, we are certain that a greater understanding can and will be achieved. The point that one must realize is that these changes will not be made for the benefit of the elite few, but for the common good of our future generations.

Improved education, health and employment are all central to these efforts. So too is the introduction of multi-party elections, a unifying language and free trade. A truly free society is one based on a prosperous economy and enterprise. Our wish is to create opportunity from which our nation, her neighbors and all hard working people will universally benefit. Laotian Representatives Abroad Council and The Lao Progressive Party had demonstrated that this model of socioeconomic reform is an attainable goal. Through it's efforts here in America, it has worked to foster Humanity and Progress; sparing many of thousands from great hardship through the promotion of these principals.

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, will be to use your wisdom and expe-

rience in finding ways to develop peaceful cooperation around Asia and the World, whether you are a representative of Laos or a sensible neighbor, we must now joint hands or accept the failures of our action. We must also educate our young to the old and new systems before their sense of national identity is lost. The adoption of these fundamental principals during this time of reconciliation will not only assure your country's acceptance into the United Nations, but awaken the free world to southeast Asia's immense capability and strength.

Thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity to speak with you today. I wish to express my deepest gratitude for your show of faith. It is with great confidence in you, my friends that I accept this great challenge and reaffirm my delegation's commitment of support.

TURKEY AND POSSIBLE MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the United States has a longstanding dynamic relationship with our NATO ally, the Republic of Turkey, and I believe that the strength of that relationship relies on forthright candor. I have willingly recognized positive developments in Turkey, and I have sought to present fairly the various human rights concerns as they have arisen. Today, I must bring to my colleagues' attention pending actions involving the Government of Turkey which seem incongruous with the record in violation of human rights. I fear the planned sale of additional military aircraft to Turkey could potentially have further long-term, negative effects on human rights in that country.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I presided over a hearing in March of 1999 that addressed many human rights concerns. The State Department had just released its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices covering 1998. Commissioner and Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Harold Hongju Koh noted in testimony before the Commission that "serious human rights abuses continued in Turkey in 1998, but we had hoped that the 1998 report would reflect significant progress on Turkey's human rights record. Prime Minister Yilmaz had publicly committed himself to making the protection of human rights his government's highest priority in 1998. We had welcomed those assurances and respected the sincerity of his intentions. We were disappointed that Turkey had not fully translated those assurances into actions."

I noted in my opening statement, "One year after a commission delegation visited Turkey, our conclusion is that there has been no demonstrable improvement in Ankara's human rights practices and that the prospects for much needed systemic reforms are bleak given the unstable political scene which is likely to continue throughout 1999."

Thankfully, eighteen months later I can say that the picture has improved—somewhat.

A little over a year ago the president of Turkey's highest court made an extraordinary speech asserting that Turkish citizens should be granted the right to speak freely, urging

that the legal system and constitution be "cleansed," and that existing "limits on language" seriously compromised the freedom of expression. The man who gave that speech, His Excellency Ahmet Necdet Sezer, is the new President of the Republic of Turkey. Last summer several of us on the Commission congratulated President Sezer on his accession to the presidency, saying, in part:

We look forward to working with you and members of your administration, especially as you endeavor to fulfill your commitments to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and commitments contained in other Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) documents. These human rights fundamentals are the bedrock upon which European human rights rest, the solid foundation upon which Europe's human rights structures are built. It is worth remembering, twenty-five years after the signing of the Final Act, that your predecessor, President Demerel, signed the commitments at Helsinki on behalf of Turkey. Your country's engagement in the Helsinki process was highlighted during last year's OSCE summit in Istanbul, a meeting which emphasized the importance of freedom of expression, the role of NGOs in civil society, and the eradication of torture.

Your Presidency comes at a very critical time in modern Turkey's history. Adoption and implementation of the reforms you have advocated would certainly strengthen the ties between our countries and facilitate fuller integration of Turkey into Europe. Full respect for the rights of Turkey's significant Kurdish population would go a long way in reducing tensions that have festered for more than a decade, and resulted in the lengthy conflict in the southeast.

Your proposals to consolidate and strengthen democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Turkey will be instrumental in ushering in a new era of peace and prosperity in the Republic. The Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents can serve as important guides in your endeavor.

We all recall the pending \$4 billion sale of advanced attack helicopters to the Turkish army. I have objected to this sale as leading human rights organizations, Turkish and western press, and even the State Department documented the use of such helicopters to attack Kurdish villages in Turkey and to transport troops to regions where civilians were killed. Despite repeated promises, the Turkish Government has been slow to take action which would hold accountable and punish those who have committed such atrocities.

And we recently learned of the pending sale of eight even larger helicopters, S-80E heavy lift helicopters for Turkey's Land Forces Command. With a flight radius of over three hundred miles and the ability to carry over fifty armed troops, the S-80E has the potential to greatly expand the ability of Turkey's army to undertake actions such as I just recounted.

Since 1998, there has been recognition in high-level U.S.-Turkish exchanges that Turkey has a number of longstanding issues which must be addressed with demonstrable progress: decriminalization of freedom of expression; the release of imprisoned parliamentarians and journalists; prosecution of police officers who commit torture; an end of harassment of human rights defenders and re-opening of non-governmental organizations; the return of internally displaced people to their villages; cessation of harassment and banning of certain political parties; and, an end to the state of emergency in the southeast. Is the ad-

ministration prepared to suggest that Turkey has adhered to these human rights objectives?

The human rights picture in Turkey has improved somewhat in the last several years, yet journalists continue to be arrested and jailed, human rights organizations continue to feel pressure from the police, and elected officials who are affiliated with certain political parties, in particular, continue to be harassed.

Anywhere from half a million to 2 million Kurds have been displaced by the Turkish counter insurgency campaigns against the Kurdistan Workers Party, also known as the PKK. The Turkish military has reportedly emptied more than three thousand villages and hamlets in the southeast since 1992, burned homes and fields, and committed other human rights abuses against Kurdish civilians, often using types of helicopters similar to those the Administration is seeking to transfer. Despite repeated promises, the Government of Turkey has taken few steps to facilitate the return of these peoples to their homes, assist them to resettle, or compensate them for the loss of their property. Nor does it allow others to help. Even the ICRC has been unable to operate in Turkey. And, finally, four parliamentarians—Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak—continue to serve time in prison. We can not proceed with this sale, or other sales or transfers, when Turkey's Government fails to live up to the most basic expectations mentioned above.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also time that the United States establishes an understanding with Turkey and a credible method of consistent monitoring and reporting on the end-use of U.S. weapons, aircraft and service. An August 2000 report from the General Accounting Office (GAO) entitled "Foreign Military Sales: Changes Needed to Correct Weaknesses in End-Use Monitoring Program" was a cause for concern on my part regarding the effectiveness of current end-use monitoring and reporting efforts. While we had been assured that end-use monitoring was taking place and that the United States was holding recipient governments accountable to the export license criteria, the GAO report reveals the failure of the Executive Branch to effectively implement monitoring requirements enacted by Congress. For example, the report points out on page 12:

While field personnel may be aware of adverse conditions in their countries, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency has not established guidance or procedures for field personnel to use in determining when such conditions require an end-use check. For example, significant upheaval occurred in both Indonesia and Pakistan within the last several years. As a result, the State Department determined that both countries are no longer eligible to purchase U.S. defense articles and services. However, end-use checks of U.S. defense items already provided were not performed in either country in response to the standard. DSCA officials believed that the State Department was responsible for notifying field personnel that the criteria had been met for an end-use check to be conducted. However, DSCA and State have never established a procedure for providing notification to field personnel.

Currently, the end-use monitoring training that DSCA provides to field personnel consists of a 30-minute presentation during the security assistance management course at the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management. This training is intended to fa-

miliarize students with end-use monitoring requirements. However, this training does not provide any guidance or procedures on how to execute an end-use monitoring program at overseas posts or when to initiate end-use checks in response to one of the five standards.

In the past there have been largely ad hoc attempts to report on the end-use of U.S. equipment. Therefore, I was pleased to support the passage of H.R. 4919, the Security Assistant Act of 2000 that was signed by the President on October 6. Section 703 of this Act mandates that no later than 180 days after its enactment, the President shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report summarizing the status of efforts by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency to implement the End-Use Monitoring Enhancement Plan relating to government-to-government transfers of defense articles, services, and related technologies. I want to commend House International Relations Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN for his efforts in trying to make our end-use monitoring and reporting programs effective and accurate. I look forward to working with him and others to ensure that an effective and credible monitoring program is put in place without further delay.

We must be consistent in our defense of human rights, and our relations, including our military relations, must reflect that commitment. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to support the sale of additional weaponry and aircraft to Turkey at this time.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT OF NEBRASKA

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska, the Honorable BILL BARRETT.

In addition to being a successful businessman, BILL has been a dedicated public servant, serving his country in the U.S. Navy, serving in many local and State capacities, representing Nebraska in the State legislature as speaker, and serving as a hard-working, conscientious Member of this institution since 1991. He has worked tirelessly for his constituents in one of the largest and most rural congressional districts in the country.

During this time he has been an effective advocate for issues of importance to the Nation with his work on the House Committee on Agriculture and Education and the Workforce. As a colleague who also represents a district with significant farming interests, he has been of significant help to me through his work as chairman of the House Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation, and Credit.

Most importantly, BILL is a man of honor and integrity who is respected by colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He has been a tremendous asset to the House of Representatives, working with Members in a bipartisan fashion. As long as I have known BILL, he has been a humble, tenacious, and effective voice for his constituents. I am honored to have had

the opportunity to work with BILL BARRETT over the past 4 years. He is a good friend and a great Congressman.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 10 years BILL BARRETT has served the people of the Third District of Nebraska and the people of this country with honor and distinction. The House of Representatives will miss his service.

GENETIC ENGINEERING: A TECHNOLOGY AHEAD OF THE SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY?

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Federal regulatory review of biotechnology products is patchy and inadequate. Spread out over three regulatory agencies—the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—the system is characterized by huge regulatory holes that fail to safeguard human health and environmental protection. Furthermore, independent scientific advice available to the agencies is severely limited.

Despite the fact that GE food may contain new toxins or allergens, the FDA determined in 1992 that GE plants should be treated no differently from traditionally bred plants. Consequently, the FDA condones an inadequate premarket safety testing review and does not require any labeling of GE food products. The FDA has essentially abdicated these responsibilities to the very companies seeking to market and profit from the new GE products. FDA's recent proposed rule for regulating biotechnology will hardly change the present system. Although the proposal requires that companies notify the Agency before marketing new GE products, it still fails to require a comprehensive pre-market safety testing review or mandatory labeling.

The FDA's 1992 decision to treat GE food as "substantially equivalent" to conventional food (thereby exempting most GE food on the market from independent premarket safety testing or labeling) is a violation of the public's trust and an evasion of the Agency's duties to ensure a safe food supply. The concept of "substantial equivalence" has been challenged in numerous scientific journals. FDA's failure to label GE foods led a 1996 editorial in the *New England Journal of Medicine* to conclude that "FDA policy would appear to favor industry over consumer protection."

EPA's regulation of environmental hazards is equally inadequate. Under the nation's pesticide laws, EPA regulates biological pesticides produced by plants. It does not, however, regulate the plants themselves, leaving that duty to the USDA. Consequently, EPA regulates the B.t. toxin, but not the corn, cotton or potato plants exuding the toxin. EPA has allowed B.t. crops to come to the market without conducting a comprehensive environmental review. Much further research is needed on the impacts of "pest protected" crops as outlined by a National Academy of Sciences report. For plants engineered for other traits, such as herbicide tolerance or disease tolerance, EPA does no environmental review at all.

The USDA's Animal Plant and Health Protection Service (APHIS) is charged with evalu-

ating potential environmental impacts of field tests of GE crops. However, having virtually abandoned its original permit system which registered an environmental impact assessment before a field test, the Agency can no longer claim to be doing its job. APHIS has adopted a much less rigorous "notification" system which permits researchers to conduct field trials without conducting an environmental risk assessment and without submitting specific environmental impact data.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the premier scientific body in our nation, has recently published a scientific assessment of GE foods. Unfortunately, many of the scientists on the NAS review committee had financial links to the biotech industry. The failure of the NAS to find an unbiased panel is problematic because their mission to supply decision makers and the public with unbiased scientific assessments cannot be achieved. This reduces the lack of independent science for our regulatory agencies to rely upon.

POPULAR DEMAND FOR AN EVOLUTION IN POLICY REGARDING GE FOOD

A strong testament to consumers' desire for labeling and greater safety testing of GE food is the flurry of legislative activity and ballot initiatives that have taken place at the state and local levels. Over the past year, the city councils of Boston, Cleveland and Minneapolis have passed resolutions calling for a moratorium on GE food, and Austin has called for the labeling of all GE food. Boulder, CO has banned GE organisms from 15,000 acres of city-owned farmland. Bills requiring labeling of GE food were introduced in the state legislatures of New York, Minnesota, California and Michigan. The state legislature in Vermont considered legislation that would require farmers to notify the town hall if they were planting genetically engineered seeds. In California, a task force is exploring whether schools should be serving GE food, and in 1999 a petition signed by over 500,000 people demanding labeling was submitted to Congress, President Clinton and several federal agencies including the FDA.

In survey after survey, American consumers have indicated that they believe all GE food should be labeled as such. Consumers have a right to know what is in the food they eat and to make decisions based on that knowledge. While some observe strict dietary restrictions for religious, ethical or health reasons, others simply choose not to be the first time users of these largely untested foods.

The failure to label GE crops and food is short-sighted and could close off key markets for U.S. farm exports. Labeling protections have been established in Europe, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The Cartagena Biosafety Protocol drafted early this year allows nations to refuse imports of GE organisms.

OTHER IMPACTS OF GE FOODS DESERVING ATTENTION

The gene revolution is being led by the agribusiness industry. These are a handful of multinational companies which own much of the world's supplies of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, food and animal veterinary products. The result of numerous acquisitions and mergers, the agri-business conglomeration has spent millions of dollars on research and development of GE products. Given such heavy investment, it should come as no surprise that its primary goal is to recover its expenses and turn a profit.

It is to profit-seeking companies, therefore, that we are ceding the right to re-engineer the earth—our plants, our food, our fish, our animals, our trees, even our lawns. Genetic engineering in agriculture should be considered a commercial venture that includes the privatization of agriculture knowledge through the patenting system and the increasing concentration of key agricultural resources in a handful of multinational agricultural companies.

Marketed by agrichemical companies, genetic engineering in agriculture promises to perpetuate the present industrialized system of agriculture—a system characterized by large farms, single cropping, heavy machinery and dependence on chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Such a system has consolidated acres into fewer and larger farms, marginalizing small farmers and reducing the number of people living on farms and in rural communities.

With a goal of marketing GE seeds worldwide, genetic engineering will continue the trend of industrialized farming to reduce crop diversity, making our food supply increasingly vulnerable to pests and disease. The Southern Corn Leaf Blight which in 1970 destroyed 60 percent of the U.S. corn crop in one summer, clearly demonstrates that a genetically uniform crop base is a disaster waiting to happen. The linkages of genetically engineered seeds and pesticides, such as Monsanto's GE Roundup Ready Seeds will ensure continued use of agricultural chemicals.

Genetic engineering is likely to further diminish the role of the farmer. GE seeds are designed to be grown in a large scale agricultural system in which farmers become laborers or "renters" of seed technology. Desperate to increase their yields to make up for low prices, many U.S. farmers have adopted the "high-yielding" GE seeds. In doing so, they have been forced to sign contracts legally binding them to use proprietary chemicals on their transgenic crops and in some cases to permit random inspections of their fields by biotechnology company representatives who check that farmers are not saving and reusing the licensed seed. Despite the premium farmers pay for high tech seeds, they receive no warranty for the performance of these seeds as the contracts protect biotechnology seed companies in the event of seed failures.

A PROTECTIVE REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Despite the uncertainties associated with genetic engineering, nevertheless, GE crops covered 71 million acres of U.S. farmland last year, and GE ingredients are present throughout the food supply. Ranging from ice-cream and infant formula to tortilla chips and veggie burgers, foods produced using genetic engineering line our supermarket shelves. These foods are unlabeled and have not been appropriately assessed for safety. Consumers, therefore, are unwitting subjects in a massive experiment with their food.

Our regulatory system has clearly failed to ensure the protection of human health, the environment and farmers. In response I have authored legislation in the 106th Congress that would fill the regulatory vacuum.

To ensure food safety, I have introduced a bill that requires that GE food go through the FDA's current food additive process, acknowledging that a food is fundamentally altered when a new gene is inserted into it. The review process would look at concerns unique to

GE products including allergenicity, unintended effects, toxicity, functional characteristics and nutrient levels.

To date, the public has been largely left out of the biotechnology regulatory process, and that needs to change. Consequently, I propose that the FDA conduct a public comment period of at least 30 days once a completed safety application is available to the public. All studies performed by the applicant must be made available including all data unfavorable to the petition. The FDA should also maintain a publicly available registry of the GE foods for which food additives are pending or have been approved.

When the FDA was called upon to confirm the Taco Bell taco shell contamination for a possible regulatory enforcement action, it was unable to do so because it lacked the necessary testing protocols. The FDA should correct this failure by immediately creating testing protocols for all GE foods and test for potential contamination in these foods. Until then, the FDA cannot determine the ingredients in our food supply, it is unlikely that the FDA can ensure the American public that other foods are not contaminated.

I have also introduced a bill requiring mandatory labeling of GE foods or foods containing GE ingredients so that American consumers can make informed choices about what they are eating. Packaged foods carry nutritional labels, drugs and medications come with descriptions of their contents. There is no reason that GE food should not also be labeled granting consumers their fundamental right to know what is in their food.

Clearly, environmental regulations for the release of the GE organisms need to be strengthened. Similarly, the USDA allows field trials of all GE plants that prevent adequate assessments of the environment risks posed by these plants. Though genetically engi-

neered fish are predicted to be commercialized by 2001, it is still unclear which agency will regulate them. The US Fish and Wild Life Service as well as the National Marine and Fish Service must pay a role in developing regulations for GE fish.

Finally, Congress should hold hearings on the failure of the regulatory agencies in protecting the American public.

CONCLUSION

The controversy surrounding genetically engineered food should not be a surprise to anyone. The mechanical manipulation of genes in the food one eats instinctively raises questions of health and safety. We instinctively trust farmers to grow and raise our food, but we must question the motivation of large corporations who want to create impure food for pure profit. When we feed our family, we don't take chances. If we are not sure how old the leftovers in the back of the fridge are, we throw them out. And as long as we are not convinced that this new technology is flawless, people should be hesitant to serve genetically engineered food to their children. New technologies always have unforeseen effects. The American consumer does not want to be a part of an experiment at their dinner table.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 140TH
ANNIVERSARY OF LAKESHORE
AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, OAK-
LAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to celebrate the one hundred and fortieth anniversary of

the establishment of the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland, California. This milestone will be commemorated on Sunday, November 12, 2000.

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church was founded in 1860 in Oakland, California, and is a member of the American Baptist Churches. This congregation first began as the First Baptist Church of Brooklyn, California, a community that was near Lake Merritt but is now a part of the City of Oakland, California. Once Brooklyn became a part of Oakland, the name of the church changed to the Tenth Avenue Baptist Church. Since that time, the church's structure was destroyed twice by fire, first in 1945 and again in 1955, but through the faith and dedication of the congregation, the present structure was built and dedicated in 1957 as the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church.

Lakeshore is one of our most diverse congregations in our community with a membership of 55% African American, 40% Caucasian and 5% Asian Americans.

Lakeshore contributes to the community in many ways. For sixty years, they have sponsored one of the oldest weekday religious radio programs. Lakeshore also worked to integrate the neighborhood surrounding the church, founded the Lakeshore Children's Center (now the Children's Peace Academy), established a Hunger Task Force which supports hunger relief programs in the Bay Area, assisted immigrants and refugees in settling in Oakland, and co-founded the Oakland Coalition of Congregations.

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church is a great source of civic pride and a valuable resource for the community, I proudly join the church's members, friends and neighbors in saluting and honoring the history and spirit of this landmark church.