

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 1658: THE BURLEY BUYOUT
ACT OF 2001

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce H.R. 1658, the "Burley Buyout Act of 2001," a bill to buy out Burley tobacco farmers and end the Burley tobacco price support program and quota system. H.R. 1658 has been endorsed by the Indiana Tobacco Growers Association, which represents southern Indiana's 2,000 Burley tobacco farmers.

Burley tobacco has been growing in southern Indiana for almost two centuries. As farmers migrated westward from Virginia to Kentucky and southern Indiana in the early 1800s, they brought with them their native state's most important crop. A typical example of an early Indiana tobacco farmer was Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, who moved from Kentucky to Spencer County, Indiana, in 1816 and raised a small plot of tobacco on his farm.

Over the years, tobacco has continued to be an important part of the economy in our rural communities, and today there are 2,000 Burley tobacco farmers and 8,000 owners of tobacco quota in southern Indiana.

These farmers and quota owners are very familiar with the tobacco price support program, which the federal government created in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to protect tobacco farmers from price volatility. The program guarantees a minimum price for the tobacco that farmers grow, so long as farmers agree to limit their tobacco production.

The tobacco price support program worked well for many years, but now the program is no longer protecting farmers' incomes. Since the mid-1990s, Burley tobacco quotas have been cut in half. In 1997, the tobacco quota was 705 million pounds. This year, the quota is 332 million pounds. In other words, tobacco farmers can only grow 47% of the amount they could produce five years ago. The result is that their farm incomes have been cut in half over the last five years.

To make matters worse, both U.S. and foreign tobacco companies are buying an increasing amount of their tobacco from foreign producers that are not subject to the U.S. quota and price support system. The percentage of imported Burley tobacco used in U.S. tobacco products has risen from around 20% in the early 1980s to almost 40% today. At the same time, the U.S. share of world burley tobacco exports is steadily declining.

In addition, because so much of the tobacco quota is now owned by non-growers, tobacco farmers have to include significant quota rental expenses into their production costs. The University of Kentucky's Will Snell estimates that quota rental rates averaged around 40 cents a pound in the 1990s, which means that quota rental payments make up about 20–25% of a tobacco farmer's production costs.

A consequence of declining quotas and high tobacco production costs has been that the government has directly subsidized tobacco growers over the past several years. For many years, the tobacco industry proudly insisted that the government tobacco program operated at "no cost" to taxpayers, since the tobacco stabilization cooperatives always repaid the money borrowed from the CCC with interest. In 1999 and 2000, however, the federal government distributed almost \$700 million in Tobacco Loss Assistance Payments (TLAP). In addition, in the year 2000, Congress forgave \$500 million in loans that cooperatives owed the CCC and assigned 220 million pounds of the Burley pool stocks to the CCC.

The tobacco price support program is no longer offering tobacco growers the economic stability they used to enjoy. The statistics clearly show that the price support system is no longer guaranteeing farmers a good living. Furthermore, the tobacco program can do little or nothing to counter the long-term economic forces that are challenging tobacco growers.

For this reason, I am proposing that the federal government buy Burley tobacco farmers and quota holders out of the price support program. Ending the tobacco program gets the government out of a costly agricultural production control program that is no longer working and allows farmers who want to stay in the tobacco business to be more competitive in the world market.

My bill, H.R. 1658, the Burley Buyout Act of 2001, immediately terminates the tobacco program and:

(1) Compensates all quota holders with the fair market value of the property right their quota represents. It would pay all quota owners a one-time payment of \$8 per pound for the average number of quota pounds they have owned over the last ten years.

(2) Provides transition payments of \$1.50 per pound for the next five years to active tobacco producers to help them move from the price support program to other activities, including growing tobacco in the open market. These payments will be based on the average number of quota pounds tobacco farmers have grown over the last three years.

(3) Provides \$50 million each year in grants for the next five years to help communities that are heavily dependent on tobacco to adjust to the economic changes that might be caused by ending the price support program.

As Congress prepares to write the next Farm Bill, my colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture and I have an opportunity to review the laws and programs that affect most farmers. This opportunity only comes around about once every five years. For this reason, I believe it's appropriate for us to review the tobacco price support program too, and I feel strongly that it is time to make significant changes and end the program.

I urge my colleagues to support and adopt H.R. 1658, the Burley Buyout Act of 2001.

AUTOCRATIC LEADERS IN
CENTRAL ASIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this recent Washington Post editorial regarding autocratic leaders in Central Asia. The editorial draws particular attention to President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and his intolerance of free speech and rigid control of independent expression. For those Members of Congress who are interested in the true nature of Nazarbayev regime, I highly commend this editorial.

[From the Washington Post, May 1, 2001]

A CHOICE FOR DEMOCRACY

Russian President Vladimir Putin is not alone in the post-Soviet world in his assault on a free press, environmental organizations and other independent voices. In the five republics of Central Asia, autocratic leaders also are cracking down. Because their countries did not benefit from the years of relative freedom that Russia enjoyed under former president Boris Yeltsin, Central Asia's potentates tend to meet with less resistance, though everywhere some brave people resist. A case in point, both sad and inspiring, is Kazakhstan, after Russia the largest republic of the former Soviet Union.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who made an effortless transition from Communist boss, was seen in the early years of independence as a potential moderate. Over the years, though, he has grown less tolerant of dissent or pluralism, even as stories of corruption at the highest levels multiply in his oil-rich republic. His decade in power has been marked "by rigid control of independent expression," the nonprofit Committee to Protect Journalists noted recently. Prosecutors routinely harass and investigate newspapers that dare a smidgen of independent reporting. "Infringement of the honor and dignity of the president" is a crime. Only the biggest television stations are not bothered, but this is small comfort because, as the Committee to Protect Journalists noted, "the most influential stations are under the direct or indirect control of the president's family."

This spring the official crackdown has extended to many nongovernmental organizations in addition to the press. These groups helped organize opposition to a new law on the media that will further tighten government control over Internet sites and small broadcast outlets. Grass-roots opposition managed to delay, though not prevent, adoption of the law, mustering an impressive number of petitions and public meetings. In retribution, prosecutors and tax police have raided groups, forced them to shut down and seized documents and equipment, according to Eric Kessler, a staffer with the U.S.-based National Democratic Institute.

The institute, like other pro-democracy organizations, has helped Kazakhstan's small civic groups, often with small grants from the U.S. government. Resistance to the media law shows that their work is not in vain. But overall the fight for democracy is

• 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.

not succeeding, and America's split personality on the subject may be one reason. While backing democracy in a small way, the Clinton administration was more than willing to welcome and forgive Mr. Nazarbayev, because he controls substantial oil and gas wealth, and because his country's independence is seen as a check to potential Russian expansionism from the north or Chinese pushiness from the east.

Mr. Nazarbayev may expect the Bush administration, with its concern for expanding sources of oil and gas, to be even friendlier. But President Bush and his team also have stressed the importance of values in foreign policy, particularly the values of freedom and free markets—neither of which is embraced in Kazakhstan. Mr. Nazarbayev's strategy of hoarding power and oil wealth for a small elite is not a recipe for long-term stability. The Bush administration ought to help those inside Kazakhstan who continue to struggle for a different kind of future.

AN INCOMPLETE INVESTIGATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I expressed my strong disapproval of the Navy policy of scheduling potentially dangerous military events solely for edification of those civilians that the Navy is seeking to turn into lobbyists for the budget, and I also expressed my disappointment at the failure of the House so far to hold the Navy—and the rest of the Pentagon—to a reasonable standard of behavior in this regard. Subsequent to my statement I came across the accompanying editorial from the New York Times, appropriately entitled *An Incomplete Investigation*. In the editorial the Times notes "testimony indicated that the only reason the ship went to sea that day was to entertain sixteen civilian guests as part of a Navy program aimed at cultivating good will. One of the shortcomings of the Navy's public court of inquiry was that none of these civilians was summoned to testify . . . the civilians might well be asked to appear at any court martial, and their testimony in turn could discredit the civilian visitor program." The Navy has refused to deal honestly with the role of these civilians in this terrible tragedy, and has announced that it intends to continue this program without any correction. We in the House have a responsibility not to allow this to happen. And I ask that the very thoughtful editorial from the New York Times on this subject be printed here.

AN INCOMPLETE INVESTIGATION

Unless Adm. Thomas Fargo decides otherwise, the Navy's investigation into the collision of an American submarine with a Japanese vessel near Honolulu in February is likely to end on a premature and unsatisfactory note. A report by Elaine Sciolino in Sunday's Times quoted senior Pentagon officials as saying that the public court of inquiry into the incident had recommended that the submarine's skipper, Cmdr. Scott Waddle, not be tried by a court-martial. Instead the commander would receive some lesser punishment, like a reprimand, that would effectively end his career but spare him the military equivalent of a criminal trial.

The final decision rests with Admiral Fargo. The officials cited in the Times re-

port said that he was unlikely to act against the panel's recommendations. Nevertheless, we urge him to consider a court-martial. We have no wish to prejudge the outcome. A court-martial affords defendants a chance to explain their behavior and to present mitigating evidence. In this instance, a court-martial is also justified by the nature of the case.

Nine people were killed in the accident, which triggered widespread resentment in Japan that could well flare up again. According to testimony presented to the court of inquiry, the operations of the submarine, the *Greenville*, were riddled with mistakes and violations of safety rules. Commander Waddle himself testified that he had cut short or omitted several safety precautions, failed to reassign duties to compensate for the absence of a third of his normal crew and rushed the periscope search conducted just before the surfacing drill that caused the accident. The testimony also identified serious mistakes by a petty officer who failed to notify the commander that the *Greenville* was dangerously close to the Japanese ship.

The testimony indicated that the only reason the ship went to sea that day was to entertain 16 civilian guests as part of a Navy program aimed at cultivating public good will. One of the shortcomings of the Navy's public court of inquiry was that none of these civilians were summoned to testify, though they could have been. The civilians might well be asked to appear in any court-martial, and their testimony in turn could discredit the civilian visitor program. Three of the civilians were seated at controls on the submarine at the time of the collision.

This has not been an easy time for the Navy, and it has been a grievously difficult time for Commander Waddle. But the fundamental issue here is accountability—the commander's, his crew's and the Navy's. A truncated inquiry cannot inspire the public confidence that would come with a full court-martial proceeding.

HONORING ANNA M.H. VERHESEN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize an outstanding woman of my district, Anna M.H. Verhesen. Ann was awarded the Key to the Golden Door Award by Toledo's International Institute on March 31, 2001. This award is given to a naturalized citizen who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of people. I join with people from throughout my community in congratulating Ann on her receipt of this award.

A dedicated and tireless advocate for the poor, unrecognized, and underserved, Ann's passion was grown in her while a very young child as she and her family protected many people fleeing Nazi persecution in Holland. Born to Hendrikus and Henrika (Kluesssen) Verhesen in 1932, Ann began her career in service while still in the Netherlands and employed as a child care and social worker until emigrating to Canada with her family in 1959. While in Canada, Ann took her vows as a Grey Nun. In 1968, she came to the United States, serving in child care at the St. Lawrence Home in Massachusetts. A 1970 fire burned her very badly, and that accident brought her to Toledo, to the St. Vincent Hospital Burn Unit for healing. After her release,

she was a counselor for substance abuse and mental health patients, and she created the Tennyson Center, the hospital's substance abuse detoxification and treatment unit. She subsequently returned to Massachusetts continuing her social work, and serving as vocation director for the Grey Nuns until 1979. She returned to St. Vincent's in 1981 and was the coordinator of community services for the next decade. During her tenure she established the Open Door, a men's half-way house for alcoholics and its counterpart for women, Harbor House, and David's House for people with AIDS. She became a vocal advocate for the homeless among us. Even while actively engaged in this work Ann pursued her studies, receiving her undergraduate degree in 1981 and her Master's in 1992. She left the Grey Nuns in the latter 1990s and now counsels in private practice. She was sworn in as a United States citizen in 1994.

Even before Pope Paul VI voiced, "If you want peace, work for justice" Ann Verhesen lived this creed. The International Institute perfectly explains her avocation in awarding the honor, "A model of gentle yet persistent advocacy for the outcast, Ann has reached out to those whom society has no time or interest in assisting. She has challenged hospitals to address their services to those who are addicted, while simultaneously challenging those who are addicted to change their lives. Ann is often the silent force behind change." This is a truly fitting tribute to a most remarkable yet humblest of women.

OUR VETERANS DESERVE BETTER ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to permit veterans to obtain prescription medications from Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals by using prescriptions written by their family doctor.

Our nation's veterans are entitled to seek care at VA facilities for illnesses incurred not only during their active duty service but also for post-service conditions. Because the VA recognizes that some veterans have more acute illnesses or injuries, all veterans seeking care are placed in one of seven priority categories, with veterans suffering from severe service-connected disabilities receiving higher priority and immediate attention, and those veterans in generally good health and with income exceeding a certain threshold receiving a lower priority for scheduling of care.

Presently, veterans without severe service-connected disabilities and whose income is above the level that makes them eligible for free care may obtain needed medications at VA facilities for the very reasonable cost of \$2 per prescription per 30-day supply. However, VA facilities only dispense prescription medications to veterans who have received prescriptions from VA physicians after an outpatient visit. While I have heard from many veterans who would like to take advantage of reduced-cost prescription medications, those who are not severely disabled, poor, or suffering from service-connected ailments are

faced with waiting periods for the necessary outpatient visits that stretch from several months to over a year. This places an unnecessary financial burden upon our veterans who may be forced to pay retail prices for prescription drugs in the months before they can get in to see a VA primary care physician. This policy can also impose a health burden, as this extensive wait sometimes discourages veterans from seeking VA medication treatment altogether.

My legislation would allow veterans immediate access to prescription medications offered through the VA by allowing our veterans to use prescriptions written by their family physician to receive the VA's reduced-cost prescription drugs.

Not only will this facilitate timely access to needed medications, but this bill would reduce the caseload of outpatient visits that health care personnel at VA facilities must cope with daily in the delivery of care to our veterans. The effect of this legislation would be to permit VA facilities to devote more time and resources to assisting those veterans who require inpatient care.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation to give our nation's veterans prompt access to the prescription medications that they need and have earned.

PRE-PEACHTREE ROAD RACE
TRAINING CAMP FOR WHEEL-
CHAIR ATHLETES

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Anytime a world-class sporting event is hosted in an area, the community benefits. Georgia's annual Peachtree Road Race is no exception. Athletes of every skill level come from all around the world to participate in the 10 kilometer race and sports exposition. Once again, the city of Cedartown, Georgia, is carrying on a tradition of sports excellence by hosting the second annual Cedartown Pre-Peachtree Training Camp for the world's premier wheelchair athletes.

This event, hosted by Cedartown's own Krige Schabert, 2000 Olympic marathon silver medalist, will bring championship wheelchair racers from many countries to the camp, scheduled for the week of June 26, 2001. Not only will these top athletes be able to train in conditions that simulate the Peachtree Road Race, but they will have the opportunity to compete in front of the community in two organized race events.

Athletics enrich our lives and serve to bring our communities together. In recent years, Georgia has become known as one of the top sports centers in the world. I am proud to say the city of Cedartown is contributing to that sports reputation with the Pre-Peachtree Training Camp for wheelchair athletes. I join in welcoming these world-class athletes to Georgia's Seventh District.

BACK TO HEALTH MONTH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, back pain will affect eight out of ten Americans at some point in their lives, and is the second most common reason that people visit a physician. For this reason, I rise today to draw attention to a national campaign which recently concluded: "Back to Health" Month.

Launched by the North American Spine Society (NASS), April served as Back to Health Month. In reality, if you are one of the millions who suffer from back pain, this is an issue of importance all year. NASS seeks to raise awareness of the impact of back pain on the lives of the American public and steps we all can take to maintain a strong and healthy back. Back pain represents a serious quality of life issue that is an all too common reality for many Americans, Mr. Speaker. Back problems also bring major economic consequences as well. Each year, back pain results in more lost days from work than any other ailment, except general bone and joint "problems." In fact, there are more back injuries and disorders per 10,000 U.S. workers than any other musculoskeletal condition.

In the month of April, Mr. Speaker, the North American Spine Society sponsored regional events around the country to highlight the importance of a healthy back, including "Back to Health Day" on Capitol Hill on April 24th.

I encourage my colleagues to share this information with their constituents. Back pain is a problem which affects nearly all of us, but it is a problem that can be properly treated. I applaud NASS' efforts to get America "Back to Health."

HONORING DOCTOR GUNVANTRAY
B. MEHTA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize an outstanding man in my district, Gunvantray B. Mehta, MD. Dr. Mehta was awarded the Key to the Golden Door Award by Toledo's International Institute on March 31, 2001. This award is given to a naturalized citizen who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of people. I join with people from throughout my community in congratulating Dr. Mehta on his receipt of this award.

Born in Gujarat, India, Dr. Mehta first traveled to New York in 1972 for advanced medical study in Radiology at the Nassau County Medical Center. He arrived in Toledo later in that decade, where he joined X-Ray Associates in 1978. Initially drawn to Toledo to be nearer family, Dr. Mehta was soon immersed in its vibrant and active Indian community. As a strong leader in that community, Dr. Mehta has long been involved in its signature events including productions of Ramayan and shakunthla. He organized a memorable seven day celebration culminating in the 1989 opening of Toledo's Hindu Temple and served as

its first president. Dr. Mehta is also a leader in the medical community, and is an active participant in several local, state, and national professional organizations. He is currently the president of X-Ray Associates. Married to l'la, the couple has two children, daughter Dr. Minal and son Sandip.

The International Institute's tribute notes, "When asked who was the one person who made the greatest impact on his life, Dr. Mehta quickly answers his mother. From her, he learned that helping people should become second nature, and without having to think about it, a way of life. She motivated him to strive for excellence." I have known Dr. Mehta for many years. He is a caring, generous, and deeply committed man. While putting the American Dream into action, he never lost touch with his ancestry, his faith, or his country of origin. He is an ambassador in the truest sense of the word. How fortunate our community has been to have the Mehta family a part of us.

COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE ELDERLY
RECOGNIZED FOR TEN
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on May 15th, 2001 Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) will celebrate 10 years of providing quality care and opportunities to improve the quality of life for Milwaukee's low-income elderly through the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). During the past 10 years PACE has helped over a thousand vulnerable seniors avoid nursing home placement and maintain their quality of life. PACE is a shining example of excellence in elderly health care.

Milwaukee's CCE Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly is the fourth site of its kind in the United States. Milwaukee's PACE site is staffed by an extremely dedicated group who also work to assist elderly care providers around the nation to implement this innovative health care delivery system.

Community Care's PACE site provides comprehensive case management and access to a multi-disciplinary team of health care providers that includes primary care physicians; registered nurses; nurse practitioners; personal care workers; rehabilitation and recreational therapists; nutritional services staff and social workers.

PACE enables the frail elderly to remain in their homes as a viable alternative to nursing home placement. Many seniors they serve only need assistance with household and personal tasks, along with monitored health-care, to allow them to stay in their neighborhoods and connected to the people and places they love.

Because of PACE, over 1,300 Milwaukee County elderly residents have been able to avoid nursing home stays and remain in their communities, serving as role models and inspiration to younger generations. These individuals have been able to participate in community life and serve as living keepers of our city's stories and history.

And so it is with great pride that I congratulate the Community Care Organization's Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly on

their 10th anniversary, serving Milwaukee County's elderly community.

COLONEL J. DAVID NORWOOD

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to extend my utmost appreciation of Colonel J. David Norwood, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. Colonel Norwood deserves special recognition for the hard work and dedication he demonstrated during the past three years; balancing a multitude of competing needs along federal waterways in the Southeast during one of the longest droughts on record.

The drought conditions began in the Southeast just prior to Colonel Norwood assuming command of the Mobile District. One of the most critical waterways within the Mobile District is the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint, which begins in north Georgia at Lake Sidney Lanier and terminates in Apalachicola Bay in Florida. Along this waterway are a multitude of competing interests. These interests include recreation, municipal and industrial water supply including the City of Atlanta, hydropower, environmental, flood control and navigation.

As you can imagine, meeting these needs with a decreasing water supply due to the drought required a monumental effort. Colonel Norwood and his staff were very proactive in keeping all users informed through numerous public meetings and information sessions, the development of a special drought internet site, press releases and personal communication.

Colonel Norwood worked with the Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) to reduce the necessity of using waters from the four reservoirs with hydropower capability to reduce water usage. He personally participated in every decision involving supplying water for navigation, and kept the usage of water to a minimum in order to conserve as much as possible.

In addition to operating the ACF system to meet these competing needs, Colonel Norwood also had to factor in the ongoing negotiations between the States of Alabama, Florida and Georgia in their Compact negotiations for future water usage.

This particular attention to the Southeast drought and the managing of water, one of our nation's most precious resources, under these conditions was exceptional. It becomes even more so when you look at the full scope of the Mobile District mission, which includes civil works in four states and military programs in five states and Central and South America.

I would like to personally thank Colonel Norwood and his staff for their dedication and commitment to all the various publics they serve in the Southeast and particularly in Georgia.

I and everyone else affected by the Southeast drought extend our sincere appreciation for a difficult job well done.

SIBLINGS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the importance of Siblings Day, a day to honor our sisters and brothers for the many ways in which they have enriched our lives. This celebration gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for our siblings, much the same way that Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated. Founded by a Manhattan constituent, Claudia Evert, Ms. Evert has worked tirelessly to encourage everyone to honor their siblings on April 10th.

Siblings make an important contribution to who we are. Often, when our parents are gone, our siblings are our only remaining family. And sometimes, as in the case of my constituent Claudia Evert, Siblings Day will help us remember siblings who we have lost at an early age.

April 10th marks the birthday of Claudia's sister Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evert's older brother, Alan, died in an accident at his home. He was 36 years old.

This holiday was recently marked, according to the Siblings Day Foundation, in 20 states (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin); each of the 20 governors proclaiming the 10th of April as Siblings Day.

I call on the Congress to recognize the importance of family members by recognizing the contributions made by our siblings. I applaud the work of Claudia Evert, who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings by her work to establish Siblings Day. Her inspired work should serve as a lesson to us all.

HONORING THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF TOLEDO AND LUCAS COUNTY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the sesquicentennial of the Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County in my district. The organization celebrates this anniversary on June 22, 2001.

Eight Toledo physicians originally came together in 1851 to form the Toledo Medical Association, founded "for the cultivation of the science of medicine and the promotion of public health, the advancement of the character and honor of the profession, and the elevation of the standards of the medical education." From the outset, the organization was aggressive in its efforts to raise the standard of medicine. This goal was accomplished by fighting quackery, stopping advertising by physicians, introducing professional standards and across-the-board fees for physicians, sharing knowledge of difficult cases and medicate advance-

ments, and improving the quality of medical education by promoting a medical school. The Toledo Medical Society played an integral role in the development, birth, and growth of the former Toledo Medical College which was established in 1882.

Following the Civil War, the Toledo Medical Association pioneered efforts in the new field of public health. The association worked to insure a safe milk and water supply, advocated for state-of-the-art treatment of tuberculosis, and promoted immunizations against devastating contagious disease. During this time the organization also helped the establishment of Toledo's hospitals.

As the Toledo metropolitan area grew by the turn of the century, the Toledo Medical Association merged with the Lucas County Medical Society to form the current Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County. This combined organization enabled the medical profession to unite in a larger, more effective, political force and stronger advocates.

As physicians in record numbers enlisted in the battle of World War I, the Academy supported their families and maintained their practices. At the end of the war during the influenza epidemic of 1918, many Academy members lost their lives including its first President, Dr. Julius Jacobson. In the decades between the two World Wars, the Academy continued to expand its outreach, forming a physician answering service—the first medical society to do so—and further developing effort to address diseases scourging the population like tuberculosis. Many society members answered the call during World War II, and in response to the Cold War which followed the Academy aided in the area's civil defense response. Public health initiatives continued, with the Academy focusing on public education in the 1960s and 1970s.

As the nation reached a critical shortage of physicians in the 1970s, the Academy again spearheaded the establishment of a medical school. The Medical College of Ohio was established in Toledo in 1976 and trains physicians yet today. The Academy provides financial scholarships to outstanding students, and more than one-third of the school's graduates remain in the Toledo area.

Meeting the challenges of the times, the Academy has been a driving force behind HIV/AIDS education, smoking prevention and cessation programs, childhood immunization programs, the battle against environmental degradation, and it has sought to find a role in the development of HMOs and other government health initiatives. Even while serving the Toledo area population, the Academy has also sponsored several medical missions promoting international health to the most impoverished of our world.

From its beginning 150 years ago, the Academy of Medicine has been an organization at the forefront of quality health care, evolving as the times demand so that the organization and its members remain effective. I know it will continue to be a viable force for decades to come. I join with our community in recognizing the Academy of Medicine's achievements in the past 150 years, and look forward with anticipation to its future. No community in America could be served by a finer organization than ours. Onward.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M. BECK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous man for his commitment to labor, the community and his concern for protecting the lives of others. Cleveland State of Israel Bonds is honoring Robert M. Beck, the President of Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association.

Officer Beck is an outstanding role model not only for his fellow law enforcers, but for the entire community as well. Prior to Robert Beck's presidency of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association, he fulfilled numerous professional capacities. He served first as a patrol officer and then spent 13 years in the Third District Detective Bureau and Strike Force Unit. In 1980, Officer Robert Beck assumed his first elected position as a shift director. After years of hard work and on-going dedication, he was elected to his present position.

From a very young age Robert Beck knew his career goal. Although his father thought that Robert would enroll in the family business, he truly wanted to become a police officer. Even with several adjustments, rigors and pitfalls, such as being injured in the line of duty, Officer Robert Beck has upheld his honor and dignity throughout all occasions.

Presently, he is the elected first vice-president of the Cleveland Police Credit Union, chairman of the board of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund and area vice-president of Cleveland AFL-CIO. In recognition of his consistent determination, Officer Beck has been honored with various awards. He is the recipient of the 1985 Rotary Valor Award, the 1986 Exchange Club Police Officer of the Year and the 1990 Five Year Distinguished Service Award.

Despite Officer Beck's many achievements, he still has an overwhelming passion for protecting the lives of others. My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting Officer Robert M. Beck for his continual dedication to the Cleveland community.

STATEMENT ON INTRODUCTION OF
H.R. 1693 THE SCIENCE EDUCATION
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
ACT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help to improve K-12 science and mathematics education in the nation's schools. The Science Education for the 21st Century Act authorizes a range of activities to increase the numbers and enhance the capabilities of science and math teachers, to advance knowledge on the most effective uses of educational technologies, to increase participation in science and technology careers by women and minorities, and to provide more effective coordination of public and private sector efforts to improve science and math education.

I want particularly to acknowledge the assistance and contributions of several of my Science Committee colleagues in the development of this legislation. The bill incorporates Rep. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON's provision to establish school/business partnerships to improve science and math education and to support students in pursuing undergraduate degrees in science and engineering; Rep. LYNN WOOLSEY's Go Girl Grants to encourage girls and young women to study math, science and engineering; Rep. JIM BARCIA's provision to establish an educational technology extension service to support K-12 schools; Rep. MARK UDALL's scholarships for science, math and engineering students willing to become certified and to serve as science teachers; Rep. JOHN LARSON's provisions on assessing the means for deployment of broadband networks for schools and libraries and on demonstrating educational applications for such networks; and Reps. BOB ETHERIDGE's and JOE BACA's provisions on improving the preparation and in-service professional development of science and math teachers.

The importance of providing all students with a sound grounding in science, math and technology education is evident. Looking at the overall economy, worker skill level correlates directly with productivity growth. More than one quarter of the growth in labor productivity during the boom years of the 1990s is attributed to increases in worker skills, as measured by education and work experience. The Department of Labor estimates that a 1% increase in worker skill level has the same effect on output and productivity growth as a 1% increase in hours worked.

Moreover, national economic, policy and cultural matters are increasingly influenced by science and technology. Having a basic grounding in science and technology is necessary for individuals to make informed judgments about public policy issues and to lead fulfilling lives. Unfortunately, it is clear that we have problems both in the quality of K-12 science and math education and in attracting students to careers in science, engineering and technology.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, the national report card, reveals that fewer than one third of 4th, 8th and 12th grade students attain proficiency in science and math. International comparisons of math and science skills show the performance of U.S. students declining with years in the school system, and falling below that of students from most of our economic competitors. Poor preparation in elementary and secondary schools is reflected in the findings that over 40% of freshmen at public 2-year colleges are enrolled in remedial classes. Even at private 4-year colleges, 13% of students are enrolled in such classes. Moreover, approximately 35% of companies provide remedial math education for their employees.

Although college attendance is increasing, relatively fewer students than in the past are pursuing undergraduate degrees in science, math and engineering. From peak levels in the mid-1980s, engineering majors have declined by 30%, and math majors by 45%, relative to other fields of study.

One reason that the pool of scientists and engineers is growing more slowly is simply that the group traditionally most likely to enter these field, white males, is declining as a percentage of new workers. At present, white

males constitute a little over 40% of the workforce and nearly 70% of scientists and engineers. In contrast, white females are about 35% of the workforce and only 15% of scientists and engineers. The corresponding figures for African Americans and Hispanics are each about 10% of the workforce and 2% of scientists and engineers.

Clearly, we must do a better job of attracting women and minorities to science and preparing them to pursue postsecondary studies in science, math and engineering.

The Department of Labor projects that new jobs requiring science, engineering and technical training will increase by 51% between 1998 and 2008—roughly four times higher than average job growth nationally. The changing economy will not only require more scientists and engineers, but will require most workers to have increased skills. Sixty percent of all new jobs will require at least a high school education, and only 12% of new jobs will be filled by those with less than a high school education, and the number of such jobs will continue to decline.

These trends suggest the need to improve K-12 science and math education, both to prepare more students to pursue science and engineering studies in college and to raise the skill levels for all students, who will find themselves in an increasingly technological workplace.

The Science Education for the 21st Century Act will establish a range of education programs, primarily at the National Science Foundation, to address key factors that affect the quality of science and math education, as well as the associated problem of attracting individuals to careers in science, engineering and technology.

First, the bill establishes programs to improve the training and professional development of science and math teachers, including incentives for science and engineering students to become science and math teachers. Clearly, an essential first step in improving science and math education in the schools is having teachers with both a sound knowledge of their subject and effective teaching skills.

Next, the bill will institute programs to explore ways to use information technologies effectively in the classroom. Computers and communications networks have revolutionized the workplace, but have yet to reach their potential for educational applications. The emphasis will be on quantifying the techniques and approaches for employing technology that will lead to improved student performance, so that schools will know which approaches actually work and are worth the substantial investments needed to implement them.

In addition, the bill authorizes programs to encourage the interest of women and minorities in science and math, and to help prepare them academically to pursue careers in science, math and engineering. The changing composition of the nation's workforce makes it essential that the talents of all segments of society are fully developed and utilized.

And, finally, the bill establishes mechanisms to improve the coordination among the federal agencies that support K-12 science and math education activities. The federal resources available for this purpose are limited. Therefore, it is imperative that the resources be used for maximum benefit in helping the states and local school system that are engaged in reform of science and math education.

Mr. Speaker, improvement of K–12 science and math education is one of the most critical problems facing the nation. It is central to meeting the workforce needs of the information age economy and thereby maintaining the nation's economic strength. The Science Education for the 21st Century Act offers initiatives and programs that will help to meet this need. I commend the measure to my colleagues and ask for their support.

SUMMARY

Science Education for the 21st Century Act

TITLE I. PRE-SERVICE TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

SECTION 101. SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

Establishes 1 year, \$7500 scholarships for science, math and engineering students, or baccalaureate degree holders in these fields, to enable them to take courses necessary to become certified as K–12 science teachers ("science teacher" in the bill means K–12 science, math or technology teacher). Individuals receiving scholarships are required to work as a K–12 teacher for a minimum of 2 years. NSF is authorized \$20 million per year for FY 2002 through 2004 to make competitive grant awards to institutions of higher education, which will administer the scholarships.

SECTION 102. COLLABORATIONS FOR IMPROVING SCIENCE TEACHER EDUCATION

Establishes a competitive grant program for collaborations of education, math and science faculty at institutions of higher education to develop courses and curriculum for pre-service science teacher education and for in-service professional development of science teachers (in-service courses must be offered by awardees). Emphasis is placed on developing educational materials and instructional techniques consistent with hands-on, inquiry-based teaching and incorporating innovative uses of information technology. Proposals must show evidence of a strong commitment by the home institutions to institute rewards and incentives for maintaining faculty participation among the various departments and schools and also must include a plan for continuation of the collaboration beyond the period of the award. NSF is authorized \$25 million per year for FY 2002 through FY 2004.

SECTION 103. MASTER SCIENCE TEACHERS

Establishes a competitive grant award program for state or local educational agencies to implement a plan for the development and use of master science teachers for grades K–8. The proposals must include a detailed plan describing certification and ongoing professional development requirements for master teachers, job responsibilities, and the relationship of the master teachers to school administrators and other teachers. Grant funds may be used for professional development activities, support for participation by master teachers in summer research projects, acquisition of educational materials and equipment, and computers and networking access for master teachers to allow for collaboration with colleagues and access to online materials and content experts. NSF is required to give priority in making awards to schools with a low proportion of certified science teachers and to put in place means to assess the effectiveness of the program in terms of trends in student performance. NSF is authorized \$25 million per year for FY 2002 through FY 2004.

SECTION 104. ASSESSMENT OF IN-SERVICE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Requires NSF to review all in-service teacher professional development programs

to determine (1) the amount of attention given to training teachers to use technology in the classroom, and (2) the level of resources for school-building and district-level professional development activities. NSF is directed to ensure that the programs are adjusted as needed to emphasize both areas and to report to Congress on any proposed changes to the programs.

TITLE II. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION 201. RESEARCH ON EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

Establishes a competitive, merit-based research program at NSF and the Department of Education to conduct large-scale experiments to assess quantitatively the educational effectiveness, in terms of student outcomes, of promising educational approaches and techniques that incorporate information technologies. The experiment will involve a wide range of educational settings and track the progress of a substantial number of students over time. Part of the research will involve developing appropriate metrics to assess student performance, and the results of the experiments will be widely disseminated. The program is authorized at \$50 million for FY 2002, \$75 million for FY 2003, and \$150 million for FY 2004.

SECTION 202. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION EXTENSION ASSISTANCE

Establishes an educational technology extension service for K–12 schools composed of regional centers based at intermediate school districts, regional education service agencies, or institutions of higher education. The centers will advise schools on the adoption and requirements for support of new technologies, assist and train teachers in the integration of technology into classroom instruction, and provide general support services for teachers, administrators and local school authorities in the acquisition, utilization and support of educational technologies. NSF is authorized \$7 million for FY 2002, \$8.5 million for FY 2003, and \$9.5 million for FY 2004.

SECTION 203. NATIONAL SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DIGITAL LIBRARY

The National SMET Education Digital Library is an ongoing component of the interagency digital library initiative. The digital library initiative is developing the means for searching, retrieving, organizing and preserving large collections of digitized information in distributed locations, including presentation tools and interfaces. The National SMET Education Digital Library is a particular application of these technologies that encompasses all education levels. It is now funded primarily by NSF at \$25 million per year. A supplemental authorization is provided of \$10 million for FY 2002, \$15 million for FY 2003, and \$17.5 million for FY 2004 for activities focused on development of the precollege education collections and on support services for teachers and school administrators, including assistance to schools for selection of educational materials.

SECTION 204. STUDY OF BROADBAND NETWORK ACCESS FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

Requires NSF to prepare a report, in consultation with other agencies, on the current status of school and library access to high bandwidth Internet connections, on uses of such high bandwidth connections, and on options for and factors involved in acquiring and maintaining high bandwidth connections.

SECTION 205. BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Under the Next Generation Internet (NGI) portion of the High Performance Computing Act of 1991, broadband Internet connections

to K–12 schools are authorized in order to allow for demonstration projects testing the uses and effectiveness of such capability for science, math and technology education. The demonstration projects must be carried out in coordination with the experiments authorized under section 201. NGI agencies are authorized \$7 million for FY 2002, \$8.5 million for FY 2003, and \$9.5 million for FY 2004.

TITLE III. INCREASING PARTICIPATION BY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

SECTION 301. MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PROFICIENCY PARTNERSHIPS

Establishes a grant program at NSF for local educational agencies to establish partnerships with private sector entities to strengthen science and math education in the participating schools and attract students to pursue science and engineering baccalaureate degrees. The federal funds are available for curriculum improvement and associated materials and equipment and for teacher professional development. The private sector funding, which must be available as a condition for the awards, will provide undergraduate scholarships, summer internships and support the acquisition of computer equipment. The program is targeted for schools with a high proportion of students from low-income families. This is conceived as a demonstration program to see if substantial private sector funding can be leveraged. NSF is required to track the progress of the program and to assess its effectiveness. NSF is authorized \$5 million per year for FY 2002 through FY 2004.

SECTION 302. GO GIRL GRANTS

Establishes a grant program at NSF for local educational agencies and institutions of higher education to stimulate the interest of girls in science, math and technology and to attract them to careers in those fields. The grants may provide for such activities as tutoring, after school activities, summer programs, internships, and field trips. NSF is authorized \$10 million per year for FY 2002 through FY 2004.

SECTION 303. ARTICULATION PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A provision of the Scientific and Advanced Technology Act of 1992 authorizes NSF to make grants to community colleges to enter into partnerships with secondary schools to improve math and science education in those schools, to encourage student interest in pursuing careers in science and engineering, and to help ensure that students satisfy college entrance and course requirements for science, math and engineering majors. This section directs NSF to give priority for these awards to proposals that involve secondary schools with majority minority student populations and to waive matching requirement for these cases. NSF is authorized \$5 million per year for FY 2002 through FY 2004.

TITLE IV. COORDINATION OF SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SECTION 401. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is required to establish an interagency committee to coordinate federal programs that are targeted on improving K–12 science education. The committee is charged to catalog federal programs, determine the balance of funding among types of activities, assess the relevance of the programs to assist states and local school systems to implement standards-based reform of science and math education, evaluate the adequacy of procedures used by agencies to assess whether the goal of the programs are being met, and identify

ways to streamline application procedures and requirements across agency programs.

SECTION 402. EXTERNAL REVIEW

Requires NSF to task the Nation Research Council to review federal K-12 science education programs, similar to the tasking to the committee under section 401.

SECTION 403. EDUCATION PLAN

Requires the OSTP director through the interagency committee, and in consultation with appropriate state and private sector entities, to prepare a plan for federal K-12 science education programs that will delineate a strategy to increase the effectiveness of federal programs in assisting localities engaged in standards-based reform efforts, to identify best practices for use of information technologies in classroom instruction, and to replicate programs identified as being effective.

SECTION 404. SCIENCE, MATH, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Requires NSF to convene annual K-12 science education conferences to provide a forum for information sharing and to help coordinate school reform efforts among the federal government, state and local education agencies, teachers, and the private sector. NSF is authorized \$0.3 million for FY 2003, and \$0.2 million for FY 2004.

SECTION 405. REPORTS

Specifies that the OSTP director shall provide annual reports on the development of the education plan required under section 403 and on its implementation. NSF is required to provide annual reports on the results of the conferences established under section 404.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANITA
COVERT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anita Covert on being named Michigan's Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration.

In 1982 Anita Covert realized her dream of owning a small business by opening her first quilt shop in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Today, Anita maintains four quilt shops located in east Lansing, Flint, Jackson and Owosso, Michigan with 60 total employees. Anita has always maintained a commitment to her staff, even helping employees achieve the American dream by starting their own small business.

Anita Covert's business, Country Stitches, Ltd., is the third largest dealer of high-quality Viking Sewing Machines and has become the eighth largest Pfaff Sewing Machine dealer in the nation. Country Stitches has also been honored as one of the top ten quilt shops in the nation by Better Homes and Gardens.

Since 1982, Anita Covert has served as a job provider and community leader. I commend her for her commitment to mid-Michigan and wish her continued success. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Anita Covert for being named Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration.

HONORING NANCY ATKINS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of service of Nancy Atkins from Toledo, Ohio. Nancy is retiring on May 1, 2001 after twenty years at the helm of Toledo Metropolitan Mission (TMM), a faith-based agency dedicated to uplifting the underserved. Concurrently, she led the metro Toledo Churches United (MeTCU) for the past fifteen of those years. The last ten years also found her leading these organizations' umbrella agency, Toledo Ecumenical Area Ministries.

Thomas Paine said, "I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow creatures happy." This sentiment has been the guiding principle behind these organizations' development under Nancy's ever-present leadership. Nancy's leadership positioned TMM as the strongest advocate for the weakest among us, influencing or developing programs for poor people, children, struggling women, homeless people, and older people. TMM has weighed in heavily on issues affecting these disaffected groups of people, from housing to health care to the impact of welfare reform. TMM and MeTCU are respected as voices of true compassion, never forgetting Christ's admonition, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me." Nancy has empowered TMM to lead the charge for the rights of those most vulnerable and yet ignored. Her guidance saw TMM develop more than a dozen programs to address those rights, forged coalitions of agencies committed to those rights, and nurtured in many the growth of self-advocacy for those rights.

A member of more than fifteen community, social justice, and inter-religious organizations, Nancy Atkins has galvanized the role of TMM in bringing the rights of all to the table and ensuring that no one is left out of the discussion. She has fostered a spirit of cooperation while working together toward common goals and practical solutions. Truly, her contribution to the success of TMM and its mission cannot be underestimated.

Mindful of Dr. Martin Luther King's creed that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" Nancy Atkins' leadership these past two decades has been the embodiment of social justice. If the measure of a person is her legacy, then Nancy Atkins' legacy thus far is beyond measure. Her daily presence at TMM will be sorely missed, but her imprimatur is there, it will not fade. She will remain a vibrant contributor to its mission for she will always be a part of our community. We wish her well in retirement, and hope she is able to spend time doing all those things she most enjoys.

IN HONOR OF DAVID P. BYRNES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Byrnes for his years of service

and dedication to the greater Cleveland community, and his distinguished service to the Fire Fighters of Northern Ohio.

Mr. Byrnes represents the very best of Cleveland, dedicating his career to helping others. Since 1985, Mr. Byrnes has served as the distinguished President of the Northern Ohio Fire Fighters Union representing fifty-three International Associations of Fire Fighters' Local Unions in Northeast Ohio with over 2700 active members. During his tenure as president Mr. Byrnes has helped solidify and protect the union of some of Ohio's greatest civil servants. Mr. Byrnes' sixteen years of service to this vital union deserves the highest of praise.

Mr. Byrnes' dedication to the Cleveland community extends beyond his service to the Fire Fighters. Since 1997, Mr. Byrnes has stood up for the rights of working men and women as Vice President of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, representing almost 140,000 active and retired union members. In addition to his service to the AFL-CIO and fire fighters, Mr. Byrnes currently is Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College, in the Cleveland area.

Mr. Byrnes has received countless awards for his dedication to the community including being recognized by the Cleveland AFL-CIO, Warrensville, Ohio Mayor Fudge, and former Ohio Governor George Voinovich to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor one of Ohio's finest. A man who has tirelessly dedicated his career to helping others and making our Cleveland community better. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Byrnes' service to the greater Cleveland Community is an example for all of us to follow.

IMPACT AID

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my district is home to over 80 military installations and over 25,000 military families. Along with most other San Diegans, I am honored to have military families living in our neighborhoods and sending their children to our schools.

Impact Aid is vital to communities in the San Diego area who have a high proportions of military families. In my district, the City of Coronado is a prime example. Coronado has a population of 29,229 and is home to the North Island Naval Air Station. During a recent visit to the Coronado Public Schools, it was brought to my attention that school administrators are having difficulty receiving the impact aid they deserve and counting on the impact aid they need. While students from military families regularly make up 41% of pupils, in a given year, the district can receive as little as \$400,000 or as much as \$1 million in impact aid funding. Anyone who's ever created a budget knows you can't operate with that kind of insecurity.

Impact Aid is a matter of fairness to the school districts like Coronado and San Diego Unified which educate children of the military. Property taxes and state taxes fund our schools along with some federal funding targeted to particular needs. However, military

bases and military-owned housing are not on the property tax roles to contribute their share of local taxes to fund education. Budgets of those districts are stressed by large and often changing numbers of military children. In some cases, parents of special needs students are purposely assigned to bases in districts where these services will be readily available.

For over fifty years, the federal government has offset this missing revenue source to the impacted districts. However, the funds are authorized annually, and the formula has not been fully funded for the last thirty years. The bill which I have co-authored with Representative KIRK and which has been introduced today will assure that this funding will be in every year's budget.

Schools are entitled to this money to educate the children of our military residents. We are proud to have them in our schools. The federal government should make this commitment permanent.

HONORING FRANCINE LEVIEN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Francine Levien. Francine Levien was a model in our community for the value of activism. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995, Francine founded Marin Breast Cancer Watch to investigate possible causes for the epidemic of this disease in Marin County.

As a long-time advocate of safe and nutritious foods, Francine was aware of the potential negative health consequences of various substances in our environment. With Marin's breast cancer rate the highest in the nation, Francine pioneered a movement here that has spread through the Bay Area and beyond. Her work also explored the links between toxins and other illnesses, and her interest in human rights led to concern for people with breast cancer world-wide.

Mr. Speaker, Francine was instrumental in securing federal funding for a breast cancer study in Marin. Her spirit and vision will continue to inspire not only the search for a cause and a cure for this disease but also the focus on a healthier environment for all of us. She will be sorely missed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT (H.R. 10)

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was proud to lend my strong support to critical tax relief legislation, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act.

The American personal savings rate is negative for the first time in over 65 years. More than half of all workers have no idea how much money they and their families will need to live comfortably in retirement. Regrettably,

many believe that Social Security is enough. But, it is not, and it was never meant to be.

When Social Security was established, in the 1930s, it was meant to be one of three legs in a stool representing responsible retirement savings. A second leg was employer-provided pensions and the final leg was personal savings. In 2000, the average monthly Social Security benefit was \$804. Social Security pays the average retiree only about 40% of pre-retirement earnings. Experts estimate that you need 70–90% of your pre-retirement earnings to maintain your standard of living—with lower-income workers represented at the high end of that range.

Clearly, we need to do more to prepare for our futures. IRAs, 401(k)s, and other tax-favored retirement plans are one way to do so. But, it's been more than 20 years since we increased the cap on how much money individuals can contribute to these accounts. We should do all we can to encourage people to take full advantage of this saving mechanism.

H.R. 10 will gradually increase the annual IRA contribution limits to \$5,000, increase the annual limit on salary contributions to 401(k) plans, and provide catch-up provisions so that those over 50—who will retire shortly—could begin to take these steps even sooner. Furthermore, H.R. 10 modernizes and simplifies pension laws so that small businesses can provide pension coverage for their employees. Currently, only one in five offers such a benefit, leaving many employees and their families without even an opportunity to save in this way.

It's not every day that Congress conducts debate on such a commonsense measure. The broad bipartisan support this bill received in this body and amongst interested organizations is a testament to that fact. I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to vote in favor of this bill and to help workers all across the nation prepare responsibly for their retirement.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 10, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act. This comprehensive legislation is an excellent first step toward rectifying the severe retirement savings shortfall in this country.

At present, half of our nation's workforce—75 million Americans—lack access to a 401(k)-type plan or any kind of pension. Further, contribution limits on pensions and IRAs have been frozen at their current levels since 1981. As a result, individuals could invest more in a 401(k) plan in the early 1980s than they can today, and of all retirement savings plans, only the IRA limit has never been indexed for inflation.

H.R. 10 would allow individuals to set aside more money by increasing the current \$2,000 IRA contribution limit for both traditional and Roth IRAs to \$5,000 over a three-year period. Additionally, it would reduce regulatory burdens on plan sponsors, enabling small busi-

nesses to offer retirement plans. Finally, this legislation would allow for greater portability between plans, strengthen legal protections for pension participants, offer quicker vesting and include "catch-up" provisions to make up for earlier missed contributions by reaching out to women reentering the workplace and workers over fifty.

As traditional, employer-funded benefit pension plans continue to shift toward contribution plans funded by workers, retirees need to have the tools to better manage their assets during the savings phase and ensure that they do not outlive their income during retirement. Current statistics indicate that one-fifth of today's 35-year-olds who reach retirement can expect to live into their 90s—evidence that many Americans will outlive their retirement savings. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that Congress ensure that Americans have the resources necessary to achieve a financially secure retirement.

I would urge my colleagues to support this landmark legislation that would expand access to private pensions and increase flexibility for families to save for retirement.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 10, The Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act, is before the House today.

I applaud Congressmen PORTMAN and CARDIN for creating this package that will allow Americans to set more aside in IRA or 401(k)-type plans, modernize pension laws, and provide regulatory relief to encourage more small businesses to offer retirement plans.

This fair, bipartisan plan will help millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased the Ways and Means Committee included an amendment offered by my colleague PHIL ENGLISH that will improve the retirement options available to the Amish.

This amendment corrects a line in the tax code that excludes Amish from deducting contributions to Keogh, SEP, or Simple IRA retirement plans.

In 1989, Congress passed a law permitting self-employed members of certain religious faiths, like the Amish, to treat their self-employed earnings as eligible income, even though they are exempt from self-employment tax. This was done to allow these individuals to deduct contributions to IRAs from their taxes.

However, Congress didn't change the sections of the code which apply to SEP, Keogh, and Simple IRA plans.

As a result, Amish members have been able to deduct contributions to IRAs, but cannot deduct contributions to Keogh and SEP, and Simple IRA plans.

Mr. Speaker, this was clearly an oversight made in 1989.

With the inclusion of Mr. ENGLISH's amendment, Amish will now be able to deduct their contributions to all of these plans.

On behalf of the Amish, I wish to thank Chairman THOMAS, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. ENGLISH for working hard to include this technical yet important, provision for the Amish.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL
GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to recognize the efforts of the National Ground Water Association, which is headquartered in my district in Westerville, Ohio. NGWA is sponsoring National Ground Water Awareness Week, which begins May 6.

Each spring, NGWA sponsors Ground Water Awareness Week to educate the public about this precious national resource. Ground water is not only the source for much of our drinking water, but is also utilized in agriculture, commercial and industrial production and thermoelectric energy generation. It is also the single biggest source of water for irrigation in our country.

The National Ground Water Association is a not-for-profit professional society and trade organization representing all segments of the groundwater industry. Its over 16,000 members include the world's leading ground water scientists and engineers, drilling contractors, manufacturers and suppliers.

Association members will be using Ground Water Awareness Week to participate in a variety of activities and events. I want to thank them for their efforts to preserve, protect and safely utilize this most valuable resource.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RICHARDSON PREYER, FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I note the death of a former colleague and a great North Carolinian, Mr. Lunsford Richardson Preyer, who died of cancer on April 3 at the age of 82.

Born in Greensboro, North Carolina, Rich attended college at Princeton University and law school at Harvard. He served honorably in World War II, earning a Bronze Star from the Navy for his courage at Okinawa. It was this courage and his absolute respect for the law and for people that caught the eye of President John F. Kennedy, who named him to a U.S. District Court judgeship in 1961.

In 1968, Rich successfully ran for Congress, where he served until 1980. Although my time with him in the House was brief, I know that Rich served the people of North Carolina's 6th District with distinction. He lived during a tumultuous time in our nation's history when racial discrimination was widespread. African Americans were frequently subjected to legal, social and economic oppression. However, Rich emerged through all that by displaying a remarkable moral integrity, tolerance, and support for racial diversity and human rights.

As a member of Congress, Rich won the respect of both Republicans and Democrats for his dignity, intelligence, and integrity. He chaired the House Select Committee on Ethics, crafting the Congressional code of ethics. He also served on the House Select Committee on Assassinations, helping to investigate the deaths of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Two years after my election to Congress, Rich left the House. He and his wife Emily—who passed away in 1999—returned to Greensboro where they both continued to touch the lives of their many friends and neighbors in the community.

Our nation lost a caring and visionary legislator with the death of Rich, and it is fitting that we pay tribute to his life and legacy today. My wife Cheryl and I would like to express our condolences to Rich's surviving family in this time of sorrow and sadness, and they will be in our prayers.

IN HONOR OF CLAIR DUCKHAM
AND THE DAYTON CYCLING CLUB

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, April 28 marked the 95th birthday of Dayton Cycling Club co-founder Clair Duckham of Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Duckham still rides his bike 44 miles every Sunday from his Dayton home to Troy, where he dines with his friends, the "Gray Wolves."

2001 marks the 40th anniversary year of the Dayton Cycling Club, founded in 1961 by Mr. Duckham and Horace Huffman. Today, the Dayton Cycling Club has over 700 members, and schedules rides for almost every day of the year.

I would like to salute Mr. Duckham on his birthday. His energy and vitality serve as an inspiration to all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDIKIDS
HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2001

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues Representatives Charlie Rangel, George Miller, Jim McDermott, John Conyers, Barney Frank, Sherrod Brown, John Tierney, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Dennis Kucinich, William Coyne, Karen Thurman, and John LaFalce today to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2001, which would provide universal health for our nation's children through a new Medicare-like national program with benefits tailored toward children. Senator Rockefeller is introducing a companion bill in the Senate.

Children are the least expensive segment of our population to insure, and maintaining their health is integral to the future of our society. We can not allow children to go without basic health care because they are uninsured. They will be more likely to require both avoidable hospitalizations and emergency care. In addition,

lack of health care as a child can lead to the need for more intensive and unnecessarily costly care later in life. Providing health care coverage to children impacts much more than just their health—it impacts their ability to learn, their ability to thrive, and their ability to become productive members of our society.

In the past several years, we have achieved a remarkable consensus to address the millions of children without health insurance in America. The result has been the expansion of Medicaid and the implementation of S-CHIP. But, despite these efforts, there are still over 10 million uninsured children. Clearly, much more can and should be done to guarantee the coverage of all children in the United States. It is unconscionable for our society to allow children to go without health care coverage because they are stuck in the gap between being eligible for public programs like Medicaid and their parents' being able to afford reliable coverage.

MediKids will provide health insurance for all children in the United States regardless of family income. The program is modeled after Medicare, but the benefits are tailored toward children. MediKids is financed like the Medicare Part B program with families paying a premium of 25% of the value of the program and the rest financed through general revenues. Premiums for MediKids would be collected each year when their parents' file their taxes. There is also a generous low-income subsidy for families phasing out at 300% of poverty.

Parents who have other coverage for their children—employer sponsored, individual marketplace, S-CHIP, Medicaid or whatever, could maintain that coverage. But, if something happens and that coverage is no longer available, their children could always rely on MediKids for coverage. If the family moves, MediKids follows the children across state lines. And, no longer would kids get caught with no health insurance coverage if their parents are climbing out of welfare.

Enrollment in MediKids is simple with no complicated paperwork or re-determination hoops to jump through. When children are born or immigrate to this country, the parents are automatically given a MediKids insurance card and information on the benefits. For those children who are already born, the bill authorizes presumptive eligibility and enrollment at outstationed sites such as Disproportionate Share Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers to simplify outreach efforts. Once the program is fully phased in no outreach will be needed because enrollment into the program will be automatic.

Our legislation is supported by both children's advocates and the doctors who care for children. Groups that support the legislation include: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Consumers Union, Families USA, the March of Dimes, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, the National Health Law Program, and NETWORK: a Catholic Social Justice Lobby. These providers and children's advocacy groups are united around the concept that children deserve access to continuous health insurance. MediKids meets that goal.

It's time we make this investment in the future of America by guaranteeing to all children

the health coverage they need to make a healthy start in life. In a country awash in surplus, there is no excuse for any of our children to grow up without health care coverage. A small investment in our children's health will go much further than a huge tax break for those who are already well off. I look forward to working with my colleagues and supporting organizations for the passage of the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2001.

Below is a short summary of the legislation:

ENROLLMENT

Every child born after 2002 is automatically enrolled in MediKids, and those children already born are enrolled over a 5-year phase-in as described below. Children who immigrate to this country are enrolled when they receive their immigration card. Materials describing the program's benefits, along with the MediKids insurance card, are issued to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child. Once enrolled, children remain enrolled in MediKids until they reach the age of 23.

Parents may choose to enroll their children in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or SCHIP. During periods of equivalent alternative coverage, the MediKids premium is waived. However, if a lapse in other coverage occurs, MediKids automatically covers the children's health insurance needs (and a premium will be owed for those months).

PHASE-IN

Year 1 (2003)=the child has not attained age 6
 Year 2 (2004)=the child has not attained age 11
 Year 3 (2005)=the child has not attained age 16
 Year 4 (2006)=the child has not attained age 21
 Year 5 (2007)=the child has not attained age 23

BENEFITS

The benefit package is based on the Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children, and includes prescription drugs. The benefits will be reviewed annually and updated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reflect age-appropriate benefits as needed with input from the pediatric community.

PREMIUMS, DEDUCTIBLES, AND COPAYS

Families up to 150 percent of poverty pay no premiums or copays. Families between 150 percent and 300 percent of poverty pay a graduated premium up to 5 percent of their income and receive a graduated refundable tax credit for cost sharing. Parents above 300 percent of poverty are responsible for a small premium, one-fourth of the annual average cost per child. Premiums are collected at income tax filing. There is no cost sharing for preventive and well childcare for any children.

FINANCING

Congress would need to determine initial funding. In future years, the Secretary of Treasury would develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the number of enrollees grows.

STATES

Medicaid and S-CHIP are not altered by MediKids. These programs remain the safety net for children until MediKids is fully implemented and appropriately modified to best serve our nation's children. Once MediKids is fully operational, Congress can revisit the role of these programs in covering children.

To the extent the states save money from the enrollment of children into MediKids,

states are required to maintain those funding levels in other programs and services directed at the Medicaid and S-CHIP populations. This can include expanding eligibility for Medicaid or offering additional services. For example, states could expand eligibility for parents and single individuals, increase payment rates to providers, or enhance quality in nursing homes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the District of Columbia Public Safety Reimbursement Act of 2001 with some urgency. The city has become the focal point not only of the large number of standard national events that come annually, but of an ever-increasing number of volatile, even violent and disruptive events. The District, which has recently revived from a serious fiscal crisis, will be seriously disadvantaged by the federal government itself if the city must continue to take on the financial burden of the national demonstrations of people who come to this city because of the federal presence. The bill is strongly supported by the District, especially by D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey, whose officers are deflected from fighting serious crime, and by Mayor Tony Williams, who must also commit the resources of many other agencies when national events occur here.

The annual contribution authorized by this bill would reimburse the District for the considerable services the Metropolitan Police Department (MDP) and other D.C. agencies provide every year to cover the many national events and activities that occur here because the District is the national seat of government. One need only consider some of the event and demonstrations held in recent years to understand what offloading similar federal costs would do to any large city. Examples are too numerous to detail, but here are some examples. Of the cities where the International Monetary Fund (IMF) demonstrations were held, the District was the only one where significant violence and disruptions did not occur. Last year, Congress was so impressed and relieved about the city's handling of the IMF demonstrations that it passed a version of the bill I am introducing today on a one-time basis and awarded the District \$4.4 million that partially reimbursed the city. Another prominent example points up how the cost of federal events has been transferred to the taxpayers of the District of Columbia. A ragtag gang of racists and anti-Semites calling themselves the American Nationalist Party (ANP) came to Washington in August 1999. The District government was left to pick up the tab of \$500,000 for police protection for the demonstrators and for the pro-human rights groups who rallied against the ANP on the Mall as well as at another location to counter the Nazis. The enormous expense had to be incurred because of the huge reaction to the announcement of the NAZI demonstration, even though only a half-dozen actually showed up. City police and agencies had to spend local taxpayer dollars in any case.

From the Million Man March to the federal Millennium event at the Lincoln Memorial, similar events, large and small, of every variety occur with great frequency and cannot proceed without the work of our police force and city agencies. The MPD is at the center, from the extensive logistical preparations to the on-duty time guarding and facilitating the event itself.

The right to assemble is a precious constitutional right. It is available to all and must be protected for all. However, those who come here seek the attention of the national government, not the D.C. government, and the cost should be borne, by American taxpayers, not D.C. taxpayers.

Further, residents see our police every time the President moves outside the White House complex because all traffic stops while our police line the streets to assure the President's safe passage. The Congress itself frequently uses our police department—from the annual State of the Union address, when officials and citizens converge on the Hill, to unusual events, such as the funeral following the tragic killing of the two Capitol Police officers almost three years ago. Cabinet officials, the President, and Members of the House and Senate, not to mention other federal officials and agencies all use the MPD as if it were a hometown police force they had bought and paid for. Actually they pay nothing. In countless ways on a daily basis, federal officials and tourists alike get excellent D.C. police protection free of charge. The District cannot continue to plan for ever larger numbers of demonstrations on an ad hoc basis with insufficient funds. The Congress needs to award the funds in advance to assure that the District budgets sufficient funds in advance to manage these events safely and professionally.

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

The second basis for a designated public safety contribution is historical precedent. Separate from the annual federal payment, the Congress has traditionally appropriated to the District additional funds for public safety purposes. Amounts have ranged from five million dollars to 30 million dollars, depending on the need and public safety issues arising in the particular year. Such funds have been appropriated for national events in other jurisdictions as well. Two years ago, Congress included five million dollars to help cover police costs during the WTO meeting in Seattle. Here in the District, there has always been a consistent congressional understanding that police work in the nation's capital necessarily involves the federal and national interest and deserves special and unique support. Thus, I

am asking the Congress to return to its original understanding of its responsibility for a share of public safety in this city, specifically for police protection for national and federal events by reimbursing the city for the cost of police protection. The bill requires the District's Chief Financial Officer to submit receipts for the cost of such protection to the D.C. Appropriations Subcommittee at the end of each fiscal year.

I want to emphasize that I do not introduce this bill simply to get extra money from the federal government, as desirable as that would be. I introduce this bill because these cost are beyond the control of the District and therefore create mounting pressures on the city's budget. It will be years before the District has a tax base of residents and businesses adequate to support the city through good, moderate, and bad economic times. The D.C. Public Safety Reimbursement Act builds on cost justification the Congress itself has long accepted. The annual amounts would be small and would not be a gift from the federal government. They would be payment for services rendered to the President, Congress and the federal government by the Metropolitan Police Department and the agencies of the D.C. government.

The matter has now become urgent. The District must be able to plan its budget as the Congress expects. This planning cannot be done if the Congress itself does not include an annual mechanism for reimbursement to the city for services rendered to protect the federal presence.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2001:
NURSES ARE THE TRUE SPIRIT
OF CARING

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY OF NEW YORK. Mr. Speaker, National Nurses Week is an established recognition event created to honor the nurses who give care to millions of patients daily. It is celebrated every year beginning May 6 and ending May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. The theme for Nurses Week 2001 is "Nurses are the True Spirit of Caring," which is incredibly appropriate given the role nurses play in the medical community.

As a nurse, I am lucky to be part of such a caring group of professionals. I think that many people used to look at nursing as if it was a "runner-up" profession. As if those who became nurses were the ones who couldn't "cut it" as doctors. Today we know that is not the case. Nursing care is just as important as physician care, and I feel like the American public finally recognizes it as such.

Yet nurses have another battle on their hands: the fight to become a financially competitive profession. A prominent national issue is the growing nursing shortage. There are various new career options for healthcare professionals today, prompting nurses to gradually move away from patient care and into fields with better pay, benefits and hours, and often less stress.

It is vital for the health of this nation that nursing field continue attracting experienced and educated candidates. In this day and age,

positive recognition needs to be coupled with competitive salaries and benefits. That is why I have cosponsored H.R. 1436, the Nurse Reinvestment Act of 2001. This legislation amends the Public Health Service Act, the Social Security Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to alleviate the nursing profession shortage.

Being a nurse takes heart. I think the last line of the Florence Nightingale pledge says it best: "With loyalty will I . . . devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care." It's a tough job, day in and day out, one that requires attention to others before attention to oneself. Whether you work in a hospital emergency room, a free inner-city clinic, or a small-town doctor's office, there is always one common bond: the commitment to provide the best possible care for your patients. Nurses are there to help the sick get better and to make sure the healthy stay that way.

Every month, I honor someone as Citizen of the Month for the Fourth Congressional District. This month, May 2001, I name all the nurses in Nassau County as Citizens of the Month. Representing Nassau nurses is Fran Heshlin of Nassau University Medical Center.

Fran has been a valued member of the surgical intensive care unit since her graduation from Nassau Community College in 1985 with a degree in Nursing. She is an excellent example of the competency, care and respect exuded by nurses. Fran is married to William Heshlin, and they have three children, Tara, Ryan and Erin. I congratulate Fran and her family, and all of Nassau's nurses on being named Citizens of the Month.

NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN
SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to make minor adjustments to the boundary of the National Park of American Samoa.

The U.S. territory of American Samoa is located approximately 2,400 miles southwest of Hawaii, and the National Park of American Samoa is located on three separate islands: Tutuila, Ofu and Ta'u. The Islands of Ofu and Olosega, portions of which would be added to the park under this legislation, are small islands which lie adjacent to each other, and are connected by a short bridge.

In 1998, I received requests from village chiefs from the Villages of Sili and Olosega, on the Island of Olosega, to include portions of their village lands within the National Park. The chiefs noted the important role the Park plays in preserving the natural and cultural resources of the territory, and indicated that the village councils believe there are significant cultural resources on village lands which warrant consideration for addition to the park.

I asked the National Park Service to conduct a study to determine if there were in fact resources on the island which warranted inclusion in the park. The Park Service completed a reconnaissance survey of the Island of Olosega and of a portion of the Island of Ofu, and reported on both. The Service concluded in part:

"The archaeological significance of [Olosega Island] cannot be understated. Sites on the ridgeline and terraces may offer an important opportunity for the study and interpretation of ancient Samoa. The number and density of star mounds (31), the great number of modified terraces (46) and home sites (14), the subsistence system, and the artifacts available are all important findings. This is particularly significant in that they were recorded in only 3 days of visual surveys on only a portion of the island."

The National Park of American Samoa is continuing to develop. Established in 1988 by Public Law 100-571, the Park took several years to become operational. Today, however, tourists are visiting and school teachers are using the Park as an educational resource to help the students learn more about Samoan history and culture, the environment, and ecological conservation. The Park is preserving the area within its boundaries, but as the population grows (there was an estimated 41 percent increase from 1990 to 2000), considerable pressure is being placed on those undeveloped areas. The additions proposed by the legislation I am introducing today will preserve important sections of the remaining natural cultural resources. Timing is important, and I hope to see this legislation enacted into law in the near future.

HONORING DR. MUNR KAZMIR

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to charity and selfless devotion to others. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend, Munr Kazmir of Fort Lee, New Jersey, who is being honored by the Rabbinical College of America with an honorary law degree.

As CEO of Quality Health Care and Direct Meds, success has followed Munr to every project he has embarked upon. And he has shared his success with others in the Jewish community both in the United States and throughout the world.

There is only one word that can be used to describe how my friend Munr lives his life, and it is a word that has a different meaning to each who speaks it. The word is "tzedakah."

Giving tzedakah is considered in the Jewish tradition to be a religious obligation, a mitzvah. When it comes to defining this word, I agree with Rabbi Avi Weinstein, who said, "Tzedakah, the Jewish term for helping the poor, is often translated as 'charity.' However, the Hebrew root 'zedek' is more closely translated as 'justice' or 'fairness.'"

What I have found most touching about Dr. Munr Kazmir is that in everything he does, there is always a sense of justice and fairness that shines through. His work is truly extraordinary and stretches from our home state to our homeland. He is active in the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson, and he has also worked tirelessly for the Aleh Foundation which benefits the disabled children of Israel and Lubavitch Chabad houses around the world. He has also as many of you know supported and counseled countless numbers of community leaders on the local, state, national, and international level. He has

been honored throughout the New York Metropolitan area, in Washington and Tel Aviv.

Munr is also a forward-thinking person who never loses sight of the future: our young people. Born into a culture where he did not have the opportunity to receive a Jewish education, he has been a tireless advocate to make sure other children have the chance to learn about their Jewish heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate my dear friend Munr Kazmir, on the occasion of this well deserved tribute from the Rabbinical College of America, and wish him long life, good health and happiness in the years to come.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF THE
LATE ROBERT E. BURTON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my final respects to Robert E. Burton. Bob's family and friends will gather on Friday to remember him, and it is with great sadness and deep respect that I share with my colleagues the following words from his obituary in the San Francisco Chronicle:

Robert E. Burton, a prison teacher, public servant, sailor and middle brother in San Francisco's most powerful political dynasty, died Sunday at California Pacific Medical Center at the age of 72.

From the time Mr. Burton entered the Navy at the close of World War II, he almost never stopped working for the public. He was a merchant seaman, a teacher at San Quentin prison for nearly two decades and a member of various state boards and commissions.

But among the three Burton brothers who shaped California politics for several decades, he was the least publicly visible and the least involved in the machinery of politics.

Mr. Burton's older brother, Phillip Burton, was a powerful U.S. representative and legendary political tactician who died in 1983. His younger brother—whom Mr. Burton still called "the kid" even into his 60s—is Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, the state's most powerful lawmaker.

"Everyone used to say he was the nice brother," Sen. Burton said yesterday. "And I think innately he was the smartest of the three of us."

Mr. Burton was born in 1928 and lived much of his life in the same Sloat Boulevard house in which he was raised. But friends said his greatest memory was somewhere else: a sailing trip across the Pacific in a 30-foot boat, which he took with three friends after he left the Navy in 1947.

"He was fearless," Sen. Burton said. "It was a hell of an adventure."

When he returned from Tahiti, Mr. Burton joined the merchant marine as an able-bodied seaman, then got a degree in history from San Francisco State College when he decided to settle back in the city.

Mr. Burton then took a job teaching in the loneliest, most dangerous place in the state—the bowels of San Quentin State Prison. It was there that he often divided his time between African American militants and white supremacists, teaching them how to read and write.

"He would tell people stories and start with, 'When I was in the joint,' like he had

done 20 years of hard time," Sen. Burton said. "I guess at the time there weren't many jobs, so he took it. He just loved it, and the cons loved him."

When Mr. Burton retired from the prison in 1976, members from both militant groups told him there was a "hit" out on him. But this was a good thing, he was informed: Anyone threatening or harming Mr. Burton would face their wrath. He was protected.

"He connected with the guys, and they connected with him," said Bill O'Brien of San Francisco, a longtime friend. "It was a passion for him. He wanted them to learn; It really wasn't about having a job."

Mr. Burton was a lifelong Democrat and founding member of the San Francisco Democratic League. He was co-chairman of the voter registration efforts for the California Democratic Party from 1962 to 1982.

At the time of his death, Mr. Burton was a commissioner on the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and a member of the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees.

He also had served for 15 years on the prison Industry Board and on two parole boards for the state. Former Gov. Jerry Brown appointed him to the adult parole board in 1976, after two commissioners were removed for voting to release Robert Kennedy's killer, Sirhan Sirhan.

Friends said Mr. Burton loved the San Francisco Giants, gambling and playing bridge. Ken Harrington of San Francisco, a longtime friend, said he "didn't know a single person when you mentioned Bob Burton who didn't get a smile on their face."

"He was, at least, the most outwardly compassionate of the three brothers," Harrington said. "John doesn't want anyone to know his soft spots, but Bob kind of wore it on his sleeve."

Mr. Burton is survived by his brother, Sen. John Burton, and a niece, San Francisco Public Defender Kimiko Burton-Cruz. His wife of more than four decades, Shirley Burton, preceded him in death.

Bob Burton was a man of the people. He never asked for recognition or reward for his work and was rarely in the public eye, but his life touched the lives of so many others. Bob joined his brothers Phillip and John in typifying the true Burton tradition of helping the disadvantaged. It is my honor to pay tribute to Bob and to express my appreciation for his life of service and for his friendship. My thoughts and prayers are with his brother, John, and niece, Kimi.

TRIBUTE TO MARY HOLDSAMBECK
OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and honor Mrs. Mary Holdsambeck on the receipt of the Madison County Democratic Women's Division, "Joan Carpenter Cashin Lifetime Achievement Award." Today's recognition sheds light on the years of good deeds Mary has accomplished.

She has been a vital leader in the Madison County Democratic Women since she moved to Huntsville. She has served two terms as Chairman of the group and has been involved in state politics as a member of the State Coalition for passing the Equal Rights Amendment and in the current Alabama Constitutional Re-

form Movement. She has even been a candidate, running in a special election for the State of Alabama House of Representatives.

However, Mary's commitment to her community is not limited to the political arena. She played a pivotal role in helping to organize Hope Place, now Crisis Services, serving abused women and families. She has also contributed her time and manifold talents to Trinity United Methodist Church, the Wesley Foundation and the American Association of University Women.

I believe this is a fitting honor for one who has given so much to the betterment of our community and our nation. I commend Mary for her lifetime of achievement and I want to express my sincere gratitude for her bold work for the Democratic Party and the patriotic ideals she believes in.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, this morning I was testifying before the Senate Government Affairs Committee on the need for election reform and I was unable to reach the House floor in time for rollcall vote No. 97, a motion to adjourn. I would like to state that I intended to support this motion and would have voted 'yea.'

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to share my Senate testimony with my colleagues in the House.

STATEMENT TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM, MAY 3, 2001

Mr. Chairman, Senator LIEBERMAN and Distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to detail the election problems that occurred in the City of St. Louis during the November 2000 Presidential Elections and to add my voice to those calling for meaningful and comprehensive election reform.

Last November's general election in the city of St. Louis exposed a voting system that is riddled with serious election procedural mistakes; major deficiencies in poll worker training; obsolete and inadequate equipment; and gross errors in maintaining accurate voter registers that resulted in the disenfranchisement of thousands of qualified voters in my district.

These factors led to an election conducted amid widespread voter chaos at polling places throughout the city—the result of a record voter turnout and the arbitrary and capricious removal—by the St. Louis Board of Elections—of over 50,000 qualified voters from the city's active voter register.

When these voters—most of whom were African American—arrived at the polls to cast their votes, they were told by election officials they were not on the active voter register and that they would not be allowed to vote at their normal voting precinct.

Due to inadequate communication between polling precincts and the Central Election office, election workers were unable to verify the eligibility of these voters.

Additionally, poll workers had not received training for dealing with these situations, so they ultimately directed all of the affected voters to go to the Central Election Board office downtown to verify their status.

The resulting confusion at the Central Election office led to a near riot as thousands of eligible voters attempted to cast their vote, some to no avail.

To make matters worse, while the Election Board was clearly unprepared for the massive voter turnout, they were also slow to react to the growing voter confusion they created as the day progressed.

An equally troubling was the Election Board officials' resistance to reasonable remedies designed to ensure that every qualified voter be afforded the opportunity to cast his or her vote without obstruction.

Clearly, such a situation cannot and must not be tolerated. Such conditions not only create confusion among voters; they also threaten the integrity of the Electoral process itself.

It is imperative that federal, state and local officials join in a common effort to reform how we conduct our elections. The nation should never again be subjected to the voting travesty of the last presidential election. The system is broken and it is time that we admit it and work towards common sense solutions.

First, we must take legislative action to provide the necessary funds for modern, state-of-the-art uniform voting equipment, paying particular attention to lower income communities that have long been burdened with outdated and obsolete voting equipment.

And to the maximum extent possible, we must mandate uniform ballot designs and eliminate the current 40-year old punchcard system.

We must also require that local election officials develop comprehensive training standards for their workers and hold them accountable for implementing such training.

Lastly, and most importantly, we must mandate election procedure reform to ensure that qualified voters are not arbitrarily or inadvertently removed from active voter rolls.

This was a major failure in the City of St. Louis and I suspect this situation is widespread across the country.

Voters should not continue to suffer disenfranchisement because election officials are unwilling or unable to safeguard their fundamental right to vote.

If we fail to act now, we will not only inflict further damage to the democratic process, we will also fail in our sworn duty to protect and defend the fundamental rights of every citizen.

fornia and I, rise today to recognize the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 180 as this organization celebrates its 100th anniversary.

One hundred years ago on May 6, 1901, Local 180 was chartered by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Since its inception, Local 180 has been integrally connected to shipbuilding at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. Electrical workers helped build the 513 ships, that were launched at Mare Island between 1859 and 1970, from the Saginaw, a wooden hulled steamer, to the Drum, a nuclear powered submarine.

When war was declared with Germany on April 6, 1917, union workers helped turn Mare Island and Vallejo into a commercial hub that could support the war effort.

In the years following World War I, no ships were launched at Mare Island and the workers turned to use their skills to help build the Carquinez Bridge.

In the 1930s, shipbuilding began again at Mare Island. The union shop was reestablished and wages and benefits that had been lost during the previous decade were renegotiated.

During World War II, shipbuilding and union activity at Mare Island escalated. Union members are proud that 95% of all electrical work that directly supported the war effort nationally was performed by the IBEW under union shop conditions.

In the second half of the 20th Century, Local 180 members helped construct Monticello Dam, the second Carquinez Bridge, the Exxon Refinery, the Benecia Industrial Park, and the Anheuser Busch Brewery as well as the country's nuclear submarine fleet at Mare Island.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of its rich history and traditions, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor today this pioneering union local and its members who have made an immeasurable difference in the lives of working families and the community in Napa and Solano Counties.

make more equitable the tax treatment of settlement trusts established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

This bill is the product of a unique bipartisan effort over the past two Congresses. Joining me as cosponsors of the bill are—the Chairman of the Committee on Resources, Congressman JAMES HANSEN, the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, Congressman NICK RAHALL, and the former Ranking Minority Member of that Committee who cosponsored this legislation in the last Congress, Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

Additionally, I am honored to join with a number of other members of Congress in urging the enactment of this bill. The cosponsors include Ways and Means Committee Members, Subcommittee Chairman AMO HUGHTON, Ways and Means Committee Ranking Minority Member CHARLES RANGEL, Rep. DAVE CAMP, Rep. J.D. HAYWORTH, Rep. SCOTT MCINNIS, and Rep. MARK FOLEY.

Colleagues from the Native American Caucus who are cosponsoring this bill are: the Co-chair of the Caucus along with Mr. HAYWORTH, Rep. DALE KILDEE, Rep. NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Rep. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, Rep. MARK UDALL, Rep. FRANK PALLONE, Rep. PATRICK KENNEDY, Mrs. BONO, Mr. FROST and Mr. STUPAK.

This bill would remedy several key deficiencies in the current settlement trust provision enacted in a 1987 amendment to ANCSA. That provision authorized Alaska Native Corporations organized pursuant to ANCSA to establish, from their own resources, settlement trust funds to "promote the health, education, and welfare . . . and preserve the heritage and culture of Natives." Unfortunately, the Settlement Trust tax provision in existing law poses several significant impediments to the establishment and long-term maintenance of Settlement Trusts, and therefore, to the fulfillment of their purposes under ANCSA.

A version of this bill was included by the Ways and Means Committee in legislation last Congress that was vetoed and a version of it passed the Senate as well. This current version of the bill we are introducing today has been vetoed over the past several years with the tax writing committees of Congress in the House and Senate, the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Department of Treasury. It addresses the key deficiencies in the current law. I urge that it be included in tax-related legislation considered by the House in this session of the 107th Congress and that our colleagues join the co-sponsors of the bill in supporting this meritorious legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 180

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of Cali-

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO SIMPLIFY AND MAKE MORE EQUITABLE THE TAX TREATMENT OF SETTLEMENT TRUSTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to simplify and