

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE J. CLAYTON WARNOCK

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Judge J. Clayton Warnock who has admirably served his community in Treutlen County, GA, for more than half a century.

Judge Warnock was named Treutlen County attorney in 1947 and has also served as Solicitor of City Court and Judge of City Court of Soperton, which became the State Court of Treutlen County in 1968. During his years on the bench, Warnock reviewed over 40,000 cases, only two of which were appealed and those decisions were upheld by the Appellate Court. Judge Warnock resigned in 1991 for health reasons but continued to play an active role in the community of Treutlen County Hospital Authority and the Treutlen County Development Authority.

Judge Warnock played an instrumental role in founding the county development authority and creating economic opportunities in Treutlen County, which have helped create and sustain jobs that are critical to livelihoods of many men and women in middle and south Georgia.

His perseverance in following the law, his dedication to justice, his earnest work for the people of Georgia, and his commitment to improving the lives of the families of Treutlen County have characterized his service as a community leader. His life has been one of great public service, dedication, and commitment. It is my great honor to represent Judge Warnock and the people of Treutlen County for whom he has done so much. I applaud Judge Warnock for his leadership and distinguished service, congratulate him on a job well done, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ARAM SEVERIAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a proud American and distinguished Californian, the Honorable Aram Severian, on the occasion of his retirement from the Superior Court of San Mateo County, CA.

Aram Severian began his career in private practice, but soon moved to public judicial work. He became deputy district attorney of San Mateo County in 1971 and commissioner of the San Mateo County Superior Court in 1976. In December 1986, Governor George Deukmejian appointed Aram Severian to the San Mateo County Municipal Court. In 1989,

he became the presiding judge and in December of that year, Governor Deukmejian again recognized Judge Aram Severian and appointed him to the Superior Court in San Mateo County. He has served with distinction as the presiding judge of the Superior Court since 1994.

Judge Aram Severian has generously donated his personal time and energy to community service throughout his life. He served as director of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation of San Mateo, coached Little League baseball in Foster City and he has been the chairman of the Parish Council at his Armenian Apostolic Church. Time and again Judge Aram Severian has given of himself and his talents for the betterment of our community.

Aram Severian has an exceptional partner in life in Hasma Severian, who in her own right is a highly regarded member of our community, and is respected for her years of important advocacy and volunteerism and who today, remains devoted to the Redwood City Library. They are the proud parents of three grown children, Michael, Linda and Lisa.

Judge Aram Severian's life of community leadership and public service is instructive to us all. His dedication to the ideals of democracy and his record of wise and fair adjudication stands tall, and it is therefore fitting that he is being honored on the occasion of his retirement from the Superior Court of San Mateo County.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues, to join me in honoring this great and good man whom I'm proud to call my friend for over 30 years. We are indeed a better country and a better people because of him.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOCK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Block Communications, Inc. The Block family and its extended mass communications family celebrates this significant milestone on November 2, 2000.

Born in Lithuania, moving to Germany for a time until his family immigrated to the United States, Paul Bloch began working in the newspaper business at age eleven when the Elmira Telegram in Elmira, New York hired him. Through age twenty, Paul Bloch—who by now had Americanized the family name to Block—worked in every department of the Elmira Telegram learning the trade and becoming especially adept at sales. Then, in 1895 and with the encouragement of his employer, Paul Block made the move to New York City where he found employment selling advertising for newspapers across the country as a national representative for the A. Frank Richardson Company.

In 1900, Paul Block decided to venture out on his own, and by 1910 Paul Block and Associates was among the major national newspaper advertising representative firms. Further branching out, Paul Block organized a group of investors in order to purchase the Newark Star Eagle in 1916. Purchases of several other newspapers soon followed, and in ten years Paul Block owned the Detroit Journal, The Toledo Blade, and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Paul Block struggled to keep his business alive through the decade of the Depression, and the company was again thriving upon his death in 1941.

The company continued in the Block family and eventually became known as Blade Communications Inc. Through the latter half of the century the company diversified to include cable and broadcast television, telecommunications, and Internet opportunities. Blade Communications Inc. holds fourteen communication companies today. To mark the company's centennial, the company's name was changed once more to Block Communications Inc.

The Block family remains a strong fixture in Toledo, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where it still owns The Blade and the Post-Gazette. The Block imprimatur is evident in many of these cities' major projects and institutions, and the family remains an integral component of both communities. I join with many others as we salute one hundred years of Block family tradition in communications and community, and look forward to the next one hundred years.

HONORING THE SANDY SPRING MUSEUM IN ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I speak of the success of the Sandy Spring Museum in Rockville, Maryland, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary celebration. Twenty years ago the museum started with a few dozen people in the basement of a Sandy Spring Bank branch office. Today it has more than 1,000 members, a nine acre campus, and a million dollar building.

The Sandy Spring Museum is a valuable asset to our community in that it provides educational and informational services to its citizens, especially students. The Museum provides such worthwhile services as a yearly musical concert series, an art gallery, and a large public research library. In addition, it houses thousands of artifacts related to the Sandy Spring community, which is over 250 years old.

Most of the success of the Museum is due to the dedication and support of the officers, staff, and members, and I commend them for their service. Through their hard work, the Museum has been successful in contributing to

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

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

the preservation of the heritage of our community. It is with great pride that I congratulate the staff and members of the Sandy Spring Museum as well as the entire community as they celebrate their achievements and the heritage of their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following recorded votes due to funeral services for my father. I wish the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following had I been present:

No. 587, H.J. Res. 122: Passage of Continuing Appropriations for FY2000, "aye"; No. 588, Motion regarding House Meeting Hour for November 2, 2000, "aye"; No. 589, H. Con. Res. 397: Passage of resolution voicing concern about serious human rights violations and fundamental freedoms in Central Asia, "aye"; No. 590, H.R. 4577: Passage of Holt motion to instruct conferees on Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, FY 2001, "no"; No. 591, H.R. 4577: Passage of Wu motion to instruct conferees on Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, FY2001, "no"; No. 592, H.J. Res. 123: Passage of Continuing Appropriations for FY 2000, "aye"; No. 594, S. 2796: Passage of Water Resources Development Act of 2000 Conference Report, "aye".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on November 2, I was away from the House and missed one vote. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: Roll No. 592, Further Continuing Appropriations—"yea."

FINANCIAL TIMES

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to bring the following insightful opinion piece from the November 1, 2000, edition of the Financial Times to the attention of his colleagues. Written by Mr. Jagdish Bhagwati, the Andre Meyer senior fellow in international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, this commentary accurately describes the weak record of the current Administration over the past eight years in achieving needed comprehensive trade liberalization. It then forcefully identifies the disturbing consequences for further liberalization, which is beneficial to the United States and the international trading system, should Mr. GORE win the presidency. I submit the following article into the RECORD.

DISCRIMINATION DISGUISED AS FREE TRADE

A Democratic Victory in the Presidential Election Would Bring Disturbing Consequences for Liberalization, Argues Jagdish Bhagwati

Many card-carrying Democrats among America's trade experts are unable to make up their minds as the day approaches when they must cast their vote for George W. Bush or Al Gore.

When they think of social issues, the Supreme Court vacancies to be filled and spending on liberal programmes, they turn to Mr. Gore. But when they think of the Clinton-Gore administration's record on trade policy and of what Mr. Gore promises to do, they sit up and shudder.

The unpleasant reality is that the outcome of the election has huge implications—disturbing under Mr. Gore and comforting under Mr. Bush—for trade liberalisation and the trading system.

Start with the current administration's record. True, the White House saw through both the Uruguay round of trade talks and the North American Free Trade Agreement. But while the administration fought hard and well—as indeed a Republican administration would have done—both were Republican initiatives that the present administration inherited when they were already at an advanced stage. Furthermore, the real heroes who delivered the majority votes were Republicans.

The Democratic administration's only home-grown success has been with Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China. But the deal was entirely one-sided, with China giving the U.S. everything on market access and the U.S. giving China nothing but entry into the World Trade Organization.

The Democratic team passed off these deals as a great victory for the US and for free trade. But no amount of spin can hide the ineptitude that led to the first ever failure in 1997 by a US administration to get fast-track authority renewed by Congress: Bill Clinton managed to bring only a fifth of House Democrats on board to vote for renewal.

Nor can one forget or forgive the debacle in Seattle last year when a deadly mix of mismanagement and calculated cynicism—pandering to the labour unions with an eye to the elections—dashed hopes of launching a new round of multilateral trade negotiations and brought the WTO into unmerited disrepute.

Underlying these failures, and prospective problems under a Gore presidency, are two legacies of this administration: surrender to the notion that free trade requires "fair trade"; and a capitulation to labour unions that fair trade requires market access to be conditional on a social clause at the WTO on fulfilment of labour standards, now tactically defined as "workers' rights".

The rise of fair trade owes much to the first Clinton-Gore administration's fixation with Japan. Bent on branding Japan as an "unfair trader" and going for high-profile but fruitless confrontations such as the car dispute, the administration made "unfair trade" a favoured tactic in the political domain.

The labour lobbies have been smart enough to adapt their demands accordingly. For decades they have worried about foreign competition and outflow of investment, especially in labour-intensive goods such as apparel and shoes. Now, they have a great new argument: unless labour standards elsewhere are similar to those in the US, trade is unfair and must be stopped. This way, you get on to higher moral ground. You also do so in the battle over markets. If poor countries accept the demands, their costs should rise and

the competition will be reduced. By contrast, if they do not their exports will be cut off. This is a cynical game where governments that badly need support from the labour unions even as they turn to the "third way" see domestic political gain in caving in to these demands. The Clinton-Gore team—unlikely Tony Blair's British government—is no stranger to this tactic. Last week's announcement of a free trade agreement with Jordan—with labour and environmental standards stipulated in the text—left John Sweeney of the AFL-CIO trade union jubilant and fired up for the election. Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, has called it a "template" for all trade treaties by the US.

Only a significant power would have the hubris or the chutzpah to present a trade agreement with a monarchy essentially dependent on the US, with a minuscule trade volume, as a model for the rest of the world to emulate.

But that Al Gore thinks so is certain. Indeed, his policy statements and the Democratic platform are unambiguous: no trade liberalisation without such preconditions. If so, we can forget the WTO where nothing but a big north-south divide will follow, as it did in Seattle largely as a result of this issue.

And so, under Mr. Gore, Washington will contemplate more templates with inconsequential performers, multilateral trade liberalisation will languish, and the WTO will atrophy as the world is plagued by yet more inherently preferential free trade agreements masquerading as genuine non-discriminatory free trade. Is this what we deserve?

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT OF NEBRASKA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the respected representative of Nebraska's Third Congressional District, the Honorable BILL BARRETT, is retiring from this House at the end of the 106th Congress. BILL has served five productive and distinguished terms in this House. I know that BILL's presence here in Congress will be sorely missed. I wish BILL the best of luck in the coming years. The gain of Lexington, Nebraska is a loss for this body and the American people.

BILL BARRETT was elected in 1990 and his constituents have sent him back every election since, and by resounding margins I might add. As Chairman of the Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation and Credit Agriculture Subcommittee, BILL has served not only the needs of his mainly rural Nebraska constituents, but the needs of farmers across the nation. In 1996 BILL was instrumental in passing the Federal Agriculture Improvement Reform Act or FAIR Act—legislation authorizing the majority of U.S. agricultural programs until 2002. And BILL has been a leader in his efforts to improve education in rural communities across the United States, particularly as a respected Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee. BILL's hard work and dedication on Agricultural matters will be missed, he leaves some very large shoes to fill come January.

Then there is the matter of our resemblance. Some have claimed that BILL and I are

similar in appearance. To compound matters even further, there is a third Member, TOM EWING of Illinois—and TOM is also retiring this year—who is said to share our resemblance. Well, I can't say for certain which of the three of us gets the better end of that comparison, but I do know that I wouldn't mind being confused for BILL BARRETT when it comes to this enthusiasm for smaller, more efficient government. Since helping to bring a Republican majority to Congress in 1994, BILL BARRETT has been a steadfast voice in bringing fiscal responsibility back to the federal budget process. His efforts to ensure a balanced budget and to restrain federal spending over the past ten years have been instrumental in bringing about the budget surplus that we enjoy today. That is something that BILL can be very proud of during this retirement years.

I've known BILL and Elsie since I was first elected to this House in 1992. BILL quickly became a trusted friend, one who could always be counted on to provide clear and useful information, wise insight, and good, solid counsel. To a freshman Member of Congress in 1992, BILL's friendship and wisdom meant a great deal to me. It still does. I place the highest value on that friendship.

I wish BILL and his family heartfelt congratulations on his retirement and I thank him for his many years of public service to America.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SIDNEY R. YATES

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness and a sense of loss that we ponder the passing of a truly great public servant, Sidney Yates. I had the pleasure of working with Sid during my entire career in the U.S. House of Representatives. During that time, I came to know him as a tireless servant to the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois and the nation as a whole.

Sid served with distinction in the House of Representatives for 24 terms. During his tenure, he was a constant champion of the arts and, as Chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, an unswerving advocate for the conservation of our public lands. To many of his colleagues, however, Sid was an inspiring example of dedication, character and integrity. He has been and will continue to be missed in the halls he walked in for so many years.

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN S. TAMRAZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American who has been honored with the AMVETS Silver Helmet Americanism Award, Lincoln S. Tamraz.

Lincoln S. Tamraz has been an active member of AMVETS for over 50 years. He has held numerous leadership positions, including being elected national commander of

AMVETS. He worked successfully to establish the Assyrian American AMVETS Post No. 5. Mr. Tamraz is serving his second term as national president of the Past Association of National Commanders.

In addition to his extraordinary leadership of AMVETS, Mr. Tamraz has also dedicated himself to spreading the ideals of the American flag. He has been an active member of the AMVETS Flag Day committee where he has assisted with the establishment of the Avenue of Flags, which places flags on the graves of veterans in Illinois cemeteries. He has also tirelessly worked to ensure that Chicago public schools receive an American flag each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Lincoln S. Tamraz and his superb leadership and patriotism of over half a century. I am exceedingly proud to know him and honor him for making our country a better place for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 592, H.J. Res. 123, the 13th Continuing Appropriations Resolution, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH
DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my House colleagues JOHN LEWIS, BENNIE THOMPSON, CHARLIE NORWOOD, and JESSE JACKSON, Jr. who are champions in this important effort to address the issue of minority health disparities. This is a matter of deep concern to not only African-Americans, but also to Hispanic-Americans, Native-Americans, and other minorities who are clearly underserved by the American health care system.

Despite continuing advances in research and medicine, disparities in American health care are a growing problem. This is evidenced by the fact that minority Americans lag behind in nearly every single measure of health quality. Those measures include life expectancy, health care coverage, access to care, and disease rates. Ethnic minorities and individuals in medically underserved rural communities continue to suffer disproportionately from many diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. There have been numerous studies in scientific journals showing the severity of racial and ethnic health disparities and the need for action in order to remedy this grave problem.

For these and countless other reasons, it is time for the Nation to focus on this problem and to work to bring fairness to our minority citizens in the Nation's public and private health care systems. There is no better place

to start this effort than the focal point for Federal health research, the renowned and highly respected National Institutes of Health.

Since 1996, Congress has increased funding for basic medical research at NIH from \$12 billion to over \$18 billion—over a 50 percent increase. These funds support 50,000 scientists working at 2,000 institutions across the United States. I have been proud to support these increases, but I think it is now time that we target some portion of those funds on the Nation's most acute health problems among our minority citizens—and I might add, minority taxpayers.

Let me say that I am delighted to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 3250. Among other provisions, this legislation will elevate the existing office of Research on Minority Health at NIH to a National Center for Research on Minority Health. This upgrade to the level of National Center would in itself underscore the importance of this work, and along with expanded research and education, improved data systems and strengthened public awareness, we will be taking a great leap forward in addressing this critical national problem.

The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act will increase our knowledge of the nature and causes of health disparities, improve the quality and outcomes of health care services for minority populations, and aid in bringing us closer to our mutual goal of closing the long-standing gap in health care.

I am deeply committed to this legislation, and I urge you to support my colleagues and me in our effort to rectify this inequality in health care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, I missed several votes. Had I been here I would have voted as follows: Roll No. 588, that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 2—"no"; Roll No. 589 to agree to H. Con. Res. 397, Violation of Human Rights in Central Asia—"yea"; Roll No. 590, Holt Motion to Instruct—"yea"; Roll No. 591, Wu Motion to Instruct—"yea".

THE WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWNS
IN MARYLAND

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, for the third year in a row, the Westfield Shoppingtowns in Maryland have been fulfilling dreams in their local communities.

Westfield Works Wonders is a fundraising event that has helped over 125 Maryland nonprofits raise funds for their organizations. Traditionally held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, tickets to the event are sold by local charities for an exclusive evening of shopping and festivities. One hundred percent of the

ticket proceeds benefit the participating charities.

This year Westfield Works Wonders will be held on Sunday, November 19th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Westfield Shoppingtowns Montgomery Mall, Wheaton, and Annapolis. Last year over \$160,000 was raised for the participating organizations.

I applaud the Westfield Shoppingtowns for their committed spirit of volunteerism and extend best wishes for a "wonderful" evening.

A TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY YATES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to be able to enter these precious remembrances of our dear friend and able attorney, Congressman Sidney Yates, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. His illustrious career spanned half a century, 24 terms as a Member of the people's House. And what a stellar human being, citizen, and Member he was! I had the distinct pleasure of serving with him on the Appropriations Committee and in that capacity deepened my respect for him each passing year.

When I think of this true gentleman from Illinois, I remember his engaging smile, his brilliant intellect, his love of the arts and of the environment, his puckish humor, and his devotion to human and civil rights. His knowledge of the Rules of the House knew no equal. And he applied his legislative skills with a mastery that elevated us all. Yes, Sid Yates, Master of the House.

How many times I recall Sid standing up for recognition in the Committee to carry his arguments. Eloquent. I admired his ability highly. So erudite was he, holding the attention of all listeners. Were it not for the fact that he left the House briefly to run for the U.S. Senate, I have no doubt he would have attained the Chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee. He certainly possessed all the ability and respect required of it.

Just before Sid left Congress, I asked him what he considered his major accomplishments as a tenured Member of this body. I thought he would answer that his legacy included major expansion of our national park system, or our institutions of art and culture, or improvements to his home district on Chicago's northwest side. Or, I imagined he would mention the major donations of art he had given to museums across our nation. For indeed his accomplishments included all of these. Yet he mentioned none of this. First, he said he considered his efforts to achieve the integration of the Capitol Police Force in the late 1940's to be a stellar achievement. Then, he said helping establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum would remain in his memory always.

One cold winter evening, when the National Gallery of Art had a modernist exhibition, I was strolling through the galleries and came upon Sid with his beloved wife, Addie. As always, he greeted me warmly and called me "dearie", too, as I imagine he did with all the women Members. He was always encouraging, cajoling, lifting us all. I think he took special satisfaction in helping the minority of

women in this institution rise to full acceptance.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to the family of this magnificent man who loved his nation and dedicated his entire life to the business of democratic governance. What a joy to have known him and learned from him! What a legacy he has left for America.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the Congress was set to vote on a historic resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide but it was pulled because the lobbying power of the Turkish Government has once again stifled it. Opponents have argued that passage of this resolution would severely jeopardize United States-Turkey relations. This resolution is not an indictment of the current Turkish Government nor is it a condemnation of any current leader of Turkey. It is an acknowledgment of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire almost a century ago.

In 1915, 1.5 million women, children, and men were killed and the Ottoman Empire forcibly deported 500,000 Armenians during an 8-year reign of brutal repression. Armenians were deprived of their homes, their dignity, and ultimately their lives. Yet America, the greatest democracy and land of freedom, has not made an official statement regarding the Armenian Genocide. I am dismayed and angered by this hypocrisy and I will not rest until this resolution passes the Congress.

The Armenian Genocide has been acknowledged by countries and international bodies such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, the Council of Europe, Cyprus, the European Parliament, France, Great Britain, Greece, Lebanon, Russia, the United Nations and Uruguay. All of these countries and organizations believed that recognizing this resolution outweighed any potential repercussion from Turkey. We should be part of this honor roll of nations and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, as the only Member of Congress of Armenian and Assyrian descent, I am very proud of my heritage. I sat at the knees of my grandparents and elders as they told their stories of hardship and suffering endured by so many at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. That is how I came to this understanding and this knowledge and why I bring this story to the House of Representatives.

It is important to appreciate fully that the Armenian people have made great contributions to our nation. They have distinguished themselves in the arts, in law, in academics, in every walk of life and they continue to make significant contributions in communities across our country today.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that Congress begin to heal the wounds of the past. It's critically important for our nation to acknowledge what happened, but also as a nation it is important to understand that we are teaching present and future generations of the Armenian Genocide.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to the Armenian community for their hard work

on this resolution. This work is not in vain because we've brought the genocide into our nation's consciousness against great odds. In another Congress, in another time, we shall complete this effort and I shall do everything I can to see that this resolution and all it represents will be the official expression of our nation.

HONORING JENNIFER AND MARK EDWARDS, JR.

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Jennifer and Mark Edwards, Jr. of Raleigh, North Carolina. On October 31, 2000, they welcomed into the world a seven-pound, four ounce baby girl, Avery Sutton Edwards. As the father of three wonderful children myself, I know that there is nothing more wonderful and joyous than the experience of watching a child grow. I know that they will treasure every new day with their new daughter. Faye joins me in wishing the Edwards family great happiness during this very special time of their lives.

TENNESSEE DIVISION I GOVERNORS CUP RECIPIENTS

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Adamsville, Tennessee Junior/Senior High School Band for winning the governors cup in the Tennessee Division I State Championship.

In addition to winning this distinguished award, the band also did well in several areas. The band received first place in the percussion division and third place overall in the guard division. The field commander was fourth overall and the band received an award for High Music. The band percussion color guard and the field commander received superior ratings from the judges.

I would like to further recognize Ms. Lyndi Henline, the first chair trumpet, who was recognized as being the best soloist in the competition. Band director Frankie Congiordo, assistant band director Scott King and color guard coordinator Kelly Wilder should be commended for their tremendous coaching job. But these accomplishments required a fine group of young adults and I would like to recognize the whole band and color guard for their accomplishments.

The members of the band and color guard are: Felicia Jenan Acker; Jonathon Garrett Alexander; Catherine Elizabeth Bart; Jennifer Lynne Boyd; April Lynn Britt; David Seth Brooks; Jessie Lauren Bryant; Jessica Brooke Carr; Brandon James Choate; Alex Sagan Eubank; Lauren Elaine Finley; Jessica Ashley Bearden; Kevin Wesley Blythe; Christy Lynn Brewer; Allyson Paige Browning; Matthew Rogers Browning; Adam Neal Carothers; Stephanie Anne Casey; Trina Corine Doyle; Adam Ryan Eubank; Matthew David Ferguson; Lydia Ruth Gillis; Lyndi Nicole Henline;

Sean Michael Humphries; Matthew Ryan Lott; Sara Elizabeth Norris; Alison Marie Oldaker; Lakesha Laquia Patterson; Jennifer Dawn Pickens; Justin Randall Qualls; Christopher Lyn Ritter; Carrie Beth Roach; Tabatha Ann Robertson; Felicia Lynn Frazier; Kellan Ann Hanson; Justin Lynn Jones; Lindsay Carol Locke; April Chalice Pickens; Britney Nicole Rose; Adam Dwayne Shambeau; Christopher John Stricklin; Mallory Brooke Tucker; Miranda Lee Weeks; Allison Renee White; Natalie Brooke White; Zachary Michael Yarbrough; Ann Hark; Robbin Leora Acker; Magan Devena Alexander; Brandon Ray Brown; Glynnis Michelle Gerstenkof; Nathan Allen Haynes; Brenda Nicole Spence; Holly Renee Spencer; Ashley Brooke Terry; Mary Elizabeth Wiley; Jana Michelle Henry; Jennifer Crystal Merryman; Kimberly Denise Moore; Mary Beth Pickens; Christina Jewel Rootes; Amber Lynn Starnes; Whitney Michelle Tennyson; Maria Danielle Wiley; Megann Jean Wright; Matthew Raymond Robinson; James Justin Roy; Daniel Ray Russell; David Lawrence Russell; Stefanie Annette Spence; Cory Alan Tucker; Elizabeth Arianne Turner; Mitzi Lynn Williams; Rhianna C. Axley; Jessica Renne Curtis and Rebecca Adeline Davis.

Adamsville High School Principal Brian Jackson and Assistant Principals Mike Kimmon and Greta Bachuss should be proud of the accomplishments of their students and directors. I know that many parents are involved in the band boosters association and I am very appreciative for their hard work as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the Adamsville Junior/High School band represented the town of Adamsville to the best of their ability and was rewarded with so many honors. I wish this team the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

U.S. EDUCATION EXPENDITURES

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, this election year, time and time again, on the campaign trail, in the halls of Congress, and out in neighborhood communities, the subject of education spending is high on the minds of many. While many individuals and groups call out for more and more federal spending, they perhaps do not realize that government spending on education (at all levels) has increased more than six-fold in the past 25 years. The United States spent twice as much on education as it did on national defense in 1998. Those who clamor for better education through increased spending should look at the vast expenditure increases we've made in the last quarter century and consider whether the improvements made have lived up to the dollars spent.

In July 1974, I entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD remarks concerning my extensive study of U.S. education expenditure at the time. Now a quarter of a century later, I am including some updated facts on U.S. education spending.

EXPENDITURES ON U.S. EDUCATION

Education is still the largest occupational group in America. In 1998 there were nearly 30

million Americans employed as teachers in levels K through college. Nearly 1 in 5 of the world's teachers is an American teacher.

Education expenditures per student in public elementary and secondary schools have increased by leaps and bounds since the end of World War II. The following figures show expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools on a per student basis based on fall enrollment (all figures in constant 1998–99 dollars).

1947–48	\$1,119
1957–58	1,793
1967–68	2,963
1977–78	4,404
1987–88	5,577
1997–98	16,275

¹ Estimated.

Likewise, per student expenditures of all institutions of higher education and degree-granting institutions have gone up dramatically since the end of World War II. The following figures show educational and general expenditures per student in fall enrollment (all figures in constant 1995–96 dollars).

1947–48	\$3,946
1957–58	6,078
1967–68	8,444
1977–78	7,925
1985–96	10,583

¹ Estimated.

1. Total U.S. expenditure on education (federal, state, local, and private) in 1998, at all levels, was \$618.6 billion. This is twice as much as the amount spent for national defense, \$310.3 billion in 1998. This is compared to \$98 billion spent in 1974 on all levels of education.

2. Total public expenditure (federal, state, and local) in 1998 was \$429.2 billion. Total private spending was \$189.4 billion, or about 30.6% of the total education expenditure. Total public expenditure in 1974 amounted to \$79 billion.

3. In 1998, \$371.9 billion was spent on elementary and secondary schools. Of that, private expenditures amounted to \$36.4 billion, or 9.8%. Back in 1974, \$61.6 billion was spent on elementary and secondary schools, both at the public and private level.

4. In 1998, \$246.7 billion was spent on higher education. Of that, private expenditures amounted to 62%. In 1974, I found that \$34.7 billion was spent on higher education and of this amount \$23 billion was public and \$11.7 billion was private.

5. Of the total public funds spent on education in 1998, \$52.3 billion were appropriated at the federal level, \$222.6 billion at the state level, and \$154.3 billion at the local level. \$189.4 billion was spent at the private level in 1998.

6. The U.S. has spent 7.3% of its GDP on education since 1991.

7. In 1998, the U.S. spent a total of \$2,287 per capita on all levels of education. By comparison, in 1970, the U.S. spent an average of \$308 per capita on total U.S. education expenditures.

8. According to 1994 UNESCO figures, European nations averaged \$982 per capita in education outlays. The U.S. spent twice that per capita in 1994 at \$2,286.

9. Also according to 1994 UNESCO figures, the United States budget for education in 1994 was \$481.7 billion. This is nearly equal to the total budget for education in all of Europe, \$492.6 billion. Additionally, the U.S. is host

country to 30% of the foreign students seeking an education outside of their home country.

10. Although education spending represents a small part of the federal budget, education is still the single largest item in state and local budgets. Education accounts for 12.4% of state expenditures and 36.8% of local expenditures.

Looking back historically over the past few decades:

In 1978, federal education spending was \$14.6 billion, state education spending was \$51.1 billion, and local education spending was \$39.1 billion. Private educational expenditures were \$35.6 billion. The total U.S. education spending at all levels was \$140.4 billion.

In 1988, federal education spending was \$26.7 billion, state education spending was \$121.3, and local education spending was \$79.3 billion. Private educational expenditures were \$86.1 billion. The total U.S. education spending at all levels was \$313.4 billion.

In 1998, federal education spending was \$22.6 billion, state education spending was \$222.6 billion, and local education spending was \$154.3 billion. Private educational expenditures were \$189.4 billion. The total U.S. education spending at all levels was \$618.6 billion.

It is important to ask ourselves then, while education expenditures have been steadily increasing, has the quality of education also been rising in tandem? Are students and parents getting more for their money, as they should be? Our children deserve the best possible education that we can give them, either public or private. Before we dedicate even more resources to federal education spending, we should investigate whether throwing more money into a deep well is the best path to follow for our nation's school children.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE CHARLES CANADY

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, CHARLES CANADY of Florida. I have had the good fortune to serve with CHARLES CANADY on the Committee on the Judiciary. In his capacity as Chairman of the Constitution subcommittee, as in all his professional roles, he had served with honesty, dedication, and integrity. Therefore, I know I echo the sentiments of our colleagues, both on the Judiciary Committee and throughout the House, when I say that we will miss our friend, CHARLES CANADY.

CHARLES CANADY has served as a tireless advocate for the people of Florida's 12th Congressional District. At the same time, he has fought on behalf of all Americans to bring morality and common-sense to the laws governing our great nation. Even when issues as controversial as partial birth abortion came up, he stuck by his principles. When the country was divided during the impeachment nearly two years ago, he stood firmly behind the rule of law.

One of CHARLES CANADY's guiding principles is that government should not divide its citizens, but unite them. It should not place

Americans into separate racial, gender, or ethnic groups. Rather government should strengthen those bonds that make us all Americans. Throughout his tenure in the House, CHARLES CANADY has remained committed to working toward realizing this goal.

For these and many other reasons, both CHARLES CANADY's constituents and his colleagues will miss him. Back in 1992, CHARLES CANADY pledged to serve no more than four consecutive terms in this body. While I admire his commitment to keeping his word, I know I speak for many of our colleagues when I say the House is losing one of its most effective Members. I wish CHARLES CANADY the best in whatever the future holds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a point of personal privilege. I was unavoidably detained during a vote on the motion by the gentleman from Oregon to instruct conferees on the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill, rollcall vote No. 591.

Had I been present I would have voted "No."

TWO CENTRAL NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOLS WIN NEW YORK STATE MARCHING BAND COMPETITION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 29, 2000, two Central New York high schools won their respective divisions at the 2000 New York Field Band Conference Championship in Syracuse, New York. West Genesee High School located in Camillus, New York won their 12th straight title in the National Division of the competition. C.W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville, New York placed first in the Division III large-school competition.

Today, I would like to recognize the hard work, dedication and support of the band members, leaders and parents. Excellence has been achieved only through the dedication of so many, and I congratulate all of them on their success.

Forty bands competed in the championship competition held at the Carrier Dome on the Syracuse University Campus. West Genesee competed against six other teams in the National Division. Since 1974, West Genesee has won 23 of the past 27 New York State Field Band Conference Championships. The 2000 "Wildcat" Band has 170 members in grades 9–12. The end of the 2000 season marks the bands seventh consecutive undefeated year in New York State competition.

C.W. Baker High School competed against nine schools in the Large School, Division III component of the competition. The win marked "the Bee's" third New York State Championship victory. The 2000 Baker High Band has 70 members in grades 8–12.

I am pleased to congratulate all of the participants, supporters and leaders of West Genesee High School and Baldwinsville C.W. Baker High School Marching Bands.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. 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. I support the Water Resources Development Act for a number of reasons. The bill authorizes a historic environmental restoration of our national treasure, the Everglades. Here on the Central Coast, I was pleased to help include \$9.2 million in federally authorized funding for the Lower Mission Creek Area flood control project.

I am, however, very disappointed that two additional provisions that I secured in the House bill were stripped out by the Senate Leadership. I fought for authorization to fund the Los Osos sewage treatment. I also secured a \$10.3 million authorization for a desalination project in Cambria. Both of these projects are important to the quality of life for thousands of San Luis Obispo county residents.

At this time, I am pleased to note that the leadership of both the House and Senate have pledged to include these projects in the final appropriations legislation that will pass when Congress reconvene after the election. My constituents can rest assured that I will work very hard to see that these critical programs are enacted.

HONORING CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the final days of the one hundred and sixth Congress, I would like to address what it means to be a citizen of these United States. America's national character has always been defined by hard work, discipline and commitment to a higher goal. These ideals have convinced patriots throughout our history to serve their nation and defend freedom and the rule of law in every corner of the globe. They have also inspired ordinary citizens to dedicate themselves to improving the lives of their neighbors through service to their communities.

With Veterans' Day now a week away, it is appropriate to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice that so many of our citizens have

made in defense of freedom. Tragically, this service has often exacted a terrible price. On October 12, 2000, seventeen American sailors gave their lives when a terrorist bomb exploded near the U.S.S. *Cole*, a Navy destroyer moored in Aden, Yemen. I extend my condolences to the families of those who died and my heart felt appreciation to all those who wear the uniform of America's armed forces. Your dedicated service ensures our nation's continued prosperity and well-being.

The obligation to serve one's nation is an important component of citizenship but it is not the sole domain of those who wear the uniform of the United States' armed forces. On the contrary, service comes in many forms. Participation in one's local government, church or charity is an important aspect of service to the nation. Active involvement in the lives of our families is an often overlooked and neglected aspect of service. Whatever the calling, selfless service to a higher goal satisfies an important obligation that we all have as citizens of our great nation.

As we approach Election Day 2000, it is important to recognize another equally important component of citizenship: Our right and duty to vote. Plato said, "The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." In our form of democracy, liberty cannot be preserved without the participation of the electorate. Yet, sadly, many of our citizens fail to exercise their right and responsibility to cast their vote for those who would govern them. This ambivalence erodes the rigor of our democracy and can lead to disastrous results for our nation. On Tuesday, November 7, 2000, honor your fathers and their fathers before them by exercising your civic responsibility at the voting booth.

The most visible and enduring symbol of a strong, active American citizenry is our flag, the Stars and Stripes. Two hundred and twenty-three years after Congress first authorized the flag, it stands as a powerful symbol of our Republic, the courage of those who have defended it, and the resolve of Americans to protect their freedom. It is a mighty symbol, not only to the citizens of this great nation, but also to those abroad who see it flying at our embassies or on the ships of our naval fleet.

The Continental Congress resolved that, "The flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." This blueprint is representative of the unity that we have been able to forge in this melting pot of cultures, ethnic groups, and races. Regardless of where our families originated from, the rich heritage that they brought with them and the uniquely American culture that they have forged, represents one of our greatest strengths.

America is still recognized as the land of opportunity and some of our proudest citizens are the newest Americans. Dr. Lorne A. Schnell, the father of a member of my Congressional staff, was one of these proud new Americans. Originally from Saskatchewan, Canada, Dr. Schnell and his wife, Joanne, have lived in Bourbonnais, Illinois since 1984. Steadfastly proud of his Canadian heritage, he made the decision to become an American citizen last year. Dr. Schnell flew his American flag with unabashed pride and he was eagerly looking forward to voting in this first election next week. Sadly, this proud new American

passed away suddenly on October 12, 2000, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Schnell's life embodied the tenets of citizenship that I have discussed above. After a thirty-six year career in the pharmaceutical industry, he chose to dedicate his retirement years to serving his community. A gifted musician, avid golfer and talented woodworker, Dr. Schnell nonetheless committed countless hours to improving the lives of the people in his community. He worked hard to establish the Kankakee Valley Youth Orchestra and his vision was finally realized this summer. He also served on his church board of trustees and taught English as a second language to new immigrants.

President Richard Nixon said, "We must always remember that America is a great nation today not because of what government did for people but because of what people did for themselves and for one another." President Nixon's words embody the spirit of individual service and honor the extraordinary contributions of ordinary citizens like Dr. Lorne A. Schnell.

Liberty, justice, freedom and opportunity. These are not just idle words, they are the fundamental principles that make our Republic unique. Embrace these ideals and honor our forefathers by participating in the governance of your town, county, state and country. Volunteer your time and serve your community. Stand and proudly salute as your nation's flag passes by and instill in your children what it means to be an American citizen.

Citizenship is one of our nation's greatest strengths; it gives our nation's democracy vitality and longevity. As we face the uncertainties and challenges of the third millennium, the strength and character of the American citizenry provides us with the foundation to move forward as a nation. President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." Heed President Lincoln's words by committing yourself to being an active participant in the well-being of your family and your community. Your dedicated service will help ensure the continuing prosperity of our great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES CANADY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a mixture of sadness and enthusiasm that I bid farewell to a friend and colleague, CHARLES CANADY as he prepares to voluntarily end his service in the United States Congress.

I am sad because I have known CHARLES since our days in the Florida state legislature but am excited for him as he embarks on a new journey.

I have had the distinct pleasure of not only serving with Congressman CANADY here in the House, but also in the Florida legislature where during his first term he was honored as the Most Effective First Term Legislator.

I believe that designation has stayed with him throughout his tenure in the House where he has served his district, the state of Florida, and indeed the nation by working hard on behalf of Florida's agricultural industry, on legis-

lation for lobbying disclosure reform and strengthening our criminal justice system.

The 1998 Almanac of American Politics summed it up when they said that "CANADY is hard-working and . . . strong in his convictions . . ."

I am certain his leadership will be missed by the constituents of Florida's 12th Congressional district. For myself, I can certainly say that his friendship and accomplishments in the House will be sorely missed and I know that he will continue to succeed in his role as Florida Governor Jeb Bush's General Counsel.

I am proud to have known and worked with Representative CANADY and I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute and saying good-bye to this dear friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RESEARCH OF MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES AND THE MOROCCAN 45TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures, A.R.M.E.C., on its fifth anniversary, and to recognize the 45th Moroccan Independence Day. A.R.M.E.C. promotes cultural, social, educational, and religious activities in order to facilitate the participation of the Middle Eastern community in American life.

A.R.M.E.C. strives to promote interaction between individuals of various cultural and religious backgrounds in order to create an environment of mutual respect and understanding. For the past three years, they have honored and commended various Artists of the Year in order to further appreciate and bring recognition to the rich cultural heritage of the Middle East.

A.R.M.E.C.'s mission is to help facilitate a harmonious multicultural society. They sponsor various cultural and sporting events including conferences, musical performances, and traditional celebrations. In 1996, A.R.M.E.C. co-sponsored a family conference in Washington, D.C. with the theme: True Family Values for American Moslem Families. One hundred and fifty participants attended this conference to discuss how to improve the quality of families throughout the world.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, A.R.M.E.C. is involved in many humanitarian and social activities. After the death of King Hassan II of Morocco, A.R.M.E.C. made available for signing a condolence book addressed to his son and successor, King Mohammed VI. Following this year's devastating earthquake in Turkey, A.R.M.E.C. sent an appeal to its members to express their solidarity and generosity toward the people of Turkey.

The Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures hopes to continue its efforts in familiarizing members with United States history, religious traditions, culture and laws, in order to facilitate integration into American society. Future projects include new immigrants support and assistance services, English and Arabic language classes, Middle East music

and dance classes, and marriage and family counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures and ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing the great contributions of A.R.M.E.C. and the Moroccan 45th Independence Day.

URGING THE SENATE TO CONTINUE TO BLOCK THE APPOINTMENT OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LAOS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I am troubled by the fact that the State Department has made almost no progress with regard to the disappearance of two Hmong Americans who went missing in Laos more than a year ago. Mr. Michael Vang, a constituent of mine from Fresno, CA, and Mr. Housa Ly, a constituent of Representative MARK GREEN from Appleton, WI, are believed to have been seized by the Pathet Lao along the border of Thailand and Laos. Our constituents have not been seen or heard from since.

I believe the U.S. Congress needs to get tougher with the military dictatorship in Laos and the bureaucrats at the State Department who are content to work gently and cooperatively with the same Lao officials who are likely responsible for the abduction of our constituents. The regime in Laos continues to brutalize and murder its own people, particularly the Lao and Hmong people—many of which have relatives in my Congressional district.

Congressmen Vento, GREEN and I helped to send a strong message to the State Department and to the Laos government last year with the passage of H. Res. 169, which was the first legislation to pass the House of Representatives specific to Laos—and it passed 412 to 20. Among other things it urged the Lao Government to return Mr. Ly and Mr. Vang, or their remains, to United States authorities and their families in America at once; it warned the Lao Government of the serious consequences, including sanctions, of acts of aggression against United States citizens; and finally it urged the Department of State and other appropriate United States agencies to share the maximum amount of information regarding the disappearance of Messrs. Ly and Vang. None of these things have come to pass.

So today I want to thank my colleague, Senator BOB SMITH from New Hampshire, for his efforts to place an ongoing hold on the appointment of a U.S. Ambassador to Laos until a fundamental overhaul of U.S. policy is made toward Laos, and until changes are made with regard to the way the State Department is handling the case of Mr. Michael Vang and Houa Ly.

There are others I would like to thank for their efforts to help us resolve this case. Ms. Susie Vang, the wife of Michael Vang, has repeatedly traveled from Fresno, California to provide crucial testimony at several important events highlighting this case in the 106th Congress. Chairman BEN GILMAN, Congressman MARK GREEN, Congressman Bruce Vento, Congressman RON KIND, Congressman WALLY

HERGER and Congressman RICHARD POMBO were also among those who participated. Finally, I am grateful to the Lao Veterans of America, the largest group of Hmong and Lao veterans in the United States based in my district, for their active participation in facilitating Congress' efforts to bring these Hmong Americans home.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter into the RECORD that Congressman MARK GREEN and I recently sent to Senator BOB SMITH regarding the need to keep a hold on the appointment of a U.S. Ambassador to Laos until fundamental changes are made in the way the U.S. State Department handles the Government of Laos and our case.

OCTOBER 6, 2000.

Hon. BOB SMITH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SMITH: We would like to thank you for your recent efforts in the Senate to delay the appointment of Douglas Hartwick as Ambassador to Laos. We agree with those efforts and encourage you to remain steadfast in your position.

For years we believe this Administration's policies toward Laos have been fundamentally flawed. Your placing a hold on Mr. Hartwick's Senate approval sends a powerful message that we in Congress reject this Administration's policies toward Laos, and are fully willing to support dramatic steps to force a change in those policies.

We support your efforts for a number of reasons. First and foremost is the State Department's handling over the past 17 months of the case of two Americans—our constituents—missing in Laos since April of last year.

As background, we offer the following brief review of the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Messrs. Houa Ly of Appleton, Wisconsin, and Michael Vang of Fresno, California. According to America eyewitnesses who were traveling with Messrs. Ly and Vang, Lao government authorities are responsible for this disappearance—a belief we share. Given the Lao government's dismal record on human rights and other matters, we feel this allegation is entirely plausible.

These eyewitnesses have offered the following account of the incident:

"On April 19, 1999, a party of four Hmong-American men—Mr. Houa Ly, Mr. Michael Vang, Mr. Neng Lee and Mr. Hue Vang—were traveling in Thailand near the city of Chiang Khong. The group, having been advised that the nearby Thai-Lao border was open to tourists and the public, crossed the Mekong River into Laos.

"Once across the border, the party split into two groups. Mr. Ly and Mr. M. Vang began speaking to several men, some of whom identified themselves as authorities in the Lao government. Mr. Lee and Mr. H. Vang briefly left the area. When they returned, Mr. Ly and Mr. M. Vang were missing.

"After a brief search, Mr. Lee and Mr. H. Vang witnessed Mr. Ly and Mr. M. Vang being forced onto a boat by Lao men. The boat, with Mr. Ly and Mr. M. Vang aboard, sped away on the Mekong River. Mr. Ly and Mr. M. Vang have not been heard from since.

"On May 4, 1999, upon their return to Chiang Mai, Thailand, Mr. Lee and Mr. H. Vang reported this incident to the American Consulate. Two days later, according to Mr. Lee and Mr. H. Vang, an American official from the consulate informed them he had received reports that both men had been imprisoned and that Mr. Ly may have been killed.

"Subsequent independent reports have suggested that the two men are currently imprisoned by Lao government authorities."

This case was initially brought to our attention in May of last year. Since then, we have been working together with the families of Messrs. Ly and Vang and attempting to work with the State Department to get to the bottom of the matter.

We have repeatedly stressed the importance of this case to the State Department. Since our initial letter on the matter to Secretary Albright on May 19, 1999, we have worked to emphasize the urgent need to have this case resolved quickly for the sake of all involved. We have written letters, made repeated phone calls, sponsored meetings, organized briefings, held hearings and even passed House legislation dealing specifically with the disappearances.

By the State Department's own admission, the communist government of Laos has been largely uncooperative in the "joint investigation" of the matter undertaken by our two governments. The State Department has nevertheless continued to work directly with the Lao government in their investigation, despite evidence indicating Lao government involvement in the disappearance itself. The investigation, not surprisingly, has produced virtually no results.

Adding insult to injury, the treatment of the families of these two men at the hands of the State Department has been deplorable. Despite repeated State Department promises to keep family members regularly informed of progress and developments in the case, the families have reported that their contact with the State Department has been sporadic and inadequate. The families feel, and we agree, that the State Department has handled the Lao government with kid gloves while treating the families with skepticism and suspicion.

Also, in the course of pursuing answers in this case, Rep. Green and the Ly family were forced to file a formal Freedom of Information Act request with the State Department. An unforgivable seven months passed before the U.S. government documents on the disappearance were finally released to the family.

This pace of "progress" cannot be permitted to continue. We are resolute in our commitment to see this case resolved, and to provide the families of Mr. Houa Ly and Michael Vang the answers they deserve. We believe that is unlikely to occur unless there is a sweeping change in policy toward Laos within the State Department.

The case of these two men is but another result of the deferential, appeasement-oriented Laos policy the State Department has consciously decided to pursue. It is but one of number of damning examples that clearly demonstrate the flaws in that policy.

Consider the following as well:

1. Laos continues to exist as an old-style one-party communist state which maintains a monopoly on power and close relations with the world's remaining communist nations.

2. Human rights abuses by the Lao government continue to be appalling and widespread. The government deploys its security forces against many of its own citizens, including incidents last year in which pro-democracy student demonstrators were arrested and imprisoned. In addition, the Lao government denies its citizens' basic human liberties and rights, including freedom of speech, assembly and religion. These abuses have all been repeatedly documented by Amnesty International and other international organizations. Perhaps most alarming of all, at time when human rights in many areas of the world are improving, the human rights situation in Laos appears to be getting worse.

3. With the help of Vietnamese military forces, the Lao government has waged a systematic military campaign against the Hmong ethnic minority in the Laotian highlands. This campaign has caused inestimable civilian casualties and demonstrates that the regime in Vientiane is willing to wage outright war against its own people to maintain its increasingly unsteady grip on power.

As these distressing events have taken place, the State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane have utterly failed to recognize, document and address them. These actions by the Lao government continue to take place for the same reason: because no one in power has the courage and determination to stop them.

It is our hope that your brave action in the Senate will force a change in U.S. policy toward Laos, will help advance the case of our two missing constituents, and will assist in moving the people of Laos closer to a day when they will live without fear in a free and open society.

Sincerely,

MARK GREEN,
GEORGE RADANOVICH,
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT OF NEBRASKA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague from Nebraska, Congressman BILL BARRETT. BILL and I had the distinction of coming to Congress in the same year, and I have always appreciated his enthusiasm toward issues we have worked on together.

BILL is a fellow Member of Congress who knows the value of visiting constituents at home and where they work. Like me, he spends almost every weekend traveling in his home State so he can spend time with his constituents in their hometowns.

In his first term, BILL was tapped by leadership for two key committees—the Agriculture Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee. He has worked hard at these assignments and his increasing seniority has allowed him to take a leadership role on a host of pivotal issues including; small business, child care, senior citizens, education, health care, rural development, agriculture, and other important issues.

As chairman of the General Farm Commodities Subcommittee, which he has chaired for three terms, and his assignment as vice-chairman of the Risk Management, Research, and Specialty Crops Subcommittee, BILL BARRETT has been on the forefront of agriculture policy. Through the subcommittees and as vice-chairman of the full House Agriculture Committee, he played a vital role in overseeing the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act, which unleashed U.S. agriculture from antiquated programs and overbearing Federal intrusion.

BILL has been a leader in balancing the Federal budget and reducing taxes. In the 106th Congress, he has worked to maintain fiscal discipline while paying down the national debt and ensuring the long-term viability of

Social Security. His priorities for agriculture have included export market development, further regulatory relief, and improved risk management options.

In another parallel to my own experiences, BILL BARRETT's public service didn't begin in the Nation's capital. He started at the grassroots level and has been active in local, State, and national politics for many years. He was a member of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature from 1979–90 and served as Speaker the last four of those years.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to join with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and the rest of his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the efforts and the many outstanding achievements of Representative BILL BARRETT. His many contributions as a Member of the House of Representatives will be long remembered in Congress and by the people of Nebraska.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
TILLIE FOWLER

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to congratulate my colleague and good friend Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER on her exemplary service to her district and the nation as she retires from the U.S. Congress.

Congresswoman FOWLER is well known as a determined advocate for a strong national defense and has worked with great success on behalf of the military personnel and facilities in her district and around the country. Congresswoman FOWLER supported me immensely as I secured \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Appropriations bill for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. These funds were used for much needed maintenance to the memorial. Over the past 3 years Congresswoman FOWLER has joined me in organizing a wreath laying ceremony at the Women's Memorial to pay homage to the thousands of women who have served in our armed services. Congresswoman FOWLER has served graciously and energetically as co-host of this very touching ceremony. The Women's Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997 and stands as the nation's only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces during all eras and in all services.

I have been fortunate to serve with Congresswoman FOWLER on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Together, we have worked for needed improvements to road, mass transit, water, and public works infrastructure. She is one of the hardest working Members I have had the pleasure of working with on this committee. I applaud Congresswoman FOWLER for her dedication to serving the interests of her constituents and the nation. She has been an outstanding colleague and a good friend. I feel privileged to have worked with the Congresswoman and wish her God speed as she embarks upon another endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 592. I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House when the following votes were taken. Had I been present on the following items my vote would have been the same as indicated following the resolution.

Oct. 30, 583, H. Res. 663, on agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of S. 2485; and Corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2614, "yes"; Oct. 30, 582, H. Res. 663, on ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of S. 2485; and Corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2614, "yes"; Oct. 30, 581, H. Res. 662, on agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 580, H. Res. 662, on Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 579, motion, on hour of meeting, "yes"; Oct. 30, 578 H.J. Res. 120, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 30, 577, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 29, 576, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 29, 575, H.J. Res. 119, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 29, 574, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 28, 573, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 572, H.R. 4577, on Motion to Instruct Conferees Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 571, H.J. Res. 118, on Passage Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001, "yes"; Oct. 28, 570, Journal, on Approving the Journal, "yes"; Oct. 19, H.R. 4541, to Authorize and Amend the Commodity Exchange Act to Promote Legal Certainty, Enhance Competition, and reduce Systematic Risk in Markets for Futures and Over the Counter Derivatives, and for other Purposes, "yes".

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, recently, the House of Representatives passed legislation giving billions of dollars to Medicare providers, the bulk of which went to Medicare HMOs. This legislation did virtually nothing for providers under Medicaid. Yet, in almost every State across the nation, Medicaid payment rates are a fraction of what Medicare pays.

The motion offered by the gentleman from Texas, Mr. BENTSEN, insists that the conferees to the Labor HHS bill ensure provider payments in the Medicaid Program are adequate to ensure that the children, disabled, and working families covered by Medicaid have access to quality health care. I appreciate his commitment to readdress this in the next Congress.

Medicaid covers 38 percent of all births in this country. It pays for 30 percent of all visits to pediatricians. The Medicaid Program insures more than 21 million children in this country. It also pays for a significant portion of nursing home care for the elderly. Medicaid is an insurance program that provides care for the most vulnerable in our society. By failing to ensure that Medicaid provider payments are adequate, access is jeopardized and we are failing our children, our elderly parents, and the disabled who depend on this program for their health care.

In my home State of Michigan, I have worked to ensure providers get adequate reimbursement so that they will continue to participate in the Medicaid Program and provide quality care. But, the situation remains dismal. Medicaid payments for obstetric care in Michigan are less than half of the Medicare rate. Payment for primary care services is also barely half of what Medicare pays. This, at a time when the state has more than a billion dollars in budget surplus and will receive more than 300 million dollars this fiscal year in tobacco settlement money.

In Michigan, what is becoming increasingly troubling is that the state is attempting, by expanding the use of HMOs in Medicaid, to wash its hands completely of any responsibility to ensure providers are paid adequately. The state is shifting beneficiaries wholesale into managed care, yet the state is failing to monitor aggressively the adequacy of HMOs' payments to doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes that provide care for beneficiaries. In Michigan, inadequate provider payments by managed care plans under contract with the state have resulted in disruption in care and difficulty for many in obtaining care. Particularly acute problems have surfaced for individuals with HIV and children with special needs. We have a responsibility to ensure provider payments are adequate for beneficiaries whether they are in fee-for-service or managed care.

Nursing homes too, receive woefully low reimbursement to care for Medicaid beneficiaries. In 2000, it is projected that more than

half of all nursing home care will be paid for by Medicaid. Yet, we know from research, much of which has been conducted by my colleague HENRY WAXMAN and the Government Reform Committee Democratic staff, that conditions in many nursing homes do not meet even the most basic standards.

Given that my colleague from Texas offered this motion, I would like to also mention a few facts about this problem in the state of Texas. A recent Government Reform Committee investigation in Texas examined the 1,230 nursing homes in that state which serve more than 86,000 Texans. Their investigation found that there are serious deficiencies in many of these homes. More than 80 percent of the homes violated federal health and safety standards during recent state inspections. More than half of the homes had violations that caused actual harm to residents or placed them at risk of serious injury.

The State of Texas ranks 45th out of 50 states in terms of nursing home payments for Medicaid beneficiaries. In 1999, the average Texas per diem rate was a little over \$80 per person. The majority of nursing home beneficiaries are the frailest and most vulnerable of all. We have a responsibility to ensure that the payments for the care of our parents are adequate; that the payments do not encourage facilities to skimp on care; and that there is ample staffing to ensure the health and safety of nursing home residents. Unfortunately, many states have not been meeting these responsibilities.

Low provider payments also thwart efforts to promote dental health. A recent Center for Health Care Strategies report on increasing access to dental services in Medicaid noted: "In many states, dentists are not participating in Medicaid programs, mainly due to the low Medicaid reimbursement rates. Dentists have

little financial incentive to see Medicaid patients, and often have a disincentive—they lose money on each patient, as reimbursement rates in many states do not cover costs." If states are not even paying dentists enough to cover costs, how can we expect them to participate?

A September 2000 study by the General Accounting Office confirms this problem: "While several factors contribute to the low use of dental services among low-income persons who have coverage for dental services, the major one is finding dentists to treat them. Some low-income people live in areas where dental providers are in short supply, but many others live in areas where dental care for the rest of the population is readily available."

In Texas in 1998, there were 8,656 active dentists in the state—only 1,923 of them—or 22 percent—treated Medicaid patients. This number is clearly not adequate to treat the 2,680,583 Medicaid patients enrolled in the state in that year. These low payment rates are denying children access to dental services. A child with a toothache, like anyone else, has a hard time concentrating or learning.

Letters from the National Governors' Association and the National Council of State Legislatures threatened cuts in state Medicaid programs and reductions in coverage if the motion were adopted. I am appalled by their callous statements. It is miserly and uncompassionate to say that, in this time of record prosperity, states cannot afford to pay providers so that the most vulnerable, sickest, and frailest members of society can be assured decent care. Especially when on average nearly 60% of every dollar of Medicaid spending is contributed by the Federal Government.

Perhaps what the Republican governors who support the NGA threat mean is that they would choose to allocate their money differently. My home state of Michigan has managed to provide tax cuts for the rich in three of the past four years. Last year they enacted a \$300 million tax cut, yet they have done little to address the inadequacy of provider payments in Medicaid. Many Republican governors, it appears, would rather help their wealthy friends, than spare a dime to help children, elderly, and pregnant women who depend on Medicaid for their health insurance coverage.

Some members that oppose ensuring adequacy of Medicaid payments argue that we voted for the repeal of the so-called "Boren Amendment" in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) and now we're reversing our position. I would just remind my colleagues that we voted for a lot of provisions in the BBA. Many of us also voted for Medicaid provider cuts. Now, however, we recognize the deep impact on these cuts on providers and beneficiaries—both in Medicare and Medicaid.

We recently passed a bill that added billions to Medicare provider payments, but the Republican Leadership stripped out many of the provisions helping Medicaid providers. Medicaid providers must be paid adequately. How can we expect providers to remain committed to providing quality care and continue treating patients in Medicaid if their reimbursement does not even cover their overhead costs? About 20 percent of children in this country are covered by Medicaid, as are about four million seniors. They don't have legions of well-paid lobbyists roaming the halls of Congress, and they don't contribute large sums of money to political campaigns. But they need and deserve our help.