

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GAYE LEBARON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and a true Sonoma County legend, Gaye LeBaron.

Ms. LeBaron is stepping down as a daily columnist with the Press Democrat newspaper in Santa Rosa after nearly 46 years with the paper.

She began her career in journalism in 1951 as a correspondent with the Sonoma Index Tribune. She joined the Press Democrat as a student intern in 1955 and graduated to cub reporter in 1957. Over the years she has performed almost every job in the newsroom. She began writing her Press Democrat column in 1959 and it has since become a daily staple in the lives of thousands of Sonoma County readers.

Gaye LeBaron embodies the county's collective memory. She has written on both events she has witnessed and experienced and on the county's colorful and more distant past.

She co-authored a two-volume history of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County and edited a third volume on Sonoma County in the 19th Century. Her class on the History of Sonoma County at Santa Rosa Junior College is one of the most popular offerings each semester.

To her colleagues at the paper, she was the newsroom's "go-to-guy" who could tell them when a highway opened, or how a local landmark got its name or whether an obituary should run on page one.

To her readers she was an artist who painted broad word pictures of how the county once was and made us all feel part of the continuum of history.

But there was another side to Gaye LeBaron. Many of her columns reflected her keen observations of the contemporary political and social landscape, often seen through the eyes of her acerbic informant, "Sam the Shark." Whether a literary device or Sonoma County's own "Deep Throat," Sam asked the questions that more dignified people perhaps would not and together Sam and Gaye stirred the debate and moved us forward.

Mr. Speaker, Gaye LeBaron has received a multitude of awards and acknowledgments. She is revered in her community and is a giant in her profession. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her today for her long and distinguished career and for her many accomplishments.

HONORING CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON
OF THE LADY BLUE DEVILS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Jackson County Lady Blue Devils. The Lady Blue Devils recently won a second straight Class AA girls basketball state championship.

Residents of Jackson County, Tennessee, can be proud of their Lady Blue Devils. The team went 22–10 this season and showed remarkable perseverance and resilience. Just hours before the team beat their opponents by a 46–42 score, the mother of senior guard Sarah Gipson died after a two-year fight with cancer.

The team played with guts and determination despite Sarah's heart-wrenching loss. Sarah's mother, the former Dianne Spivey, was a member of the school's state championship team in 1973.

I commend the team and its coach, Jim Brown, for a fine season and gutsy win. The following are members of the 2000–2001 state champion Lady Blue Devils: Candace Stafford, Courtney Childress, Kayla Olson, Becca Focer, Sarah Gipson, Sheena Hager, Jennifer Harris, Ashley Hopkins, Amanda Naff, Deanna Apple, Andrea Davidson, Emily Lane, Marissa Hensley, Megan Pepper, Alyssa Bowman, managers Lucy Anderson, Stephene Clayton, Faith Henshaw, Lacy Sircy, and trainer Shawn Moffitt. Kevin Bray and Barbara Brown also serve as the team's assistant coaches.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INVESTOR
AND CAPITAL MARKETS FEE RE-
LIEF ACT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BAKER, Mrs. KELLY, and Mrs. MALONEY for introducing legislation that is vitally important to every American investor indeed, to every American business seeking access to our capital markets. It's called the Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act, and it will save investors and market participants \$14 billion dollars over the next ten years.

Congress must take action. If nothing is done to stop the flow of investors' cash into government coffers, more than \$24 billion overcharges will be collected over the next ten years.

This fee Relief legislation reduces fees to a level more consistent with Congress's original intent. Fees will recover the Commission's costs of supervising the markets, but they will no longer be a burdensome tax on investors and capital formation.

The bill reduces all excess SEC fees: transaction, registration, merger/tender, single stock futures, and the trust indenture fee. The fee relief bill provides a stable funding structure for the SEC by ensuring that appropriators have sufficient funds to meet the agency's funding needs.

The fee relief bill also includes a pay parity provision to help the Commission attract and retain first-rate attorneys, accountants, and economists. In the post-Gramm-Leach-Bliley financial services world, SEC professionals performing the same work as their colleagues in the banking agencies should receive similar compensation.

I would like to commend our colleagues in the other Body, specifically Senators PHIL GRAMM and CHUCK SCHUMER, for their excellent work in moving similar legislation, S. 143, through the Senate Banking Committee. I look forward to seeing the Senate act on that legislation soon.

Here in the House, I thank my numerous colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have joined Mr. FOSSELLA as original cosponsors of this legislation and given it such strong bipartisan support right from the start. I look forward to moving this bill through the financial Services Committee expeditiously.

HONORING THE HOPKINTON
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Hopkinton, Massachusetts in celebrating the accomplishments and performance of the Hopkinton High School Girl's Varsity Basketball Team. Their banner season came to a remarkable conclusion on March 13, 2001 at the Fleet Center in Boston where they captured the 2000–2001 Massachusetts Division IV State Championship.

There are many stories of note surrounding this group of remarkable athletes. Of the 15 members of the team, 12 are underclassmen. Such an accomplishment for a team of relatively young women is certainly impressive. Another story is the inspirational play of sophomore forward Meg Davis, who overcame a painful back injury to play in the tournament. In the first half, while the Hillers were trailing the Manchester Hornets, Davis and junior guard Mari Levine, who finished with a team-high 20 points, sparked a critical run, ultimately leading their team to a convincing 61–39 victory.

Teamwork was the key to the Hillers' successful season. Led on the court by senior co-captains Connie Chace and Jen Sanborn, every player added to the Hillers' fairy tale season: senior Kelley Connelly, juniors Allison Azar and Shawna McCabe, sophomores Katie Baldiga, Taylor Chance, Julia Weaver, Lindsey

• 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.

Dragin, and freshmen Lauren Aulds, Erika Steele, Callie Nealon and Jackie Pappas. And of course, special recognition must be extended to Coach Dick Bliss for his inspirational leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize the exceptional student-athletes of the Hopkinton High School Girl's Varsity Basketball team for an unforgettable season. I congratulate them on their accomplishment and wish them the best of luck in years to come.

HEATHER HAGAN—AMERICAN HERO

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, in a time of crisis, many of us choose not to get involved. Mr. Speaker, we've all read the newspaper headlines when someone has witnessed a crime or even saw someone get injured and they chose not to get involved because they didn't want to complicate their lives.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to someone who acted differently, bravely. Heather Hagan personifies a hero's life. She chose to get involved and in the end saved a woman's life. At 15 years old, Heather showed incredible intuition, caring, and determination for one so young.

On March 12, as she was doing her daily rounds delivering *The Herald* to her customers on her paper route, she noticed something different at the home of Josephine McCutcheon. The newspapers were piled up against the door, unclaimed for several days. Additionally, Heather realized she had not seen the 81-year-old woman in days.

Heather completed her route. She thought about how odd it was that Mrs. McCutcheon had not picked up her newspaper or even stopped delivery if she was going out of town. Worried, she called the elderly woman's house but the line was busy.

Heather chose not to let it end there. She knew something was not right so she returned to the home of the former Mercer councilwoman and county commissioner. There was no response when she knocked at the door. Sensing something was wrong, Heather contacted the local authorities, who found Mrs. McCutcheon lying on the floor of the house after a fall, unable to summon help.

Mr. Speaker, in a time when the news is full of stories of insensitive and selfish people, they have not been introduced to teens such as Heather Hagan. She broke the mold. She gives me hope for the coming generations.

The easy thing to do would've been for Heather to do her job and leave it at that. But she, in the immortal words of Robert Frost, took the road less traveled by, going out of her way, having a dramatic impact on someone's life. I would like to say thank you to Heather—she is truly a treasure to our community.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the International Year of Volunteers. The United Nations General Assembly has designated the year 2001 to encourage and advance the concept of volunteer service.

In Humboldt County, California, the North Coast Regional Network for Service and Volunteerism was founded to facilitate and improve effective volunteer efforts. The North Coast Regional Network joins other volunteer groups throughout the nation in working to promote and strengthen volunteerism. Hundreds of California's North Coast residents enthusiastically volunteer their time to enhance the quality of life in our community. They work in a wide variety of non-profit organizations, educational institutions, senior and youth programs, the arts and health services.

Mr. Speaker, the International Year of Volunteers recognizes and honors the voluntary commitment of individuals and groups who contribute their time and resources and share their skills to build better communities. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor the efforts of the North Coast Regional Network, and all volunteers, for their dedication to community service.

GOODBYE MRS. CULLEN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, as we in Congress and in the Executive Branch intensify our efforts better to support public education in this country, we should be sure to continue to focus on teachers as the central element in this effort. The dedicated men and women who have entered the teaching profession over the years deserve far better treatment than we have given them. Too often they are inadequately compensated, and given too little to work with in the way of resources. Despite that, large numbers of talented, intelligent, creative individuals have continued to go into the teaching profession because of their love of learning and their concern for young people.

In June, one individual who is an excellent example of this tradition will be retiring.

Patricia Cullen is a sixth grade teacher at the Wareham Middle School in Wareham, Massachusetts and she will be enjoying a well deserved retirement after 33 years of dedicated teaching at the end of this year. In the words of Judith Bruno of the Wareham Middle School staff, speaking on behalf of the faculty and staff of the school, "Mrs. Cullen is a dedicated, caring and loving teacher to all of her students. She focuses on her student's strengths and positive attributes instead of the negatives. Pat helps her students to strive, to achieve, and to be successful in their endeavors. All her students love and respect her. The faculty and staff have the same feelings for her and trust me when I say we have mixed

emotions about her leaving. We are happy for the new chapter beginning in her life but saddened to see her leave us."

Ms. Bruno continues, "Mrs. Cullen is truly a remarkable woman and a credit to the teaching profession. Pat Cullen truly personifies what a teacher should be."

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply committed to providing more resources at the federal level so that Patricia Cullen, her colleagues, and those who will join this profession can do an even better job than they have been doing. But in addition to the material resources which we owe these dedicated public servants, we owe them better recognition as well for the job they do in often difficult circumstances. I am delighted to join Patricia Cullen's students and colleagues in recognizing her excellent work, and wishing her well.

HONORING THE 270TH BIRTHDAY OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Prince William County, Virginia, which will be celebrating its 270th birthday on March 20, 2001.

Prince William County was established by the Virginia General Assembly on July 9, 1730, when the population increased to a point that the formation of a new county was necessary. It took several months for the legislation to become law. In 1731, Prince William County was recognized as a county and included Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Loudon and Fauquier. Named for William Augustus, the second son of King George II, the county was cut to its current size in 1759. Within the county there are also two independent cities, Manassas and Manassas Park.

The citizens of Prince William County are continually contributing to the country's history and cultural heritage. The county was home to some of the nation's first European settlements. Many of the first arrivals to the county were of Irish descent. They settled on vacant plots and began to farm, aided only by convicts who had been sent from England. It also played an important role in the American Revolution by aiding in the formation of the new country.

Prince William County was the site of many Civil War battles. One of the most notable of the Civil War conflicts was the Battle of First Manassas, which was the first major encounter between the North and South. The Manassas Battlefields are now National Parks visited by thousands every summer.

Prince William County continues, to this day, to have a close connection to our military. In fact, the town of Quantico is completely surrounded by a Marine Corps Base. The military history of this town goes back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, when the land was used for Virginia Naval Operations. The Marine Corps Base was established there in 1917.

Today, Prince William County is the second most populous county in the Commonwealth. The rich history in this county makes it one of

the most historical counties in the nation. The citizens are proud to keep this history alive and are continually reminded of the past by the collective knowledge of those who live and work there. Moreover, Prince William County is a leader in a new Virginia revolution, a technology revolution. I am certain that her citizens will continue their role as leaders of Virginia's and America's futures.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish continued prosperity for the County of Prince William and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding this remarkable milestone. I am proud to represent a portion of Prince William County in the House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK E.
MCCARTHY

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform my colleagues of the recent passing of Frank E. McCarthy, the President of the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA). Frank died on February 25 as a result of complications from his battle with kidney cancer.

Before my election to Congress, I was a franchised new car dealer and a member of NADA, so I can personally attest to the role that Frank McCarthy played as an automotive industry leader for more than three decades. Dealers, automotive executives, and policymakers alike will miss his determination, reasoned voice, and knowledge of the industry. NADA is the Voice of the Dealers and for 33 years Frank McCarthy was the heart of NADA.

Frank had been the chief executive of NADA since 1968, making him one of the deans of the trade association community in the nation's capital. To put his service in perspective, Frank assumed the helm of NADA when Lyndon Johnson was President and the 1968 Ford Galaxie was the best selling car in America. During his entire tenure, Frank enjoyed the utmost respect among Members of Congress, professional staff, and his colleagues in the private sector.

On behalf of dealers, Frank built strong relationships with the automobile manufacturers. He had a unique ability to convey the concerns of the franchised dealers directly and concisely without sacrificing civility or professionalism. Under his leadership, NADA has become one of the largest trade associations in the United States, providing a wide variety of services to dealers and their more than one million employees. In all of these efforts, Frank was the consummate team player, always seeking credit for others rather than himself.

Despite Frank's extraordinary professional accomplishments, he never lost sight of what is truly important in life. During the eulogies delivered at his funeral earlier this month, his family and colleagues spoke eloquently about the balance in Frank's life. His deep faith was a guiding force in his approach to life, and his professional responsibilities never overshadowed his commitment to his wife, Pat, and their five children and 12 grandchildren. In that regard, Frank McCarthy was a role model to working men and women in all walks of life.

At this time, we all feel a tremendous sense of loss, but also reflect with great affection and

gratitude for his contributions to the industry and his community.

TEACHER SABBATICAL LEAVE
GRANTS ACT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Teacher Sabbatical Leave Grants Act.

Without a quality teacher in the classroom, it is impossible for us, as a nation, to provide the education our children deserve. It is essential that we ensure quality teachers are in every classroom in every school.

Professional development helps ensure our teachers' skills grow and change as our students grow more diverse and as our technology changes. However, our teachers will never get the in-depth development training they need to stay on top of their field from one-day workshops.

Recent findings have shown that 99 percent of our teachers have participated in at least one professional development activity in the past year. However only 12 percent of teachers who spent only 1 to 8 hours in professional development said it improved their teaching a lot. That is a dismal figure. We must work to provide teachers with intensive professional development, so 100 percent of teachers who receive the training feel that it improved their teaching. Without it, we will never be able to ensure our children are being taught by quality teachers.

My bill will give teachers the opportunity to receive intensive professional development training. This bill creates a program to provide grants for public school teachers who take one or two semesters of sabbatical leave to pursue a course of study for professional development. The grant covers one-half of the salary the teacher would have earned if the teacher had not been granted a leave of absence. Teachers are eligible if they have been approved for sabbatical leave and if they have enrolled in a course of study at an institution of higher education designed to improve classroom teaching.

By providing teachers with financial resources, they will be free to pursue an intensive course of study that can greatly improve their teaching skills.

And studies have shown that the more qualified a teacher is, the better the students' performance will be.

For instance, in Boston, students assigned to the most effective teachers for a year showed 18 times greater gains in reading and nearly 16 times greater gains in math than those students who were assigned to the least effective teachers.

In Tennessee, similar students with 3 very effective teachers in a row scored 50 percentile points better than students who were assigned 3 very ineffective teachers in a row. All of our students deserve to achieve these same gains.

By providing teachers with the opportunity to receive intensive professional development, my bill will help put more effective, qualified teachers in the classroom.

I urge my colleagues to support the Teacher Sabbatical Leave Grants Act.

CONGRATULATING THE OUR LADY
OF LOURDES WARRIORS

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of hard working women who have given their all in order to continue one of the Hudson Valley's greatest dynasties. On Sunday afternoon, the 14 members of the Our Lady of Lourdes women's basketball team cruised to their third consecutive Class B State title, the Warriors' eighth crown in the past 15 years.

Under the guidance of 18th year coach Brian Giorgis, Our Lady of Lourdes won their final 27 games en route to a 27-1 record and a 22nd place ranking in USA Today's national poll. After defeating Garden City, 57-37 to reach the championship games, the Warriors put the crown jewel on their season by setting down Iroquois, 57-28 in the final.

Throughout the year, the Warriors embodied the American ideal, working together as a team to accomplish a goal. From seniors who had played on two previous State championship teams to first year players getting their first taste of interscholastic competition, the team formed a cohesive unit under coach Giorgis and steamrolled the competition, outscoring its opponents by a whopping 1,905 to 978. At the same time they showed dedication to their sport and their teammates, they held the same high standard towards their education and the local community, making it easy to understand their near invincibility.

While Our Lady of Lourdes is not a large school, it looms large in the annals of women's basketball. My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating coach Brian Giorgis, the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, Kristin Keller, all-tournament team members Jenna Viani and Kristen Vilardi, team members Kelly Barnum, Kim Boone, Sue Clanci, Kathy Duffy, Jocelyn Kelly, Vicki Koster, Lauren Martinez, Aimee Meyer, Kelly Roche, Natalie Serkowski and Julianne Viani and all who assisted the Our Lady of Lourdes Warriors in building the latest empire in the Empire State.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS WEBER FOR
HIS SERVICE TO DISABLED
AMERICAN VETERANS AND OUR
NATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dennis Weber, Commander of the California chapter of the Disabled American Veterans for his service to his community, his country and as a proud member of the Armed Services.

Mr. Weber, a true Californian, was born on February 21, 1948 in Los Angeles, California. Upon graduating from high school Mr. Weber enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While serving with the 3rd Marine Engineer Battalion near An Hoa, Mr. Weber's platoon was ambushed by the Viet Cong. As platoon

leader and while severely wounded, Mr. Weber encouraged his men to stand strong against the ambush and managed to lead his platoon to safety. Unfortunately two of his men were killed in the battle. After spending a year in the hospital recovering from his wounds Mr. Weber was medically discharged and returned to Los Angeles where he immediately began serving his country's needs in the Los Angeles city government.

During Mr. Weber's year as Commander he has lead the organization in assisting veterans in filing more than 16,000 claims for VA benefits, assisted in transporting more than 49,000 veterans to medical appointments covering over 1 million miles, and his given veterans countless amounts of emotional support.

The State of California and this nation is proud to have Mr. Weber as a native son. Mr. Weber is an example of the finest product of this nation and I want to thank him for his professionalism, initiative and unwavering devotion to veterans. As commander of the California chapter Mr. Weber's performance has truly been in keeping with the highest tradition of the Disabled American Veterans, the state of California, and the United States of America.

Colleagues, please join with me as we honor Mr. Dennis Weber with his wife Pam for his outstanding contributions to our nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RITCHIE
VALENS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Ritchie Valens, who was inducted into the Rock of Roll Hall of Fame on March 19th. Although Valens died over forty years ago, his presence is still strongly felt in my congressional district, especially in the Northeast San Fernando Valley where he grew up. The recognition he is receiving brings honor to his entire community.

A pioneer in the history of rock and roll who helped shape American music, Valens is considered to be the first Chicano rock and roll star to cross over into mainstream America with his hits, "Come On, Let's Go," the ballad "Donna" and the flipside, "La Bamba" which is still heard all over the world. At age seventeen, his career ended tragically when he died in a plane crash along with rock and roll legend Buddy Holly and fellow rocker the Big Bopper (J.P. Richardson) on February 3, 1959.

Valens achieved success and stardom at a younger age than many of rock's superstars, including John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Bob Dylan. The music Valens made is as vibrant today as it was when his hits were released in the late 1950's.

Born Richard Steve Valenzuela, Valens began his music career by imitating the earliest rock and roll artists, especially Elvis, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino, The Penguins and The Drifters. Like so many of that era, Valens was caught up in the excitement of rock and roll. The performer with the greatest influence on his music, however, was Little Richard. Ritchie would entertain visitors in his household with his versions of Little

Richard's "Ooh My Soul." He joined The Silhouettes, a typical high school garage band that played the popular tunes of the day at high school sock hops, church dances and local parties. Playing for the Silhouettes helped Valens realize that making music was what he wanted to do more than anything else.

In 1987, Columbia Pictures released the film *La Bamba*, written and directed by admired Chicano playwright Luis Valdez, which immortalized Valens' brief life. The movie rejuvenated his music nearly thirty years after his death. A whole new generation of fans grew to love Valens' as his hits were re-recorded and performed by the East Los Angeles Chicano group, "Los Lobos," for the *La Bamba* soundtrack. This contemporary band went on to become a musical phenomenon, in large part because of Valens' achievements in the early days of rock and roll.

Since the release of the movie *La Bamba*, Valens' contributions to rock and roll have been honored many times: he received a star on the Hollywood walk of Fame, The United States Postal Service recognized his life and career with a commemorative postage stamp, the Ritchie Valens Recreation Center was formally dedicated at a park in his hometown of Pacoima, and he was inducted into Hollywood's Rock Walk for his contributions to pop music. Additionally, an annual music festival, "The Legend Lives On," is held in his honor.

It was an honor to work with Valens' family, friends and fans to urge the recording industry to name this outstanding artist to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Although long overdue, Valens' inclusion is richly deserved and is cause for great celebration in Pacoima today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Ritchie Valens, rock and rolls' first Chicano star!

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA MARI-
TIME PRESIDENT JERRY
ASPLAND

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues another milestone in the seventy-two year history of the California Maritime Academy, located in the City of Vallejo in my district of California. In furthering its mission of supporting the maritime interests of the United States, Cal Maritime receives federal assistance, primarily in the form of its training ship, the T.S. Golden Bear. Many of its graduates become licensed officers on merchant marine vessels, or in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard. As a federally designated regional maritime academy for the Western states, Cal Maritime is the maritime college of choice for students from California, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, and other western states.

On June 30, 2001, California Maritime Academy President Jerry A. Aspland will retire, completing five years at the helm of this fine institution. President Aspland, a Cal Maritime graduate, had previously retired from his position as President of Arco Marine, Inc., when the California State University system called him to begin a second career as one of

the nation's leading maritime educators. He assumed the position of President of Cal Maritime on July 1, 1996.

President Aspland's tenure has been marked by numerous advances for the institution. Cal Maritime has become fully involved with the CSU system, as its twenty-second campus. Enrollment has nearly doubled. Numerous improvements to their facilities have been completed on his watch, including the recent opening of a new, state-of-the-art laboratory building, infrastructure and technology replacement and upgrading, seismic retrofits, and the acquisition of additional training vessels. Ground will be broken soon for a new technology center on the campus. A second annual summer training cruise has been introduced, thereby doubling the number of training billets. Academic programs have been expanded, and further options are in the planning stages. Under his leadership, Cal Maritime was the first U.S. maritime academy to receive preliminary approval for having its educational program meet the requirements of the international Standards for Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping. A new strategic plan has just been published, and the institution is in readiness for its next academic accreditation visit scheduled this fall.

By any measure the Aspland years at the California Maritime Academy have been years of accomplishment in every aspect of this distinguished academic institution. I invite my colleagues to share my great pride in all that Cal Maritime has contributed and continues to contribute to its students, graduates, and to the maritime interests of the United States.

Finally, on behalf of the constituents of my district and my colleagues here in this chamber, I wish to extend to President Jerry Aspland our deeply felt appreciation for all that has been accomplished on his watch, along with our very best wishes for the happy, healthy retirement that he and his wife, Carol, have earned and so richly deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 2001, I missed rollcall votes 31 and 32. I was chairing a hearing with Vice President Cheney. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" for H.R. 624, the Organ Donation Improvement Act of 2001, and "yea" for H. Con. Res. 47, which honored the 21 members of the National Guard who were killed in the tragic crash of a National Guard Aircraft on March 3, 2001.

SCHOOLS INVITED TO APPLY FOR
FREE 3M LIBRARY SECURITY
PRODUCTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

3M ANNOUNCES PROGRAM TO DONATE \$1.5 MILLION TO SCHOOLS

3M, in partnership with the American Association of School Librarians, will select 100 schools to receive 3M security products that protect their valuable resources.

ST. PAUL, MINN.—March 6, 2001—3M today announced the company will donate \$1.5 million to middle and high schools through its “3M Salute to Schools” program in 2001, which provides much-needed security products that help reduce the loss of valuable library resources.

One hundred schools will be selected to receive, free of charge, up to two 3M™ Detection Systems for the entrance/exit of their library media centers, a supply of 3M™ Tattle-Tape™ Security Strips for making materials and materials processing accessories—a package with an average value of about \$15,000.

Now in its second year, “3M Salute to Schools” is sponsored by 3M, in partnership with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association. 3M and AASL both share a strong commitment to education and value investing in the nation’s schools.

“Protecting a school’s most valuable learning tools is an ongoing challenge for a library media center with limited resources and no proven security,” says Don Leslie, 3M Library Systems. “One of the fundamental goals of ‘3M Salute to Schools’ is to enhance education by making detection systems more available to schools that might not otherwise have the resources to purchase them.”

In 2000, 3M donated \$1 million to schools through “3M Salute to Schools.” AASL selected 70 schools to receive a 3M detection system from among more than 500 applicants.

“Research shows the highest-achieving students attend schools with good library media centers, and protecting library resources contributes to the overall improvement of library media services for young people,” says Harriet Selverstone, president of AASL. “AASL is pleased to again partner with 3M to help school libraries preserve these resources for students throughout the country.”

“3M Salute to Schools” is open to middle and high schools in the United States. Schools selected to receive the donation will be awarded up to two 3M detection systems for the entrance/exit of their library media centers, a supply of 3M™ Tattle-Tape™ Security Strips for marking items in their collection and necessary materials processing accessories. Individual donations will vary depending upon specific needs of the library, such as the size of a collection and the physical layout of the media center. To be considered for the donation, a school must meet eligibility requirements and be able to demonstrate a need for a detection system.

Applications are available online at www.3m.com/library or by calling the American Library Association Fax-On-Demand system at 1-800-545-2433, then press 4 and request document no. 802. Recipients will be announced at the American Library Association Annual Conference, June 14 through 20 in San Francisco. Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2001.

For more information about the 2001 “3M Salute to Schools” program, contact the AASL Awards Program at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4383, or aasl@ala.org.

The global leader in library security for more than 30 years, 3M protects literally billions of individual items in thousands of libraries throughout the world. 3M is a Founding Partner to the American Library Association’s Campaign for America’s Libraries,

also known as the @ your library™ campaign. This five-year public education campaign is designed to help promote the value of all types of libraries and librarians in the 21st century. The sponsorship further demonstrates 3M’s commitment to helping libraries better meet the changing needs of library professionals and their customers—now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. ROBERT HUTCHINGS GODDARD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I represent the 5th Congressional District of Maryland which is home to NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard who, 75 years ago this month, launched the world’s first liquid propellant rocket. Indeed, the flight of Goddard’s rocket on March 16, 1926, at Auburn, MA, was a feat as epochal in history as that of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk. During his lifetime Dr. Goddard designed, built, and launched 35 rockets of increasing sophistication. Dr. Goddard was the first scientist who not only realized the potential of missiles and space flight but also contributed directly in bringing them to practical realization.

Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 1959, the 86th Congress of the United States authorized the issuance of a gold medal in honor of Dr. Goddard. When measuring the importance of Dr. Goddard’s innovative contributions, there is no greater proof of his originality than his United States patents. In addition to the two patents issued in July 1914, 56 more would be issued to him in his lifetime. Thirty-five patents pending were issued after his death in 1945. An additional 131 patents, based upon his notes, sketches, and photographs, were applied for by his widow, Esther C. Goddard. In 1960, the U.S. Government acquired the rights to use these 214 patents.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Goddard created the building blocks which others would later invent independently. Dr. Goddard considered both manned and unmanned vehicles to explore the moon and planets, solar power, electric propulsion, and even flight to the stars. Today, the Armed Forces, NASA, and many others in the science community are able to construct rockets, missiles, weather instruments due to Dr. Goddard’s vision. On this day, I would like to honor and recognize one of the greatest scientists and the father of modern rocket propulsion, Dr. Robert H. Goddard.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-MONEY LAUNDERING AND ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT OF 2001

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be introducing today, in cooperation with Senator JOHN KERRY, anti-money laundering legis-

lation that passed, on a bipartisan vote of 31–1, the House Banking and Financial Services Committee in the 106th Congress. Unfortunately, the full House did not consider this legislation in the previous Congress. But I am hopeful that we will make a serious effort in the 107th Congress to enact this important bill into law.

The purpose of the International Counter-Money Laundering and Anti-corruption Act of 2001 is to provide the United States with new tools to combat foreign money laundering threats, and to prevent the use of the domestic financial system by money launderers and corrupt foreign officials. The bill specifically addresses the abuse of offshore secrecy havens by criminals who seek to launder their illicit monetary gains.

Let me stress an important point: offshore secrecy havens are used by financial institutions and businesses around the world for perfectly legal and legitimate transactions. However, the officially recognized secrecy, and almost non-existent supervision, of the financial sectors in many of these jurisdictions, make it remarkably easy for criminals to abuse them. And with the global growth of electronic commerce and banking, and the unprecedented expansion of global commerce in general, the financial system is more vulnerable to abuse.

In a speech to international bankers in the Spring of 2000, former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers highlighted three important reasons to embark on an aggressive fight against money laundering:

First, it help us pursue criminals who commit the underlying organized crimes that generate tainted money, such as drug trafficking, tax evasion, and fraud;

Second, it helps us fight the foreign corruption that undermines U.S. and multilateral assistance programs to promote democracy and economical development abroad; and lastly,

It helps us protect the stability of the international financial system.

The bill we are introducing today enshrines these principles. The bill provides the Treasury Secretary with the authority and discretion to address a specific money laundering problem with precision—which cannot be done under current law.

Current law provides limited options for law enforcement; the Treasury Secretary can either issue informational advisories to U.S. financial institutions about specific offshore jurisdictions, or take the more extreme approach of invoking sweeping and often disruptive economic sanctions. In an effort to strengthen our ability to fight money laundering, the bill I am introducing today provides new discretionary authority to the Treasury Secretary, which can be invoked under certain select circumstances. For instance, the Secretary can use these discretionary tools if he or she were to identify an area of “primary money laundering concern” offshore. If invoked by the Treasury Secretary, these discretionary tools only apply to the activities of U.S. financial institutions outside the U.S., but not domestically.

Our bill grants the Treasury Secretary the authority, and policy discretion, to use several new tools that fall between informational advisories, on the one hand, and economic sanctions on the other. For example, the Secretary could identify a particular institution in a foreign jurisdiction as a primary money laundering concern without making a determination

regarding the entire foreign jurisdiction, and then, impose restrictions on activities concerning such an institution. The approach taken in the bill offers the kind of regulatory flexibility, which does not exist today, needed to tackle a fast-moving and remarkably adaptable class of criminals.

More specifically, the bill would do the following:

Authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to impose one or more of five new special measures upon finding a jurisdiction, financial institution operating outside the United States, or class of international transactions to be of "primary money laundering concern";

Require the Secretary, in selecting a measure, to consult with the Federal Reserve and consider several factors of concern to domestic financial institutions;

Outline the special measures, including enhanced recordkeeping and reporting; collection of information on beneficial ownership of certain accounts; conditions on opening so-called payable-through and correspondent accounts; and prohibition of payable-through or correspondent accounts;

Require the Secretary to consult with selected Federal officials and consider a number of factors in making a finding relative to a primary money laundering concern;

Require the Secretary to notify Congress within 10 days of taking a special measure;

Authorize banks to share suspicions of employee misconduct in employment references with other banks without fear of civil liability, and clarify prohibitions against disclosure of a suspicious activity report to the subject of the report;

Clarify penalties for violating Geographic Targeting Orders issued by the Secretary to combat money laundering in designated geographical areas;

Require the Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Group to include a privacy advocate among its membership and to operate under the "sunshine" provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act;

Require reports from the Treasury Department and banking agencies regarding penalties for Bank Secrecy Act and safety-and-soundness violations;

Express the sense of the Congress that the U.S. should press foreign governments to take action against money laundering and corruption, and make clear that the United States will work to return the proceeds of foreign corruption to the citizens of countries to whom such assets belong; and,

Express the sense of the Congress that the U.S. should support the efforts of the Financial Action Task Force, an international anti-money laundering organization, to identify jurisdictions that do not cooperate with international efforts to combat money laundering.

We are often told by the financial services industry that it self-regulates well in the area of international and correspondent banking, and that, therefore, no legislation is needed. However, a recent staff report by the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded that U.S. correspondent banking provides an important avenue for rogue foreign banks and their criminal clients to carry on money laundering and other criminal activity in the U.S. We are also too often reminded by egregious cases—such as the recent one involving the laundering of Russian organized crime funds through offshore centers and U.S.

financial institutions—that our current regulatory and law enforcement system may not be as protected as we like to think. A well targeted, common sense approach—such as the one in this bill—that fills in gaps in current law makes sense. Moreover, keeping in mind the need to protect legitimate commerce, the bill is crafted in a way that evenly balances burden-sharing between regulators and the financial services industry.

In sum, I am pleased to propose comprehensive money laundering legislation to address one of the most insidious and challenging of financial crimes. Money laundering is now estimated to absorb somewhere between 2 and 5 percent of the world's domestic product, or nearly \$600 billion, and represents a significant threat to the international financial system. The enhanced tools in this proposed legislation will lead to improved ways of preserving the integrity of the international financial system, working in partnership with our major trading partners and the world's market economies.

As we consider policy changes in this area, we must address the appropriate needs of law enforcement without impeding legitimate commerce. By empowering the Federal government with more flexible and effective tools than those offered under existing law, the bill moves us closer to meeting this goal. I look forward to working with the Bush Administration, law enforcement officials, and the financial services industry, to enact a common sense approach to fighting money laundering.

APRIL SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Meadowbrook Elementary School in East Meadow as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for April 2001.

Thomas Mangano is Principal of Meadowbrook Elementary, and Dr. Robert R. Dillon is the Superintendent of Schools for the East Meadow Union Free School District.

The school motto says it all—"Four Walls with the Future Inside." For over 45 years, Meadowbrook has been educating Long Island's future generations on the importance of accepting everyone as is. These children have learned that being "different" doesn't matter.

Boasting a 100 percent teacher PTA membership, Meadowbrook fosters a culture of inclusion and emphasizes a strong school, family and community partnership. All teachers have been trained in the "World of Difference" program which fosters a respect for diversity at all levels. Meadowbrook is a multi-cultural school representing a variety of countries such as India, Pakistan, Columbia, South Korea, South Vietnam, China, El Salvador, Egypt, Israel and Russia.

Meadowbrook, recognized as a New York State Blue Ribbon School, is one of five elementary schools in the East Meadow Public School District and has 510 students. Meadowbrook is one of two sites which provides educational services to children who face special educational challenges. This, combined with the school's emphasis on cul-

tural awareness, teaches children that being different is good.

I commend Meadowbrook for the focus on special education students. I have a learning disability that wasn't diagnosed until I was an adult, so I'm particularly gratified to know children are being helped at a young age. It's also comforting to me that these kids don't feel "different." I know that feeling, and it's not a good one.

Congratulations, and keep up the good work.

TRIBUTE TO REV. VERSIE PULPHUS EASTER OF THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TURNER CHAPEL CHURCH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is an organization with a noble mission: to preach the Good News, teach divine truth and health life by the power of God. Extending from the efforts of first generation pioneers to present day evangelists, CME's mission has always been to spread good faith to communities worldwide.

Each year the Turner Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has held a week-long spiritual revival, encompassing several area churches and welcoming members of all denominations of faith. During this revival, congregation members join together in spiritual song, spoken word, and biblical teachings, renewing and strengthening their religious beliefs. This evening, as the Turner Chapel Church culminates its revival week with its final service, they have chosen to honor visiting revival leader Rev. Versie Pulphus Easter, for her treasured contributions to the community.

A life long evangelist and missionary to the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Easter has demonstrated her dedication and commitment through her outstanding service with her community and beyond. A certified United States Chaplain Association member, ordained Elder in Full of the CME Church, and veteran pastor of over 31 years, she has made history as the first Female Presiding Elder of the CME Church. Captivating audiences as a world evangelist as well, her message and ministry have been received in Australia, the Bahamas, Germany, and Brazil. Currently serving as pastor of the Womack Temple CME Church in Dyersburg, Tennessee and living by the motto: Where God Guides, He Provides, her distinguished service and remarkable dedication to improving the lives of people through faith continue to serve as an example to communities around the world.

I applaud the Turner Chapel Christian Church and Rev. Versie Pulphus Easter for their leadership, commitment, and service. I know that Rev. Easter is honored by this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting her for her exemplary years of faith and service.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S
INVASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on July 20th 2001, we will mark the 27th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Sovereign State of Cyprus. On this date in 1974, Turkish troops began a campaign to forcibly evict nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes located in the northern part of the island of Cyprus. After twenty-seven years, Greek Cypriots are still prohibited from returning to their homes and remain refugees within their own country.

Nearly 1,000 women were raped, their ages vary from 12 to 78, while over 6,000 Greek Cypriots were massacred, many of them tortured to death. Over 1,600 men, women and children who vanished during the invasion have not been accounted for, and the Turkish government continues to refuse to provide information as to their whereabouts.

Despite these heinous crimes, Turkey continues to relocate some 80,000 Turkish citizens to Northern Cyprus, thus changing the demographic structure in the north. Many of these Turkish citizens occupy homes and estates once belonging to Greek Cypriots who were evicted during the invasion. Additionally, historical institutions of religious and cultural heritage have been willfully pillaged and destroyed.

Tragically, there are only 500 Greek Cypriots still living in the occupied area, and even those few families are subject to constant and systematic campaigns of harassment and intimidation. They are forbidden to attend school or work, denied medical assistance and cannot visit their families living in the Republic of Cyprus. This blatant violation of international law and basic human rights must not be tolerated.

In 1983, Turkey encouraged a "unilateral declaration of independence" by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). The United Nations Security Council as well as our government condemned this declaration. To date the TRNC is not officially recognized as a sovereign State by any country except for Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, since that time, the international community has made some progress on this issue. In June of 1999, the European Commission of Human Rights found Turkey responsible for continuing to violate several provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights, including not accounting for missing persons, limiting the living conditions of the enslaved, and failing to protect the properties of the displaced persons.

The recent decision of the European Parliament (EP) to approve a report delivered by Jacques Poos, the former Foreign Minister of Luxembourg and the Cyprus Rapporteur of the EP Foreign Relations Commission, has rattled Turkey and the Denktash regime. The decision accused the illegal TRNC regime and Turkey of a lack of progress in efforts to find a solution on the island. In addition to insisting that the Turkish occupation forces withdraw from the island, the report defended the Greek Cypriot's position that would allow for its mem-

bership in the European Union, before a settlement of the Cyprus issue.

Mr. Denktash and his government at present are experiencing some difficulties of their own. Faced with collapsing banks, unemployment, inflation and devalued wages—the situation could be ready for change.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my argument from last year that the continued occupation of Northern Cyprus is clearly an affront to over 90 United Nations and Security Council resolutions calling on Turkey to withdraw its forces and return refugees to their homes and for Turkey to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. This is an insult to the United States and the global community which has worked tirelessly to unify Greek and Turkish Cypriots in a peaceful manner.

I hope that the United States and the international community will continue to advocate for a peaceful solution to this conflict that has torn Cyprus apart and caused 27 years of suffering for thousands of innocent people.

**H.R. 333 PROVIDES RELIEF TO
FAMILIES, CONSUMERS, FARM-
ERS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my support for H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2001. H.R. 333 is the culmination of many years of compromise and discussion in Congress and among consumer advocates and business representatives. This bill is the culmination of efforts to protect families filing bankruptcy, family farmers, and small businesses without negatively harming responsible borrowers.

In recent years, the bankruptcy filing rate has increased rapidly, with a record high of 1.4 million in 1998. In 2000, over \$40 billion was discharged through bankruptcies. Retailers pass on the costs of losing this money to all consumers by raising prices for goods and services. All consumers, regardless of their use of credit, pay for these discharged debts. In fact, bankruptcies cost each household in America \$400 per year.

Furthermore, creditors are forced to restrict access to credit as bankruptcies cost creditors more and more money. This restricted access to credit disproportionately affects low-income Americans, who are most in need of affordable credit for mortgages and consumer purchases. It is more important than ever, given the recent economic downturn, that we fight to lower prices for consumers and provide equal access to credit to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 333, fairly addresses the concerns of bankruptcy filers, consumers, and creditors. This bill contains a needs-based formula that directs filers into chapter 7 or Chapter 13 based on their ability to pay. Filers earning less than the national median income are not affected by this legislation. Furthermore, if filers earn more than the national median income, but if after paying the allowable monthly deductions and secured debts payments the filers are unable to pay not less than the lesser of 25 percent of non-priority

unsecured debt or \$6,000 (or \$100 a month), whichever is greater, or \$10,000, they will have access to Chapter 7 without qualification. These precautions are taken to ensure that those who can afford to pay their debts are required to do so. And even if a filer is above the limits, this bill protects those who have special circumstances such as a decline in income or unexpected medical expenses that can be taken into account and preclude moving the filer into Chapter 13.

All of these provisions are included to ensure that bankruptcy relief is available to those who are truly in need, while ending the abuses in the system by irresponsible debtors who are capable of repaying their debts.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 333 includes provisions to protect women and children, those individuals who typically have the most to lose in bankruptcy proceedings. There has been criticism that the bill would put women and children in competition with credit and finance companies for scarce resources of the debtor. This is not the case, however. Current bankruptcy law puts child support and alimony payments in seventh priority. H.R. 333 moves alimony and child support to the first priority of debts to be repaid. H.R. 333 also protects savings for a child's education and retirement savings. Additionally, it strengthens the ability of women to collect marital dissolution obligations.

Also of importance is the provisions that permanently extends Chapter 12, the agricultural bankruptcy chapter. It also adjusts the jurisdictional debt limit so it may be adjusted periodically pursuant to the Consumer Price Index and provides different treatment for certain tax claims arising from the disposition of a family farm. Protection of family farms is especially important given the low commodity prices of recent years. Farmers need this protection.

Finally, H.R. 333 contains a number of provisions that were devised to address serious problems in the small business bankruptcy context. Small businesses often work with small profit margins and an even smaller margin for error. Thus they cannot afford the losses they are faced with by bankruptcy abuses.

Currently, the bankruptcy system significantly harms small businesses with endless delays that last for months and even years. H.R. 333 includes provisions improving the management of bankruptcies by providing effective cost and delay reduction by incorporating several time-tested techniques.

Specifically, the bill directs bankruptcy judges to actively manage Chapter 11 cases, thereby encouraging debtors and creditors to work together to try to move businesses out of bankruptcy, and restore them to normal business practice and protecting employees.

The bill also encourages the development of standard-form plans and disclosure statements. Current law requires disclosure statements to be drafted from scratch, which greatly contributes to the costs of the Chapter 11 process. The use of standard-form plans and disclosure statements would free up vital assets that companies could otherwise use to help in the reorganization.

I believe in personal responsibility, and not spending more than you make. I also realize, however, that there are circumstances in life that prevent honest and hard-working individuals and families from getting ahead. A death

in the family, divorce, job loss, unexpected medical expenses and other events can all contribute financial hardships. Our family farmers are facing low commodity prices and other unavoidable situations, and their farms should be protected. Small businesses should be provided with the ability to get out of bankruptcy quickly. We all want to enable these groups to find relief in filing for bankruptcy, while ensuring that all consumers are protected. Mr. Speaker, I believe that H.R. 333 accomplishes these goals, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

MARCH CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Frederick Brewington, Attorney and community activist in Hempstead as Citizen of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for March 2001.

When there is an issue the public is concerned about, you can bet Frederick is there, fighting against injustices, and seeking the truth. Our community is better because Frederick is with us.

A graduate of Northeastern University School of Law, Frederick opened his personal practice in Hempstead over 13 years ago. His law firm handles civil and voting rights, employment discrimination, constitutional law, and fair housing cases.

In addition to his practice, Frederick also finds time to teach Federal Pretrial Litigation and Trial Practice at Touro College in Huntington. A much-sought after public speaker, Frederick has addressed the Nassau Bar Association on numerous occasions, taught at the Practising Law Institute, and conducted many media interviews.

Frederick stands out from the crowd because of his commitment to all elements of community activism. Well-fought legal battles are only part of his contribution to Nassau. He is an active member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, where he serves as a Trustee, and he is a certified Lay Preacher.

He has proven that a community is what you make of it. He has lived on Long Island, in Albany, and in Massachusetts. Frederick has been honored by all three communities, and has a long list of titles, awards of recognition, and certificates of appreciation from each.

Every so often you come across someone who is so actively, so immersed in his or her community, that you have to stop and wonder how he or she does it. Frederick is one of those people.

Frederick and his wife, Adrienne, who is pastor of United Methodist Church of Westbury, reside in Freeport.

AIDS CRISIS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the AIDS death toll now stands at a staggering 21,800,000.

Sheer numbers tell us that AIDS is one of the most pressing humanitarian issues that faces the international community. From Africa, to Bangladesh, to back home in Michigan, AIDS is crippling the human condition. It is our responsibility to do all that we can to thwart this deadly pandemic.

Internationally, we should take a leadership role in combating AIDS. Of the 36 million people infected by the HIV virus today, 25 million live in sub-Saharan Africa. That is why the World Bank AIDS Trust Fund needs the full \$150 million to fund its efforts to assist those countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa. I urge President Bush to continue to support President Clinton's initiative that made the patent laws over HIV/AIDS drugs in sub-Saharan Africa less stringent. This will allow African AIDS patients to more easily get their hands on the medicine which they so desperately need. In promoting education and prevention abroad, we are taking fundamental steps to battling this crisis at home which knows no borders, age, or race.

AIDS is also hitting us hard at home. More than 700,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United States since 1981, and as many as 900,000 Americans may be infected with HIV. In Michigan, Detroit hospitals are having a hard time providing quality HIV/AIDS care because of the costs involved. Nationwide, we need to ensure that hospitals have the proper resources to provide AIDS patients with the quality care they deserve. Half of all new HIV infections are estimated to occur between the ages of 13–24. We need to ensure that our young people have the knowledge and counseling necessary to prevent and battle this disease.

Concrete steps need to be taken to battle this overwhelming problem. The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program needs at least \$300 million this year to continue to do its job. It is the only Federal program that helps our cities and States address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is in need of \$10 million dollars to develop and implement a grassroots HIV/AIDS prevention media campaign for minorities. Every dollar we spend on prevention saves many lives and dollars in the long run.

It is crucial that we are not only reactive in this situation, but strongly proactive as well. I hope that all of my colleagues will do the right things, and support funding for AIDS prevention and increasing access to medication for our worldwide community. We need adequate resources to deal with this terrible crisis at home and abroad. Millions of lives are at stake.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH CHARITABLE GIVING

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the celebration of Women's History month, I rise to inform my colleagues and their constituents about a unique program, Dress for Success, designed to provide low-income women with appropriate dress clothing for job interviews.

Dress for Success is a non-profit organization that helps low-income women to make the transition into the workforce. To assist in this transition, Dress for Success provides each of its clients with one business suit when they receive an interview and a second suit when they secure job placement. Most of these women are referred by organizations such as domestic violence shelters, job training programs, and programs for incarcerated women. To date, Dress for Success has provided suits to over 50,000 women.

"Clean Your Closet Week" is its annual major business suit drive, and it is being observed during the period of March 17th—March 24th. This year "Clean Your Closet Week" will be celebrated in over 50 cities in the United States. One of the drop off points may be in or near your district. I encourage you to inform your constituents about this worthy and important event so that more women can be aided with re-entry into the work force. To find the Dress for Success site nearest you, please visit their web site at www.dressforsuccess.org.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to explore how this program works to provide appropriate business attire to women, and how it acts to improve their self-esteem. This program promotes charitable giving to individuals in needs of assistance. We all aspire to dress for success, therefore, we should endeavor to help those who are less fortunate to realize their goals to look and feel their best.

HONORING ELDRED CLIFFORD SCHROEDER

HON. GARY MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the heroic deeds of Eldred Clifford Schroeder, a distinguished World War II veteran.

In February of 1943, at the height of World War II, 24-year-old Eldred Clifford Schroeder was drafted into the United States Army, where he was assigned to the 786th Bombardment Squadron in the European theater of operations. He climbed the ranks to become a Technical Sergeant and served as a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator.

After flying 22 successful combat missions, Schroeder and his crew were shot down over France. Fortunately, the French underground rescued him and returned him to England where his leg was treated for shrapnel wounds. He resumed flying, but on his 26th combat mission, he was again shot down over France. This time, German troops found Schroeder, and he was taken as a prisoner of war. He was imprisoned at Stalag Luft One, in Barth, Germany, until the camp was liberated nine months later by the Russian Army in May of 1945.

Mr. Schroeder, a distinguished veteran, died in 1968 without receiving the numerous medals and honors he earned. His World War II experience reads like a Hollywood movie, but the bravery he demonstrated in the face of danger was real. Today, I am honored to celebrate the contributions he made to help win the war in Europe, and privileged to present these tokens of a grateful nation to the family of a true American hero.

On behalf of the United States Army, I proudly present the Schroeder family an Air Medal with three oak-leaf clusters, a Purple Heart, a POW Medal, an American Campaign Medal, a European, African, Middle-Eastern Campaign Medal, and Honorable Service Campaign Pin, WWII.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this 107th Congress join me in posthumously recognizing a member of our Greatest Generation, Eldred Clifford Schroeder.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO REPEAL PUHCA

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today to help America's energy consumers by repealing an outdated law that serves as a barrier to competition for increased supply and transmission in today's troubled energy marketplace. This bill, which is identical to legislation introduced by Chairman TAUZIN in the last Congress and very similar to legislation approved by the Senate Banking Committee in the last Congress, would repeal a New Deal Law, the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA).

I am pleased to be joined by Representative TOWNS, Representative STEARNS and Chairman TAUZIN in introducing this important bipartisan legislation. I will be working closely with these members as we seek to bring an end to this outdated policy which has outlived its usefulness and purpose. Chairman TAUZIN has been the author of this legislation in the past and I am proud to take his mantle forward. In addition, Representative STEARNS and TOWNS have long been involved in the fight to repeal PUHCA and I look forward to working with them and having their leadership on this effort.

This legislation is a bipartisan initiative. The current Republican and previous Democratic Administrations have called for the repeal of PUHCA. Further, the bill would implement the recommendations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) made in 1995 following an extensive study by the SEC of the effects of this outdated law on the energy markets.

Mr. Speaker, one of the factors that has contributed to the current California energy crisis and will stand in the way of any permanent solution is the structural and financial restraints imposed under PUHCA. PUHCA unnecessarily restricts the flow of capital into the troubled California market, which is inhibiting the development of new generation and transmission capacity. Repeal of PUHCA would eliminate these artificial structural and financial barriers and could contribute to the alleviation of California's energy problem and the Western regional energy problem.

PUHCA is a law that has long outlived its usefulness. It imposes unnecessary costs on consumers and directly undermines the intent of recently enacted federal and state policies designed to bring more completion and capital to America's energy market.

PUHCA was enacted in 1935 to address abuses arising out of pyramid corporate structures at a time when electric utility regulation was just starting at both the federal and state

level. PUHCA's primary purpose was to simplify complex holding company structures and to limit inappropriate business practices. This purpose was accomplished in the 1950's and the SEC has recommended to Congress that PUHCA be repealed since 1981.

Today, a significant number of electric and gas utility holding companies are required by PUHCA to operate under arbitrary rules that preclude them from investing in areas of need, developing new technologies and services, and competing in open markets. Other utility companies are exempt from PUHCA's restrictions, but must operate primarily within one state in order to maintain their exemptions. Our nation's gas and electric utility companies, therefore, must operate principally within certain geographic "boxes." This stifles innovation, hinders competition, and creates market power problems in the regional electricity markets which conflicts directly with FERC's efforts to open the country's wholesale markets and transmission lines.

PUHCA also delays or, in some cases, prevents registered companies from offering new products and services to their consumers. As a barrier to entry for gas and electric utilities in all states, PUHCA limits investment and growth opportunities on a nationwide basis in the gas and electric industries. PUHCA also unnecessarily restricts the flow of capital into all states thereby inhibiting the development of new transmission and generation capacity. PUHCA stands in the way of the efforts by our nation's utility industry to serve consumers in a more competitive manner.

The counterproductive restricts that PUHCA places on the natural gas and electric power industries are based on historical assumptions that are no longer valid. The factors that existed when PUHCA was enacted in 1935 no longer exist today. Federal and state laws at that time were inadequate to protect consumers and investors 66 years ago. Today, federal and state regulations have become much more comprehensive and sensitive to market conditions. PUHCA, however, remains an economic drag on America's energy industry.

Mr. Speaker, I first became aware of PUHCA's outdated restrictions when I served as an aide to Senator Lott on the Telecommunications Act of 1996. At the time, we were trying to modernize the Communications Act of 1934, another command and control New Deal legislation like PUHCA. PUHCA had to be amended to allow competition in our telecommunications industry. Today, we need to repeal the 1935 Act and replace it with one that makes sense in today's energy and capital markets.

There exists no reason to retain this outdated regulation. The ability of State commissions to regulate holding company systems and, together with the development of regulation under the Federal Power Act of 1935 and the Natural Gas Act of 1938, have eliminated the regulatory "gaps" that existed in 1935 with respect to wholesale transactions in interstate commerce. The expanded ability of State commissions and the FERC to regulate inter-affiliate transactions have further rendered the 1935 Act unnecessary. In addition, important market power issues will continue to be reviewed by FERC, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission.

This legislation would reform the regulation of utility holding companies by repealing the

uplicative SEC-related provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, while assuring that the SEC retains all of its non-PUHCA jurisdiction of securities and securities markets in order to protect investors. The bill would put gas and electric power companies on an equal competitive footing, allowing them to take advantage of market opportunities that benefit consumers, investors and utility companies.

Registered companies will continue to be subject to the same government regulation intended to protect consumers and investors as that to which other industry participants are subject. SEC authority under the Securities Act, Exchange Act, Investment Advisers Act, and Trust Indenture Act will all remain in place. The State securities commissions will also have available to them the various State Blue-Sky laws. The bill will assure FERC access to those books, records, accounts, and other documents of holding companies, their affiliates and subsidiaries, which are relevant to costs incurred by a public utility company and which are necessary for the protection of consumers with respect to rates.

In the new environment confronting the utility industry, PUHCA has become nothing more than a bottleneck that constrains the ability of our nation's natural gas and electric power industries to serve consumers. PUHCA is an anachronism that burdens utility systems with costs and restrictions that impair their competitiveness and prevent them from adapting to the new and more competitive environment. PUHCA is no longer a solution because the problems of the 1930's have been replaced by effective state and federal legislation and by the realities of today's marketplace. Simply put, America no longer can afford the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. It is time for Congress to act on the recommendations of the SEC and to enact this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE FEDERATION OF THE DODECANESEAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AND CANADA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Federation of the Dodecanesian Society of America and Canada. The Dodecanesian Islands include the twelve Aegean islands of ancient Greece ringing Asia Minor. The goal of the Federation is to salute the islands' struggle to remain Greek through years of occupation and their ultimate triumph 50 years ago when the twelve islands united with modern Greece. The Federation will celebrate their 50-year independence on Saturday, March 11, 2001.

The Dodecanesian Islands most certainly have a remarkable history that dates back to ancient times. The epic and legendary story of the Dodecanesian Islands is truly one of captivating heroics. The chain of islands, which include the island of Rhodes whose great colossus was one of the seven wonders of the world, are where Hippocrates, the father of Medicine, called home and began his first scientific investigation of disease and the organs of the body.

Certain individual Dodecanesian Islands have fascinating histories that accurately illustrate Greek history. The Dodecanesian island of Patmos sheltered Saint John the Evangelist and it was there he wrote the Book of Revelation. The island of Kassos contributed a large fleet to the independence struggle and as well a large part of the Greek merchant fleet which aided the allied cause in the Second World War. Homer writes that the Dodecanesian Islands aided Agamemnon in the siege of Troy, where Rhodes bought from "that most pleasant land" nine "tall ships."

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Federation of the Dodecanesian Society of America and Canada do valuable work ensuring that the American and Canadian Dodecanese descendants develop strong and unbinding ties to their homeland of Greece. This organization does an admirable job promoting and instilling "enosis," the Greek word for ties to one's homeland, for thousands of my constituents and I am proud to recognize them today.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH O. WALTON,
JR., A SKI INDUSTRY LEADER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a ski industry leader. Ralph O. Walton Jr. announced on March 14th that he is retiring as Chairman of the Board of Crested Butte Mountain Resort, Inc. where he has been the driving force behind shaping Crested Butte as one of Colorado's premier destination mountain resorts. His leadership in this important industry deserves the recognition and praise of this body.

In 1970, Ralph and his brother-in-law, Howard H. (Bo) Callaway bought the Crested Butte Ski area. In the 30 years since, he has been the senior officer. "I have had a great 30 years at Crested Butte, but now is the right time for Martha and me to spend a little more time together and let the younger generation take the ski area forward," Ralph said.

Under his leadership, the resort invested over \$100 million in improvements, including 13 lifts, two warming houses, and 700,000 square feet of construction at the base area. He pioneered the first non stop, scheduled jet service to regional mountain airports, and developed both the Crested Butte Marriott Hotel and the Crested Butte Sheraton Hotel.

"Ralph Walton has been the guiding force behind the ski area at Crested Butte for the past 30 years and the ski area owes him a great debt of gratitude for helping it get to its position today. Everyone in Crested Butte will sorely miss his active leadership but we understand his desire to retire at this time," said Bo Callaway, the Resort's co-owner.

The 70 year old Georgia native graduated from Auburn University in 1951 with a BS in Electrical Engineering and spent two years in the United States Army as a First Lieutenant.

Ralph has also been associated with the National Ski Areas Association as a board member. He spent time as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Colorado Ski Country, USA and as a board member. He also worked for Westinghouse Electric Corporation for sixteen years.

Ralph has also found time to be active in Rotary International, the Optimist Club, IEEE, the Hamilton Baptist Church, and the United Congressional Church of Crested Butte.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado's ski industry is losing one of its great leaders. He has done so much for the ski industry, and for Crested Butte. I would like to take a moment to thank Ralph for all his work and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

BERENSTEIN BEAR BOOK DONATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF SAN ANTONIO

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share with you the devotion to public service displayed by a group known as the Southwestern Bell Communications (SBC) Telephone Pioneers. The San Antonio Council #40 of this organization worked diligently to have 991 popular Berenstain Bear books donated to their community's schools. With this donation they are taking concrete steps to promote reading of these fun books and others by elementary school children.

The SBC Telephone Pioneers have the goal of impacting over 86,000 families by donating a set of eleven books to ninety-one elementary schools in three different San Antonio school districts. The hope is that the teachers will read these stories about the popular Berenstain Bear family to help children better understand life's little and big issues while gaining an appreciation of reading books. Brother and sister bear share their stories of starting school, making friends, and dealing with their feelings while Mama and Papa give advice. They learn about honesty, sharing, and responsibility. These wonderful stories will not only help the children relate to different situations, but hopefully will also inspire the children to continue learning through reading.

This tremendous donation by the SBC Telephone Pioneers is commendable. The over 40,000 students that will have access to these books are fortunate. The SBC Telephone Pioneers have set an example of how to improve our communities one child at a time. The donation of these books is a special tribute to the children of San Antonio and volunteers who cared enough to make a difference.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS RESEARCH ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the High Performance Schools Research Act, a bill that would establish a research program at the National Science Foundation to quantify the relationship between the physical characteristics of elementary and secondary schools and student academic achievement in those schools.

I am pleased that my colleagues Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. HONDA are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

This legislation is part of a package of bills I plan to introduce or cosponsor that together will promote "federal smart growth." As we have seen in my state of Colorado, sprawl around our fast-growing towns and cities destroys valuable open space, farmland, wildlife, and natural, cultural and recreational resources. I believe that the federal government can do a better job to support state and community efforts to control growth and prevent sprawl.

I am introducing the High Performance Schools Research Act in conjunction with a bill I am reintroducing today, the High Performance Schools Act of 2001 (H.R. 3143 in the 106th Congress). The High Performance Schools Act takes the concept of "whole buildings" and puts it into the context of our schools, establishing a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce "high performance" school buildings. With energy costs and school enrollment on the rise and school buildings across the country in need of construction or major repairs, school districts need to have the appropriate tools and assistance to make good building decisions. The High Performance Schools Act is intended to help school districts make these good decisions, as well as to conserve energy and protect the environment.

In addition to the economic and environmental benefits of smart building choices, evidence is growing that high performance buildings are beneficial for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. A study from Mississippi State University, for example, showed that in schools in North Carolina, Texas and Nevada, variables such as natural light and climate control played a role in improved test scores, higher morale and fewer discipline problems. And in one of the most rigorous studies of its kind, a 1999 report commissioned by Pacific Gas & Electric found that students who took their lessons in classrooms with more natural light scored as much as 25 percent higher on standardized tests than other students in the same school district.

But while these studies have begun to reveal important information correlating a school building's environment with student performance, no large-scale, comprehensive study has been conducted to date. Understandably, school districts are reluctant to base infrastructure investment decisions on the results of a few narrowly conceived studies. So to give them the information they need to make better decisions, I am introducing the High Performance Schools Research Act, which will establish a National Science Foundation research program to thoroughly investigate the linkages between specific characteristics of the physical environment of a school and student learning. My hope is that further research will confirm initial findings correlating a school's environment to academic achievement, thus bolstering the case for high performance schools, which are themselves important components in any smart growth plan.

I look forward to working with my colleagues Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. HONDA and other Members of the House to move forward with this initiative.

THE HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS RESEARCH ACT

The High Performance Schools Research Act would establish a research program at

the National Science Foundation to quantify the relationship between the physical characteristics of elementary and secondary schools and student academic achievement in those schools.

This bill is intended as a companion to the High Performance Schools Act of 2001, which takes the concept of "whole buildings" and puts it into the context of our schools, establishing a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce "high performance" school buildings.

CONTEXT

In addition to the economic and environmental benefits of smart building choices, evidence is growing that high performance buildings are beneficial for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. Although these studies have begun to reveal important information correlating a school building's environment with student performance, no large-scale, comprehensive study has been conducted to date.

HOW IT WOULD WORK

The High Performance Schools Research Act is intended to help give school districts the information they need to make better decisions. The bill would establish a National Science Foundation research program to thoroughly investigate the linkages between specific characteristics of the physical environment of a school and student learning.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Women's Caucus who have been organizing weekly special orders around topics of great concern to women during the time when we celebrate Women's History Month.

Today's topic is violence against women. Violence against women is a profound and extremely pervasive problem, striking across borders, across economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and across all the age groups. It is an epidemic that affects not only women, but their children and families as well.

We, in Congress, should be proud that we were able to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act last session. Now, we must live up to our promise and appropriate full funding to the programs included in this bill.

Furthermore, pervasive discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality, and is often at the root of violations of their basic human rights. This is reflected in the various manifestations of violence women endure: domestic violence; female genital mutilation; sex trafficking; rape during times of armed conflict; sexual assault; "honor" killings; sex-selection or gender preference abortions; and other manifestations, including neglect in areas of education and nutrition women and girls endure, both here and abroad.

The statistics are appalling. Globally, 1 out of every 3 women has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime. In the United States, 1 out of every 6 women has been beaten or sexually abused. There are somewhere between 1 to 2 million women and girls

who are illegally trafficked around the world, with at least 50,000 coming into the United States. Some 130 million girls and young women have undergone female genital mutilation and it is estimated that in the United States there are at least 10,000 girls at risk of this practice.

Women's lives are endangered by violence which is directed at them simply because they are women. We must stop what I believe has become too accepted and tolerated in our society. Violence against women is not acceptable and we must get that message out to both the perpetrators of the violence and the women who endure it.

We recently witnessed a landmark moment in international justice, when three Bosnian Serbs were convicted for the rape, torture, and sexual enslavement of Muslim women during the Bosnian war. For the first time in the international justice system, sex crimes against women are being specifically identified and punished. In the past, UN war crimes tribunals ignored mass rape and sexual enslavement and considered these crimes to be a natural occurrence in war. Crimes against women such as forced prostitution and rapes that took place during WWI were never even prosecuted in the international tribunals that followed the war. Today, perhaps most significantly, the judges ruled that mass rape is a crime against humanity, the most serious category of international crimes after genocide.

However, while there is still even one woman out there who endures violence, our work will not be complete. We need more money for services such as transitional housing and job placement and training to support women while they seek to escape abusive situations. We also need to provide trainings to educate boys and girls against violence so the problem stops.

We must change our attitudes to come up with remedies to cure this epidemic, not just treat its symptoms. We as women must be empowered to challenge the culture of violence. Our work can not be complete until the women of the world live free from an ever present fear of violence.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the founders of San Antonio, Texas, the city I represent here in the United States Congress. Friday, March 9, 2001 marked the 270th anniversary of the founding of La Villa de San Fernando, the settlement which would later become known as the City of San Antonio.

On March 9, 1731, the Spanish Government founded the first permanent civic settlement in what is now the State of Texas. On this day, under the stewardship of Spanish King, Philip V, sixteen Canary Island families arrived in the territory then known as Tejas to establish La Villa de San Fernando. It would become the first civic government in Texas.

In honor of the sacrifices and contributions of the founding families of the City of San Antonio, and on behalf of the Canary Islands De-

scendants Association of San Antonio, Texas, I hereby recognize the role of the Canary Islanders in the founding of the Villa De San Fernando in 1731—later named San Antonio, Texas.

The founding of the city of San Antonio was achieved formally under the law of the Council of the Indies which was the Spanish law governing Nueva Espana in 1731;

With the arrival of the Canary Islanders, having the required number of ten families, the number required by the Laws of the Indies, to establish a town, the settlers were thus entitled to organize their own civil government, to receive lands for the construction of their homes and the sowing and raising of crops, to have a church and town hall, and to build a town with a public square and regularly planned streets;

After reaching their destination, following untold hardships, the exhausted travelers were received by Captain Juan Antonio de Almazan of the Presidio of Bejar; on the following day they were lodged in the best houses of the soldiers;

Following the detailed instructions of Viceroy Juan de Acuna, Marquez de Casafuerte the survey and distribution of the lands for the establishment of a new settlement was made;

On March 12, 1731 Captain Almazan took the heads of families to the Arroyo (now called San Pedro Creek) and divided the lands among them for a later time when they might divide the lands with more care. He urged them to plant crops before June 30;

By July 2, 1731 the settlers gave their efforts to the establishment of the proposed town, the church, and the public square;

On the following day July 3, 1731 lots were distributed to the families to build their homes adjoining the church and Casa Real. Then a large cross was formed at the main entrance of the Church as the center. By completing each of the four squares of the four sides of the cross a perfect larger square two thousand one hundred eighty-six varas on each side was delineated. The corners were identified by four long rocks as markers. A deep furrow was plowed from corner to corner to indicate the boundary in accordance with the instructions of the Viceroy;

On July 20, 1731 the first civil government was established when Captain Almazan appointed the members of the city council and other officers.

The Canary Islanders who were sent by King Philip V to establish the Villa de San Fernando did accomplish and played an important role in the beginning of the development of the magnificent City of San Antonio, in the region first known as Tejas, which developed into the great State of Texas.

TUNISIA 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARK KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a great ally of the United States, Tunisia, as she celebrates 45 years of independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150

years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia for 45 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Today, Tunisia enjoys a burgeoning economy, as the nation's per capita income continues to grow substantially. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to further the Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations engulfed in political turmoil, Tunisia continues to take an active role in fighting terrorism and international unrest.

I congratulate Tunisia on 45 years of independence and look forward to the United States' continuing strong relations with Tunisia for years to come. Please join me in celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT
OF 2001

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GOODLATTE Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the National Right to Work Act of 2001.

This Act will reduce federal power over the American workplace by removing those provisions of federal law authorizing the collection of forced-union dues as part of a collective bargaining contract.

Since the Wagner Act of 1935 made forced-union dues a keystone of federal labor law, millions of American workers have been forced to pay for union "representation" that they neither choose nor desire.

The primary beneficiaries of Right to Work are America's workers—even those who voluntarily choose to pay union dues, because when union officials are deprived of the forced-dues power granted them under current federal law, they will be more responsive to the workers' needs and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this act is pro-worker, pro-economic growth, and pro-freedom.

The twenty-one states with Right to Work laws, including my own state of Virginia, have a nearly three-to-one advantage over non-Right to Work states in terms of job creation.

Workers who have the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union have a higher standard of living than their counterparts in non-Right to Work states. The National Right to Work Act would make the economic benefits of voluntary unionism a reality for all Americans.

While this bill is about economics, it is more about freedom.

Compelling a man or woman to pay fees to a union in order to work violates the very principle of individual liberty upon which this nation was founded. Oftentimes, forced union dues are used to support causes that worker does not wish to support with his or her hard-earned wages.

Thomas Jefferson said it best, ". . . to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."

By passing the National Right to Work Act, this Congress will take a major step toward restoring the freedom of America's workers to choose the form of workplace representation that best suits their needs.

In a free-society, the decision of whether or not to join or support a union should be made by a worker, not a union official, not an employer, and certainly not the U.S. Congress.

The National Right to Work Act reduces federal power over America's labor markets, promotes economic growth and a higher standard of living, and enhances freedom.

I urge my colleagues to quickly pass the National Right to Work Act and free millions of Americans from the tyranny of forced-union dues.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX BRISEÑO FOR
THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize Alex Briseño for his 34 years of service to the City of San Antonio. As Mr. Briseño retires from his current position as the City Manager to one of the largest cities in Texas we know that his hard work and dedication will be greatly missed by the people of our community.

Nobody understands San Antonio's government better than Alex Briseño. He began his career with the City of San Antonio in 1977 as assistant to the city manager. Within three years he advanced to become an assistant city manager. During his next ten years of service he learned the intricacies of different departments within the city, knowledge that would empower him to manage the city staff with the wise hand of experience. He supervised numerous different departments ranging from the Budget Department to the Information Services and Health Department. He was well prepared for the challenges he would face as city manager, the city's top non-elected executive position.

In 1990, Mr. Briseño became city manager for a city that currently has more than 1.1 million people and covers an area of 417 square miles. He oversaw a budget of more than \$1 billion and managed 11,000 employees. Through his leadership in the past ten years San Antonio has continued to grow and develop.

Mr. Briseño not only shared his leadership skills with the city while acting as city manager; he also served the community through his service in various organizations. He has been on the board of directors of the Boy Scouts of America, helping to develop the youth of our nation. He has served on the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County Board of Trustees to better the lives of those in need, served on the board of directors of his alma mater, Trinity University, to improve education in the city, and worked with the Alamo Area Council and Free Trade Alliance San Antonio to create new opportunities for growth and advancement.

One aspect of this Mr. Briseño's life that helped to prepare him for leadership in the city

of San Antonio was his education. At Trinity University he earned his undergraduate degree in economics where he graduated magna cum laude. He then continued his education to earn his Master's in Urban Studies. His service as a captain in the United States Army was another invaluable source of education that prepared him for his future years in city government.

We should all commend the dedication of this man to his job and his community. He was born and raised in San Antonio, received his education in life there, and stayed to help build its future. San Antonio is a better place because of Mr. Briseño's service. We wish him well in all future endeavors.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS
ACT OF 2001

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the High Performance Schools Act of 2001, a bill intended to help school districts build schools that provide better learning environments for children, while also saving on energy costs and protecting the environment.

I am pleased that my colleagues Representatives SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, GEORGE MILLER, DAVID BONIOR, BOB ETHERIDGE, and MIKE HONDA are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

This legislation is part of a package of bills I plan to introduce or cosponsor that promotes sustainable development and preserves quality of life in communities that are undergoing intense growth. As we have seen in my State of Colorado and in many parts of the West, unprecedented population growth has led to urban sprawl and congestion, which has eroded much of the quality of life we value, including valuable open space, farmland, wildlife, and natural, cultural and recreational resources.

I believe that the Federal Government can do a better job to support State and community efforts to control growth and prevent sprawl. And this bill is one step toward that goal.

Many of you know about my interest in clean energy. As lead co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I am committed to promoting these technologies that further our national goals of broad-based economic growth, environmental protection, national security, and economic competitiveness.

In recent years, we've seen a wide array of successes in developing these technologies. In particular, much research has focused on improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy in buildings in a "whole building" approach to design and construction. By incorporating advanced energy efficiency technologies, daylighting, and renewable energy, "whole buildings" provide benefits in the way of energy savings, environmental protection, and economic efficiency. As buildings account for roughly a third of our annual energy consumption and a commensurate share of greenhouse gas emissions, this research focus seems well justified. They are

also important components in any smart growth plan.

The bill I am introducing today—the “High Performance Schools Act of 2001”—takes the concept of “whole buildings” and puts it into the context of our schools. My bill would establish a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce “high performance” school buildings. It would provide block grants to State offices of energy that would then be allocated as grants to school districts for building design and technical assistance. These grants would be available to school districts that are faced with rising elementary and secondary school enrollments, that can’t afford to make major investments in construction or renovation, and that commit to work with the state agencies to produce school facilities that incorporate a “high performance” building approach.

Now is the time for improving the way we build our schools. One reason why—the current energy crisis is taking its toll on school districts across the country. Many of them are being forced to pay higher heating bills with funds that had been budgeted for textbooks or new teacher salaries. We must do all we can to ensure that scarce education resources are used primarily for education purposes, not to keep our children warm.

Another reason why the timing for this initiative is critical—this country is currently experiencing a dramatic increase in student enrollment due to the “baby boom echo,” the children of the baby boom generation. During the 20 years from 1989 to 2009, this Nation is being asked to educate an additional 8.3 million children. At the same time, over 70 percent of our Nation’s schools were built before 1960 and are now in need of major repairs.

Visiting schools in the 2nd Congressional district in Colorado, I have seen firsthand the spaces in which our children are learning and growing. Many districts can’t afford sorely needed remodeling or construction of new schools, while others are scrambling to address severe overcrowding issues. And we aren’t alone: School enrollment in Colorado increased by 70,000 students in the last five years. While new schools open at or above capacity, enrollment is projected to grow in Colorado by 120,000 in the next decade.

Clearly, there’s an urgent need for school construction—in Colorado and in every State across the country. Thousands of communities nationwide are even now in the process of building new schools and renovating existing ones. But in drawing up construction plans, schools often focus on short-term construction costs instead of longterm, life-cycle savings. My bill would help ensure that school districts have the tools and assistance they need to make good building decisions.

High performance schools are a win for energy savings and a win for the environment, but best of all, they are also a win for student performance. A growing number of studies link student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions. A study from Mississippi State University, for example, showed that in schools in North Carolina, Texas and Nevada, variables such as natural light and climate control played a role in improved test scores, higher morale and fewer discipline problems. And in one of the most rigorous studies of its kind, a 1999 report commissioned by Pacific Gas & Electric found that students who took their lessons in classrooms

with more natural light scored as much as 25 percent higher on standardized tests than other students in the same school district.

We wouldn’t dream of putting only manual typewriters in new school buildings—we would install today’s computer technology. Nor should we build yesterday’s “energy inefficient,” non-sustainable, and less effective schools. Our kids are our country’s future, and they should have the best school facilities, especially if they will cost less and benefit us all in other ways.

In short, we have an enormous opportunity to build a new generation of sustainable schools, schools that incorporate the best of today’s designs and technologies and as a result provide better learning environments for our children, cost less to operate, and help protect our local and global environment. The High Performance Schools Act would start us on the road to achieving these goals. I look forward to working with Reps. BOEHLERT, MILLER, BONIOR, ETHERIDGE, and HONDA and other Members of the House to move forward with this important initiative.

THE HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2001

The High Performance Schools Act would enable our school districts to build today’s schools with today’s designs and technologies, producing school buildings that take advantage of advanced energy conservation technologies, daylighting, and renewable energy. Not only has this “whole building” approach been demonstrated to improve student performance, but such buildings also cost less to operate and help protect our local and global environment.

CONTEXT

Fully 25 percent of the energy used in today’s schools is wasted, costing schools some \$1.5 billion every year. Ending this waste could pay for the entire careers of 70 additional teachers in each of our congressional districts. These savings could be especially significant at a time when there is a clear need for more teachers.

There is also a clear need for school construction. Students of the “echo boom” generation—the children of the baby boomers—are reaching school age even while class sizes are being reduced. At the same time, studies show that over 70 percent of our nation’s schools were built before 1960 and are now in need of major repairs. School construction and modernization earned an “F” from the American Society of Civil Engineers in its 1998 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure. Many districts can’t afford sorely needed remodeling or construction of new schools, while others are scrambling to address severe overcrowding issues.

HOW IT WOULD WORK

The High Performance Schools Act of 2001 would help give school districts the tools and assistance they need to make good building choices. The bill would establish a program in the Department of Energy to help school districts produce “high performance” school buildings. Funds would be directed to school districts through state offices of energy for building design and technical assistance. These grants would be available to school districts that are faced with rising elementary and secondary school enrollments, that lack the resources to make major infrastructural investments, and that commit to work with the state agencies to produce school facilities that incorporate a “high performance” building approach. Some grants would also be available to facilitate private and public financing, promote the use of energy service companies, work with school administrations, students,

and communities, and coordinate public benefit programs.

TRIBUTE TO JERALD T. MAHSHIE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is truly my distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana’s hidden treasures, Jerald T. Mahshie, of Schererville, Indiana. Jerry is one of the most dedicated, distinguished and creative citizens of Indiana’s First Congressional District.

For the past 3½ years, Jerry has been the Director of Food and Beverage at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana. While Jerry has been a resident of the First Congressional District for only a short time, Northwest Indiana has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication he has displayed to both its citizens and communities, as well as his employer.

During his tenure at the Radisson Hotel, Jerry’s consummate professionalism and attention to detail enabled the facility to become one of the premier meeting and dining locations in the First Congressional District.

When I think of Jerry, the first image that comes to my mind is not his successful professional career, but his extraordinary leadership and care for others. Whenever a project has needed a leader or an issue has needed to be addressed, Jerry has stepped forward to accept the challenge. Unfortunately, Northwest Indiana will be losing this hidden treasure, as Jerry has accepted a position in the Indiana’s capitol, Indianapolis.

Jerry is truly a remarkable man. His hard work has earned him a number of accomplishments and awards. Such achievements include: Member of the American Academy of Chefs, President of the American Culinary Federation Chefs of Northwest Indiana, Certified Executive Chef, 1999 Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau Hospitality and Professional of the Year. In addition to his devotion to his job, Jerry finds time to serve his community. He is a past member of the Hammond Area Career Center Advisory Board and the Ivy Tech Gary Campus Advisory Board, as well as the Chairman for the 2001 Taste of Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Jerry Mahshie for his remarkable accomplishments, enduring service, and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of Northwest Indiana. We will surely miss him. May the future continue to hold great things for this outstanding professional.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE PATSY MINK OF HAWAII

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, March is Women’s History Month, a time to reflect upon and honor the contributions of women that

have made this country a better place. Today, we are going to recognize one of our own.

Few dispute the positive impact of Title IX, the landmark civil rights legislation that prohibits sex discrimination in federally-funded education programs. But I wonder how many of my colleagues realize that we have the privilege to serve with one of the driving forces behind that law—the Gentlelady from Hawaii, Patsy Mink.

As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, Patsy was one of the architects of Title IX. And since its enactment 30 years ago, she has been a leading voice in the call for full enforcement of the law.

The importance of her work cannot be understated. This is demonstrated by my own family's experience.

Only the youngest of my three daughters, Adrienne, had the opportunity to play soccer from kindergarten on through college.

As the assistant soccer coach for her team in the mid and late 1980s, I can well remember the excitement of the girls—and their parents—when girls' soccer first became a recognized team sport in our high school. That meant that Adrienne, just like my son Rody before her, would have the opportunity to play a sport she loved throughout her years in school.

But the impact of Title IX is widespread.

Thanks to its passage in 1972, my daughter Adrienne and so many other young women and girls throughout America have come to benefit from the opportunities enjoyed for so long by young men and boys in America.

A recent GAO study reported that, since the enactment of Title IX, the number of women enrolled in college has more than doubled from about 3.7 million to 8.2 million. The number of women participating in intercollegiate sports also has grown from about 30,000 to 157,000—this is an increase from 1.7 percent to 5.5 percent of all full-time, undergraduate women. The unparalleled opportunities that women and girls currently have in the classroom and on the playing field are due in large part to Title IX.

Title IX has enabled young women to participate in school sports—to learn the value of teamwork and competition, and to gain the self-confidence and skills that are so valuable in business and in other future careers.

I cannot say enough about how instrumental Patsy was in bringing out these opportunities for young women. As with any issue on which Patsy Mink takes a stand, she has consistently shown her passion for enforcing gender equity, particularly as it relates to education. And as the legislative record shows, she has been steadfast in her commitment to preserving the advances and effectiveness of Title IX.

Congresswoman Mink is to be commended for her leadership on Title IX. She will long be remembered for her tireless efforts toward achieving true equality for women. And her efforts truly represent the spirit and ideals of Women's History Month.

SBA LEGISLATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill

which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Small Business Administration (SBA). As you know, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is responsible for aiding, counseling, assisting, and protecting the interests of the nation's small businesses. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, as of September 30, 2000, SBA's total loan portfolio was about \$52 billion, including \$45 billion in direct and guaranteed small business loans and other guarantees and \$7 billion in disaster loans. The SBA plays a critical role in the development of small businesses all around the nation.

However, in a recent report, GAO found that SBA's lack of a coordinated lender oversight program increases the potential for program abuse and unnecessary financial risk. Therefore, GAO recommended that SBA ensure that the required 7(a) lender oversight reviews are conducted. Additionally, GAO recommended that SBA establish organizational responsibilities and a mechanism for ensuring that information on the lender review process is collected, reported and analyzed.

I am introducing this legislation to ensure that GAO's recommendations are carried out. My bill, if enacted, would not only address GAO's concerns by establishing an office which has responsibility for lender oversight reviews but would also bring forth a mechanism for ensuring that information on the lender review process and lender compliance is collected, analyzed and reported to relevant Congressional Committees.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not a partisan issue, but it is a good government issue because it not only assures that the people's money is spent wisely but empowers the SBA to ensure that the laws are followed. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I look forward to being able to vote on this bill on the house floor.

RURAL EDUCATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to reintroduce the Rural Education Development Initiative (REDI) Act which calls for an increased focus on rural education and provides assistance to the many small, poor, rural schools in our country. As the House begins the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, REDI will ensure that the educational opportunities for rural areas are not forgotten.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports that 46 percent of our Nation's public schools serve rural areas, yet they only receive 22 percent of the Nation's education funds annually. In addition data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) consistently shows large gaps between the achievement of students in high-poverty schools and those in other schools.

Another critical problem for rural school districts involves the hiring and retention of qualified administrators and certified teachers, especially in special education, science, and mathematics. Consequently, teachers in rural schools are almost twice as likely to provide instruction in two or more subjects than teachers in urban schools.

More importantly, many small school districts often can't qualify for federal programs based on their small enrollments, and some money-distribution formulas do not fit many states' county-wide system of school districting.

All these problems add up to one thing: our rural schools need more funding opportunities. REDI provides this opportunity and gives our rural students a chance to succeed. This legislation creates a grant program to assist rural areas with technology efforts, professional development activities designed to prepare teachers who are teaching out of their primary subject area, academic enrichment programs, and activities to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers in special education, mathematics, or science.

REDI is bi-partisan and is supported by the National Education Association (NEA). I look forward to working with my Colleagues to enact REDI and realize our goal of parity for rural students.

POLITICIZING THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, "Bipartisanship." "The rule of law." A judiciary that "looks and feels like the diverse country" we are. All ideas that then-Governor Bush's campaign promised to deliver on during the fall campaign.

Many believe that these slogans were just that: Bromides intended as camouflage, as feel-good dressing for a right wing agenda far outside the political mainstream.

President Bush's actions with the federal judiciary in just the past week—when the White House may believe that everyone is distracted with the tax cutting plan for the rich—may in fact prove just how far out of touch with the mainstream, and its own campaign rhetoric, this administration really is.

First, the White House has floated a balloon that it's considering abandoning the long-standing practice of soliciting comments from the ABA for judicial nominees. This could be the clearest signal that ideology and a crass desire to politicize the judiciary—rather than judicial competence—will be touchstone for Bush nominations to the federal judiciary.

And then today, the Bush administration has announced that it would rescind nominations for the federal bench made by the Clinton Administration. Among the casualties, African American judges who bore the stamp of enthusiastic approval from the ABA and from Republicans. Judges such as Roger Gregory, who had support of two Republican senators in Virginia, and who would represent the first African American appointment on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Gregory was appointed to the court in a recess appointment after the Republican Senate would not schedule a confirmation vote.

Both actions speak loudly to African Americans. They portend a plan by this Bush White House to politicize the judiciary. They both turn the clock backwards.

Today's Detroit News has the following article which is on point.

[From the Detroit News, Mar. 20, 2001]

BUSH WITHDRAWS MICH. JUDICIAL NOMINEES

(By Jesse J. Holland)

WASHINGTON.—President Bush on Monday dumped former President Clinton's last judicial nominees, including two Michigan women nominated for the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals who never got a hearing.

Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Helene White waited for a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for four years—longer than any other judicial nominee in history.

And Detroit attorney Kathleen McCree Lewis, a partner in the Dykema Gossett law firm who often argues cases before the 6th Circuit, was nominated in September 1999 but never had a hearing.

"I'm very disappointed," she said. "I knew it could happen, but because there had been statements about bipartisanship, it was my hope that it wouldn't."

Bush officially withdrew 62 executive and judicial nominations.

Besides Michigan, the 6th Circuit includes Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky.

"Both of these nominees were not only very qualified and widely respected, but would have been excellent members of the federal bench," said Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing. "While the President has continued to talk about the need to reach out to Democrats and foster greater bipartisanship in Washington, it's time he needs to follow-up his words with bipartisan deeds."

Stabenow and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Detroit, had been pushing for a hearing for the two Michigan nominees.

"Some of these individuals will be considered for positions in the Bush administration," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "No one should be considered ruled in or out at this point."

The decision to withdraw the Clinton judicial nominees comes as Bush starts to look at filling the remaining vacancies with his own nominees.

White House counsel Albert Gonzales and Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft met with top officials from the American Bar Association on Monday to discuss the nomination process. A committee of senior administration officials led by Gonzales has interviewed more than 50 candidates in a drive to fill nearly 100 vacancies with judges who share Bush's conservative philosophy.

LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week was Saint Patrick's Day and Irish events all around our country and the globe, commemorated the patron Saint of Ireland. The Irish in America proudly celebrated their heritage and prayed for lasting peace and justice in the long divided and troubled north of Ireland. Along with Ireland's many friends around the globe, we joined in that prayer for lasting peace.

Former President Bill Clinton played an important role, along with former Senator George Mitchell, in bringing about the historic Good Friday Accord of April 1998 that has the best chance for making that peace a reality, if the accord is carried out and honored by all sides.

Now, I am pleased to note that our new President, George W. Bush, has willingly and aggressively picked up the mantle of our continued U.S. support for finding and sustaining a lasting peace and justice in the north. Unlike any President of the United States in my memory, President Bush last week at the White House ceremony for Saint Patrick's Day stated, "It is in our national interest that there be lasting peace, a real lasting peace, in Northern Ireland."

I join with all of the Irish American community in thanking President Bush for that strong and unambiguous statement of our continued U.S. interest and support in the long and difficult struggle for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the full text of President Bush's remarks at the White House ceremony for Irish American Leaders held on March 16, 2001 be included at this point in the RECORD, and I invite my colleagues to review the President's significant supporting statement for peace in Ireland and I look forward to join in a bi-partisan effort to support the President's initiative here in the Congress.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT DURING RECEPTION FOR IRISH-AMERICAN LEADERS

The President: Thank you very much. It sounds like we invited some rowdy Irish-Americans. (Laughter.) Thank you all for coming. Taoiseach, thank you very much, sir. Secretary of State of Northern Ireland,

Dr. Reid; First Minister Trimble; Deputy First Minister Mallon. Thank you all for being here.

I want to thank the ambassadors who are here; I want to thank the other leaders from Northern Ireland who are here. It's most gracious of you to take your time to come and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us. Mr. Speaker, it's good to see you again, sir, as well.

The Taoiseach and I just had an excellent meeting. We spent a good hour of frank dialogue. He gave me Dublin's perspective on the peace process in Northern Ireland, just as Prime Minister Blair gave me London's perspective when we met last month. An Irish proverb tell us that a friend's eye is a good mirror, and I can tell you that what is striking about my meetings with both Prime Minister is now similar their perspective are, how optimistic they are and how determined they are.

It is clear that all sides want the Good Friday Agreement to succeed. It is also clear that all sides are seeking to overcome very difficult internal obstacles and to keep up forward momentum. The agreement negotiated by both Prime Ministers in Belfast last week is a reflection of a common commitment. As always, we deeply appreciate the efforts.

And, again, I want to pledge what I said yesterday; the United States stands ready to help. (Applause.) It is in our national interest that there be a lasting peace, a real lasting peace, in Northern Ireland.

I also want to say how much I appreciate the contributions that Irish-Americans have made to the cause of peace. Many of you are right here in this room, and our nation thanks you. By supporting those committed to a peaceful approach, you're truly giving something back to your native land.

Today is also about celebrating what Irish-Americans have given to their adopted land. The White House itself was designed by an Irish-American. This fact about America's home is symbolic of the contributions made by millions of Irish of both Catholic and Protestant persuasion.

Your industry and talent and imagination have enriched our commerce and enriched our culture. The strong record of public service has fortified our democracy. And the strong ties to family and faith and community have strengthened our nation's character. In short, the Irish are a big reason why we'll always be proud to call ourselves a nation of immigrants.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. (Applause.)

And now, would you join us, please, for some refreshments in the State Room. Welcome to the White House. (Applause.)