

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SIKH ACTIVIST MANN SHOULD
APOLOGIZE FOR THREAT ISSUED
BY A LEADER OF HIS PARTY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 29, a number of Sikh leaders got together for Khalistan Day celebrations in Stockton, California. Overall, the event was very successful and it featured a number of outstanding speakers, including Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, and Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, the Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs. Unfortunately, something that happened to Dr. Sekhon seriously marred this otherwise successful, celebratory event.

According to Burning Punjab, an online news service, a leading supporter of Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann made a "death threat" against Dr. Sekhon after Dr. Sekhon strongly criticized Mr. Mann. Most of us in this House have been subjected to strong criticism but we have never threatened our critics nor would we permit our supporters to do so. That is not the democratic way.

Mr. Mann, a former member of the Punjab police who has become an Indian politician, has been silent on this event. If Mr. Mann wants to be taken seriously as a leader in a democratic state, he must condemn the threat that his supporter made and issue an apology on behalf of his party to Dr. Sekhon. Otherwise, people will see that there is no difference between Mr. Mann and other Indian politicians.

The Indian government's oppression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other religious minorities in India has been very well documented. Has that oppression now extended to an effort to suppress their critics in free countries like ours?

TRIBUTE TO BILL WALSH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bill Walsh, the vice president and general manager of the San Francisco 49ers, who has been named San Jose State University's 2001 Tower Award winner. The Tower Award is presented annually to an individual "who has made a significant contribution to the university community through his or her outstanding work."

Bill Walsh has twice graduated from San Jose State University: once with a bachelor's degree in education in 1955, and then with a master's degree in the same field in 1959. Mr. Walsh began his coaching career as an assistant at Monterey Peninsula Junior College

in 1955, before heading back to San Jose State as a graduate assistant in 1956.

After stints at the University of California and Stanford, Bill Walsh joined the Oakland Raiders as the offensive backfield coach. His illustrious career includes coaching slots with the Bengals and Chargers organizations.

Hired in 1979 as the head coach, Bill Walsh coached the San Francisco 49ers to three Super Bowl championships in the 1980s and was a 1993 inductee into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Mr. Walsh retired from active coaching in the NFL in 1988 with a career record of 102 wins, 63 losses. Bill Walsh now serves as an assistant to the coaching staff of the 49ers.

Bill Walsh was one of only 14 coaches in the history of pro football to be elected to the NFL Hall of Fame, and the first coach in team history to reach the 100-win plateau. He was twice named NFL Coach of the Year and was later named NFL Coach of the Decade for the 1980s. He is the author of two books, "Finding the Winning Edge" and "Building A Champion."

San Jose State University president Robert Caret said of Bill Walsh, "[his] role as a coach, an author and as an executive in the industry has brought a new level of professionalism to the sports industry. It is a great source of pride that he is an alumnus of the university." I congratulate Bill Walsh on this truly prestigious award, and thank him for his support of San Jose State University. My family and I wish him the best.

ONE SWAP FUND TRANSACTION CONTINUES TO AVOID LAW

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I introduced legislation in the previous Congress to eliminate a tax avoidance technique available only to the very wealthy. This technique involves the use of swap funds. Today I am introducing this legislation again.

Legislation to shut down this particular practice was enacted in 1967, 1976, and again in 1997. In 1967 Congress enacted a law to prevent swap funds from being transacted in the form of a corporation, as was popular at the time. This led to the swap fund transaction being resurrected in the form of a partnership, which was closed down in 1976. Subsequently, the industry developed methods to get around both laws by manipulating the 80 percent test for investment companies. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 closed these transactions down by broadening the definition of financial assets that are taken into account for purposes of the 80 percent test. Obviously, the point here is that three times Congress has acknowledged the tax avoidance potential of this transaction, and three times Congress has made a public policy decision to close this shelter down. And three times Congress has failed.

Swap funds are designed to permit individuals with large blocks of appreciated stock to diversify their portfolio without recognizing gain and paying tax. In this transaction, a fund is established into which wealthy individuals with large blocks of undiversified stock transfer their stock. In exchange for the transferred stock, these individuals receive an equivalent interest in the funds' diversified portfolio. In effect, these individuals have now diversified their holdings by mixing their shares of stock with different shares of stock from other individuals, without having to sell that stock and pay tax on the gain like ordinary Americans.

The swap fund transaction is complicated, and is limited to individuals with large blocks of stock. For example, one offering was limited to subscriptions of \$1 million, although the general partner retained the right to accept subscriptions of lesser amounts. This, however, does not mean an individual with only a million dollars in stock could invest in the swap fund. In order to avoid Securities and Exchange Commission registration requirements, these transactions are often limited to sophisticated investors who under SEC regulations, according to a 1998 prospectus, must have total investment holdings in excess of \$5 million.

As outlined above, current law tries to stop swap funds involving a corporation or a partnership that is in investment company. An investment company is a corporation or partnership where the contribution of assets results in a diversification of the investor's portfolio, and more than 80 percent of the assets of which are defined by law as includable for purposes of this test.

In the most current form of the swap fund transaction, that limitation is avoided by holding at least 21 percent of assets in preferred and limited interests in limited partnerships holding real estate. In fact, the purpose of the fund is clearly identified by the prospectus, which states that "the value of the Private Investments will constitute at least 21% of the total value of the Fund's portfolio, so that the Fund will satisfy the applicable requirements of the Code and the Treasury Regulations governing the nonrecognition of gain for federal income tax purposes in connection with the contribution of appreciated property to a partnership." As in past years, the bill I am introducing addresses the specific transaction being used; that is, the bill would eliminate the latest avoidance technique by providing that such investments would be treated as financial assets for purposes of the 80 percent test.

The second part of this bill at long last recognizes the inadequacy of the above approach, given its 32 year record of failure. This section states that any transfer of marketable stock or securities to any entity would be a taxable event, if that entity is required to be registered as an investment company under the securities laws, or would be required to but for the fact that interests in the entity are only offered to sophisticated investors, or if that entity is formed or availed of for purposes of allowing investors to engage in tax-free exchanges of stock for diversified portfolios.

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

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

The effective date of this legislation is for transfers after date of Committee action.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Ways and Means regardless of the party in charge has traditionally been concerned with tax transactions constructed for the very few the sole purpose of which is to avoid paying tax. I believe the Committee continues to hold this concern and look forward to working with the Members to enact this law later this year.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
MR. DICK JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Mr. Dick Johnson has been selected for recognition by the Muskingum Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America to receive the distinguished honor of the "Commitment to Excellence Award"; and,

Whereas, Mr. Johnson has devoted his efforts to providing his community with exemplarily service in his positions on the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America, the Muskingum College Board of Directors, and in the Wilds Board of Directors; and,

Whereas, he has served his community as a supporter of medical research; and,

Therefore, Members of Congress, with a real sense of gratitude and pride, join me in commending Mr. Dick Johnson as he has served his community above and beyond all expectations and has truly made a difference in the lives of the people of Ohio. I am proud to call him a constituent.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that is very important to me and many New Jersey families—the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

As a scientist and former teacher, I have spent many years working in post-secondary education, and I have seen how fortunate we are. We have some of the best colleges and universities in the world here in the U.S. and in New Jersey. However, with the increasing costs of higher education, our high quality colleges are becoming inaccessible to many.

According to the College Board, since 1980, the price of a college education has been rising between two and three times as fast as the Consumer Price Index.

In fact, tuition and fees for a four-year college education have risen 115 percent over inflation since the 1980–81 school year, while median household income has risen only 20 percent.

What is most frustrating is that despite the economic prosperity many families have enjoyed over the past decade, the cost of a college education continues to rise at a rate faster than these families can afford.

As a result, more and more families are forced to borrow money to meet tuition costs.

In fact, according to the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, nearly 80 percent of their full time, dependent undergraduates receive some sort of financial assistance.

This shift from grant-based assistance programs to loan-based assistance programs increases the financial burden of attending college because students and families must then assume interest costs, which can add thousands to the total cost of tuition. In fact, one of my staffers tells me that he must pay over \$9,000 in student loan interest a year.

We must change this by making college more affordable for our students and their families.

In years past, Congress has sought to address college affordability by providing a HOPE Scholarship tax credit of up to \$1,500 for the first two years of expenses and a Lifetime Learning tax credit of up to \$1,000 for the third and fourth years as well as for graduate school.

In addition, for low-income families, Congress has increased funding to \$8.75 billion for Pell Grants, a need-based grant program that will help send four million Americans to college this year.

While this is a good start, much more should be done.

Under current law, taxpayers cannot deduct higher education expenses from their taxes, unless the expenses meet a very narrow definition as "work-related".

In addition, families living in high cost states like New Jersey or California do not receive the same benefits as those living in lower cost states because of unfair income limitations. Finally, a family who invests in an Education IRA cannot use the savings for a child's college education and also receive the benefits of the HOPE or Lifetime Learning tax credits.

I am proud to introduce the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act (HEAFA), which will make higher education more affordable by allowing higher education expenses to be tax deductible.

HEAFA would allow families who take the HOPE tax credit to deduct up to the next \$8,000 in tuition expenses not covered by the credit, capping the deduction at \$15,000 in tuition expenses in one year if a family has more than one child in college. Families ineligible for the Hope Scholarship, due to its income limitations, would be able to deduct \$5,000 of tuition costs.

The bill would also increase the Lifetime Learning credit to 20 percent of \$10,000 of tuition, from the current 20 percent of \$5,000, and provide families with the choice of taking either the credit or a deduction on up to \$10,000 of tuition, \$5,000 if a family earns more than \$120,000 a year.

HEAFA would raise the phase-out limit for the HOPE credit to \$60,000 for singles and \$120,000 for couples, allowing more families to benefit.

In order to ensure that savings go to the intended beneficiaries, families and students, the bill directs an annual study to examine whether the federal income tax incentives to provide education assistance affect higher education tuition rates.

Finally, to address the needs of low-income families, the bill expresses the sense of the Senate that the maximum annual Pell Grant should be increased to \$4,700 per student.

College is the best investment of a lifetime. We must take steps to ensure that higher edu-

cation is within the reach of all Americans so that they are prepared to meet the challenges they will face in our increasingly competitive world.

We must make it easier for families to afford college, and we can do so this year by allowing college tuition and other expenses to be tax deductible.

I urge my colleagues to support me in this important bill. We can all agree that these are tax cuts we truly need.

TRIBUTE TO COACH PARKER
DYKES

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished constituent of mine, Coach Parker Dykes. I am proud to share with my colleagues in Congress that Coach Dykes was recently elected President of the National Junior College Football Coaches Association. He has been head football coach at Jones County Jr. College for eight seasons. Coach Dykes has been actively involved in football for 36 years of his life, coaching at various colleges and high schools throughout Mississippi and the country. His successes in football have brought him many accolades including being repeatedly named "National Coach of the Year".

He is happily married to the former Jane White of Mendenhall, Mississippi, and they have 3 sons together: Ker, Rick, and Mike. They also are the proud grandparents of two young boys who would be fortunate to be coached by as fine a man as their grandfather.

One of Coach Dykes' passions is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, of which he has been a member since 1964. He fondly notes that his greatest personal achievement was when he was selected for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Mississippi Influence Award.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Dykes has been a wonderful influence in many young athletes' lives and it is truly a pleasure and a privilege to have him as a constituent. We need more people like Coach Dykes to inspire the children in our communities.

NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate National Teacher's Day and to recognize the remarkable educators who have dedicated themselves to educating the students of our country.

Since my election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, I have had an opportunity to visit many schools in Minnesota and in every school I have found an amazing group of men and women dedicated to preparing our children for the future. As they create new and innovative ways of teaching,

these educators are true professionals committed to their task while facing the difficult challenges of today's world.

I commend the teachers of my district for their dedication and perseverance in inspiring our nation's youth to achieve their goals and dreams. I ask everyone to join me.

RECOGNITION OF COL. RUSSELL B. HALL'S 26 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Russell B. Hall's twenty-six years of service in the United States Army. Col. Hall will be retiring this year and his extensive experience will be hard to replace. He currently serves as the Chief of the Resources Integration Office in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installations Management. Col. Hall also serves as the Executive of the Installation Program and Evaluation Group for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

Colonel Russell B. Hall was born in Roswell, New Mexico on January 19, 1953. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and a Master's Degree in Operations Research from George Mason University. Colonel Hall was a Distinguished Military Graduate and received a Regular Army commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps. His military education includes the Artillery Basic and Advance Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

He has held a wide variety of key command and staff positions before his current assignment as the Chief of the Resource Integration Office and Executive of the Installation Program Evaluation Group for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. Other key assignments include duty as the Secretary of the General Staff of the 1st Cavalry Division; Executive Officer of the 3rd Battalion 82nd Field Artillery; Brigade Fire Support Officer, 2nd Brigade (Blackjack), Fort Hood, Texas, and Charlie Battery Commander 1st Battalion 77th Field Artillery, Executive Officer of the Training and Doctrine (TRADOC) Operations and Analysis Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He has served as the Commander of the 409th Base Support Battalion, Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, Germany. After command, Col. Hall completed his tour as the Deputy Director of Training in the Directorate of Training, USAREUR DCSOPS and Seventh Army Training Command.

Col. Hall's awards and decorations include: The Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Saudi-Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Southwest Asia Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Ribbon. He also wears Master Parachutist wings and the Ranger Tab.

Colonel Hall is married to the former Alexia Rowe of Tulsa, Oklahoma. They have one child, a daughter, Rachel.

Our nation owes a large debt to Col. Hall for his service and wishes him good luck with his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIVE OUTSTANDING WORCESTER COMMUNITY LEADERS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding individuals in Worcester, Massachusetts. These community leaders have been selected to receive awards from the Worcester Democratic City Committee at their annual JFK Dinner on Saturday, May 12.

Julie Komenos is receiving the John F. Kennedy Female Democrat of the Year Award. Julie was born and has lived in Worcester her entire life. She makes her home with her husband of 28 years, Michael and her two sons Michael 3rd and Kristopher. Julie is best known for her work at Abby's House, where she started the Day-Center Program, served on the Board of Directors as a member for 2 years, and served as President of the Board for 5 years. She is presently on staff at Abby's House. Women's issues are her passion. Working at Abby's House gives Julie the opportunity to work on the front lines with women and their struggles.

Gary Vecchio will receive the John F. Kennedy Male Democrat of the Year Award. Gary has earned this honor as a result of his extensive and varied service to the Worcester Democratic Party and the city as a whole. Gary's political activism began in 1977 with his first election as a delegate to the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. Gary has also served on the Worcester Area Leadership Association, the Eastside Community Development Corporation, the Worcester Citizens Advisory Council, and as chairman of the Shrewsbury Street Advisory Committee. In 1996, Gary received citations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the State Senate, and the Governor's Council for his work as President of Worcester State Hospital's Board of Trustees.

Paul Pezzella is being honored with the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award. Paul is a partner of A.D.S. Ventures, Inc. Paul has over 20 years experience in government affairs and national, state and local electoral politics. He has worked with former State Senator Gerard D'Amico, Governor Michael Dukakis and many many others. In 1985, Paul was elected to the first-ever Worcester Charter Commission. He was the architect of the Elections Commission and led the fight to eliminate the at-large nine member Council and replace it with more district representation. Paul has recently been nominated as an Incorporator for the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Leonard Ciuffredo will receive the Edward M. Kennedy Labor Award. Lenny is a lifelong resident of Worcester's East Side and learned very early on about the values and ideals of working men and women. Lenny has been active in a large number of community affairs, and has especially enjoyed working with young people and encouraging them to get involved in the political process. In addition to his labor activities, Lenny has served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Central Massachusetts, the Brown Square Crime Watch Group and as a member of Our Lady

of Mt. Carmel Parish. Lenny and his wife Juliann have two children, Bianca and Geena-Maria.

Stacey DeBoise Luster will receive the Barbara Jordan Award, named for the late Congresswoman from Texas. Stacey was recently appointed Director of Human Resources for the Worcester Public Schools Manager. Previously, she was the first woman of color to be elected to the Worcester City Council. Stacey also served as the Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs at Quinsigamond Community College. Stacey is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Worcester Art Museum. Recently, she was named one of "40 under 40" by the Worcester Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of these outstanding citizens for their dedication to making the Worcester area a better place for all its families, and I congratulate them for these well-deserved accolades. I know all of my colleagues join me in paying tribute to 5 fine examples of community involvement.

A TRIBUTE TO BILL GEORGE UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MEDTRONIC

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill George, who recently retired as the Chief Executive Officer of Medtronic, Inc.

Medtronic is one of the leading medical technology companies in the world. This is due in large part to the leadership of Bill George, its COO since 1989 and CEO since 1991. During his tenure, Bill George built Medtronic into a company that employs 25,000 people in 120 countries, with revenues of more than \$5 billion.

But Bill is more than a successful businessman. He is a policy visionary who believes in patient centered care, which is enabled by medical technology. I want to single out the Patient Summit he hosted in Washington, D.C. last year, which encouraged a dialogue between patients, policymakers and advocacy groups about the role patients can play in directing their own health care.

Under his leadership, the Medtronic Foundation has reached out to patient groups in unprecedented ways, giving \$12 million last year alone to non-profit organizations in communities worldwide.

As a fellow Minnesotan, I've watched Bill's personal efforts in the community with much admiration. His efforts as chair of the board of the United Way of Minneapolis and vice chair of the board of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, as well as his work on the boards of the American Red Cross and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, are just a few of the highlights.

Mr. Speaker, I highly commend Bill George for his visionary and innovative leadership. He has taken a great company and made it better with his strong commitment to bettering the lives of patients. Bill's integrity and leadership

qualities have made him a great role model for many aspiring leaders, and he is a true inspiration to many.

Bill George will be sorely missed by Medtronic, but the Twin Cities community will continue to benefit from all that he does for so many. I applaud Bill for a stellar career at Medtronic, and I wish him and his wonderful wife, Penny, and their family continued success and happiness in future years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 100, I put my voting card in and it did not register. Had it registered, I would have voted "Yea".

CONGRATULATING EISLEBEN
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH ON CELEBRATING THE
ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I stand before the House today to extend my congratulations to Eiselben Evangelical Lutheran Church as the congregation celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

Named after the town in Germany where Dr. Martin Luther, the founder of the Lutheran Church was born, Eiselben Lutheran Church was formed in 1848 in what is now known as Scott City. Formally organized in 1951, the first congregation was comprised of just 19 members gathered together in a home. But although small in numbers, they were large in faith. 1848 was a meaningful year. It was that year the first baptism was performed in the church and it was that same year the first communion was celebrated on the Sunday following Easter.

Slowly the congregation grew, and steadily the numbers rose to a point where in 1855, the church was fortunate enough to welcome the arrival of its first permanent pastor. A short time later, a log building was erected as the first house of worship in 1867 and a second facility was added in 1897—a school building.

Other timely and memorable events followed, including the organization of what is now the Lutheran Youth Fellowship in 1893. The church construction was completed in 1913 and the Ladies Aid Society was organized that year as well. Finally, Sunday School, the education program for the youth in the church community, began in 1922.

The church has seen many changes during its colorful 150-year history. Twenty-five pastors have dedicated their time and energy to growing this spiritual community including the current Rev. Robert Azinger.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special occasion, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Eisleben Lutheran Church on its 150th anniversary. May the blessings they

have enjoyed thus far continue so that they might remain strong and solid for years to come.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN DAMASCUS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, during the historic visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to Syria earlier this week, Syria's new president Bashar al-Assad, in a speech welcoming the Pope in Damascus, spewed forth the most vile and vicious anti-Semitism. He said that the Jews "tried to kill the principles of all religions with the same mentality in which they betrayed Jesus Christ and the same way they tried to betray and kill the Prophet Muhammad."

This venomous remark was in stark contrast to the theme that the Pope voiced during his visit to Syria—peace and understanding. This was reflected in his visit to the Great Omayyad Mosque in Damascus, the first visit by any Pope to a Moslem house of worship. His Holiness on that occasion called for a "new attitude of understanding and respect" between Muslims, Christians and Jews.

The Wall Street Journal yesterday editorially expressed the concern for the response from President Bashar Assad and others in Syria. "But instead of being met by reciprocal gestures, Sheik Kuffaro, with Syrian President Bashar Assad, used the Pope's visit to showcase their own intolerance. The Sheik delivered a speech urging Christians and Muslims to line up against 'Jews and Zionists.' Assad helpfully reminded the Pope of the role played by Jews in the death of Christ. And from Syria's state-controlled media came the line that Israelis were 'enemies of God and faith.'"

The Journal also noted that vicious anti-Semitism which the Pope's visit brought out in his hosts is certainly not limited to Syria alone. The editorial quoted an Arab school text: "Perhaps Allah brought the Jews to our land so that their demise would be here," reads a characteristic passage of a Palestinian textbook for children. In Egypt, popular columnist Ahmad Ragab recently wrote, "Thanks to Hitler, blessed memory, who on behalf of the Palestinians, revenged in advance, against the most vile criminals on the face of this earth." The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a notorious anti-Semitic tract penned in czarist Russia, remains in wide circulation throughout the Middle East."

Mr. Speaker, how much at odds with the purpose and message of the Papal visit were the vile words of President Assad. He used the occasion of the Papal visit to throw gasoline on the flames of anti-Semitism at a time when this region of the world is most in need of soothing remarks and racial healing. I welcome the condemnation of the statements of President Bashar Assad that have appeared in the large number of American newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, The Washington Post published an excellent editorial yesterday criticizing Bashar Assad's vicious anti-Semitic, outrageous and inflammatory statements. I ask that this editorial be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read it.

VILE WORDS

Editorial, The Washington Post, Tuesday,
May 8, 2001

SYRIAN PRESIDENT Bashar Assad on Saturday offered a vivid, if vile, demonstration of why he and his government are unworthy of respect or good relations with the United States or any other democratic country. Greeting Pope John Paul II in Damascus, Mr. Assad launched an attack on Jews that may rank as the most ignorant and crude speech delivered before the pope in his two decades of travel around the world. Comparing the suffering of the Palestinians to that of Jesus Christ, Mr. Assad said that the Jews "tried to kill the principles of all religions with the same mentality in which they betrayed Jesus Christ and the same way they tried to betray and kill the Prophet Muhammad." With that libel, the Syrian president stained both his country and the pope, who so far has failed to adequately respond. He also confirmed something about himself that has become increasingly clear during the months since he inherited the presidency from his father: This 35-year-old naïf is headed in a dangerous direction.

John Paul's decision to visit Syria and to become the first pontiff to visit a mosque offered Mr. Assad a remarkable opportunity. The former ophthalmologist has been struggling to establish himself as a credible leader both in and outside of Syria, and could have drawn on the pope's enormous prestige by welcoming his latest attempt to reach out to another faith. But Mr. Assad seems to have little understanding of the world outside Damascus, or how he can productively relate to it. Since taking office, he has abandoned his father's uneven efforts to reach out to Israel and the West and instead taken a series of militant and provocative steps, ranging from increased support for the Hezbollah militia in southern Lebanon to the illegal export of hundreds of millions of dollars of Iraqi oil through a Syrian pipeline. At an Arab conference in March he proposed the reinstatement of a boycott against Israel, saying the Israelis were "worse than the Nazis." The Arab leaders wisely ignored his proposal, while his rhetoric drew widespread condemnation.

Having evidently learned nothing from that episode, Mr. Assad sought Saturday to recruit the pope and the Catholic Church for his war against Jews. Vatican officials maintained that the pope did not have prior notice of Mr. Assad's medieval appeal, and the pontiff's own words implicitly rejected it. But the Vatican's response to Mr. Assad was shockingly blase, considering the effort John Paul has made to repudiate the church's own history of anti-Semitism. "We are guests of the president and he expressed his opinion," said longtime papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. "I wouldn't call it strong; I would call it clear."

What is clear is that Mr. Assad converted a visit meant to symbolize tolerance and reconciliation into a display of obtuseness by the Vatican in the face of religious ignorance and hatred. During the past decade the United States engaged diplomatically with Mr. Assad's father, gaining his support in the Persian Gulf War and drawing him into the Middle East peace process. Despite the totalitarian nature of his regime and its sponsorship of terrorism, Hafez Assad seemed to understand that peace with Israel and engagement with the West offered the only way forward for his country. His son clearly does not—and should be treated accordingly.

TRIBUTE TO CAITLIN STEIGER
FOR HER EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to and commend Caitlin Steiger for her exemplary service and commitment to her community. On May 7, 2001, Caitlin was named one of America's top ten teen volunteers in Prudential's Spirit of Community Awards Ceremony. She was recognized for her efforts to organize an annual 5K run, which benefits Hope House day care center in Memphis. Through her own initiative, Caitlin created this local service project to strengthen her community and provide much needed services to children suffering with AIDS.

Caitlin has successfully organized this event for the past two years and, during that time, raised over \$50,000 for this day care center that services children with AIDS or who have relatives with AIDS. She was selected to the top ten from over one hundred teenagers who were honored for their community achievements.

It is inspiring to see a young Tennessean give something of quality back to the Memphis community and to the entire state. While there is no doubt that Caitlin found this work rewarding, I am sure that those who have benefitted from her efforts are very grateful for her special contribution. I am very proud of Caitlin's efforts to create a better, stronger community.

Caitlin is an outstanding young leader and is certain to continue to make a difference in the world around her. Her commitment to public service is an example for all ages of what it means to be a leader. I appreciate what she has done for all Tennesseans and am certain that this is just the beginning of many successes for this most impressive young woman. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AIRLINE
CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVE-
MENT ACT OF 2001

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Airline Customer Service Improvement Act. This legislation is designed to address many of the underlying problems that have led to the recent public frustration with the air travel industry.

On June 17, 1999, the Air Transport Association, the association representing most of the major air carriers, announced that each of these carriers would develop voluntary customer service plans to address the problems the industry is facing. This came in response to several pieces of legislation that had been introduced in the 106th Congress to address this situation.

However, on February 13, 2001, the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General released its final report analyzing the progress made by the airlines under their vol-

untary "Customer Service Commitment." The Inspector General's report concluded that, although progress had been made, there were still significant shortfalls. The report further pointed out that the Service Commitments did nothing to address the underlying problem of delays and cancellations.

When a customer purchases an airline ticket, there are obligations such as arriving on time, staying seated on the plane during take-off and obeying rules and regulations set by airlines. But the contract should be mutual. The passenger needs assurances that the airline lives up to the other end of the bargain.

This legislation directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a uniform check-in deadline and requires airlines to disclose that deadline on their ticket jackets. It states there must be notification that involuntarily bumped passengers must be offered compensation before any offers are made to volunteers. The bill also requires prompt notification and truthful explanation of any flight delays, cancellations or diversions.

The Airline Customer Service Improvement Act requires more detailed and accurate information on mishandled baggage, including the establishment of a luggage tracking system and a toll free telephone number passengers can call to check on the status of their delayed luggage. It also requires that passengers who do not check luggage not be counted when calculating the rate of mishandled luggage.

This bill codifies common sense and common courtesy. If someone's flight is canceled, then that person should be called. Why should someone who owns an airline ticket be forced to pack up the car and drive to the airport on a wild goose chase?

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is urgently needed to address some of the underlying problems in the air travel industry as we move into the summer traveling season. I encourage my colleagues to take a look at this legislation and join me in co-sponsoring the Airline Customer Service Improvement Act.

IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we remember those brave men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom and world stability that we now enjoy. Let us use this day to remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, and our friends who have given their last full measure of devotion to our country.

As part of the ongoing celebration, I rise today to honor the Lehi American Legion of Utah as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The veteran memorial they have constructed in the Third District of Utah, which I represent, is a fitting and proper way to honor those who have served.

The Lehi American Post 19 and their 88 members have designed a memorial wall which includes over 400 names of veterans that are buried in the Lehi cemetery. This memorial stands not only as a tribute to the deceased, but as a tribute to the ideals that American soldiers still embrace and defend today.

Many of us celebrate Memorial Day with parades, social gatherings, and barbecues, but let us not forget the silent pain of the widows, widowers, and orphans of our fallen dead. Let us not forget what Memorial Day is really all about: honoring America's fallen heroes. The Lehi American Legion's memorial honors over 400 such heroic veterans who have served since World War I. Its unique presentation is deserving of special attention.

Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is a very special day to honor our veterans and current service men and women who contribute to our national defense. The people of Utah are eternally grateful to them and to their families for making such great sacrifices on our behalf.

TRIBUTE TO THE MONTGOMERY-
AUTAUGA-ELMORE MEDICAL AL-
LIANCE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to an outstanding community service organization in my congressional district that is committed to enhancing the medical care of our residents through vital health education and awareness campaigns.

The Montgomery-Autauga-Elmore Medical Alliance serves central Alabama and is comprised of spouses of the area's physicians and surgeons. The Alliance annually conducts a number of worthy projects benefiting the citizens of the community.

For example, members of the leadership of the Alliance assist local and State civic leaders as they participate in the Montgomery County Medical Society's Mini-Internship program for familiarization with the intricacies of the art, science, business and practice of Medicine.

Through the local Blood and Tissue Donors Day program, the Alliance performs a valuable role in helping to collect life-giving blood and cancer curing bone marrow.

Furthermore, through the charitable donation of the funds raised in the annual Physicians' Pheast to many local organizations and causes, the Alliance truly improves the health and the health awareness of the public at large.

I salute the Montgomery-Autauga-Elmore Medical Alliance for their dedication and service to the good health of the residents of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FOSTER B. GIBBS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Foster B. Gibbs upon his retirement after 23 years as Superintendent of the Saginaw Public Schools. Dr. Gibbs is a legend in education circles in Michigan and beyond. His storied career has spanned 42 years, all of them serving the needs of students in the Saginaw Public Schools system.

A native of Royal Oak, Michigan, Foster comes from a family of educators. His father,

H. Britton Gibbs, was a former teacher, principal and superintendent. His mother, E. Marie Gibbs, was a teacher and principal. In addition, Foster's wonderful wife, RaeAnn, and his two sons, Douglas and Stephen, have enthusiastically encouraged and sustained his commitment and dedication to the Saginaw Public Schools.

Foster, who holds three degrees from the University of Michigan—a bachelor's degree in education, a master's degree in educational administration and a doctorate in administration, supervision and instruction, has had an incredible tenure. His pioneering efforts and many innovative ideas earned the Saginaw Public Schools system a national reputation for progressive approaches to improving educational opportunities for all students. In fact, his own reputation for excellence propelled him to myriad leadership positions in professional and community organizations throughout his career, including Past President of the Michigan Middle Cities Education Association, a founding member and President of the Urban Education Alliance, founding member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saginaw County and board member of Saginaw's America's Promise.

Foster's deep sense of obligation to the future of young people has prompted his faithful adherence to strong educational standards of excellence and a relentless pursuit of better methods to achieve that goal. His service has been marked by exemplary staff development and curriculum improvement that has put the district on the right path for the 21st Century.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Foster my friend. During my time in politics, I have had many opportunities to interact with Foster and each and every occasion has provided more reasons to respect the man and the educator. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Dr. Gibbs for his outstanding service and wish him continued success in his endeavors.

THANK YOU TO GARY DAVID
DEDMAN FOR SERVICE ON MY
STAFF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I want to give thanks and offer special recognition to an intern in my office, Gary David Dedman.

David attends my alma mater Middle Tennessee State University. He interned the entire fall semester in my office, working 35 hours a week.

Interns play an invaluable role in helping congressional offices function efficiently and effectively, often performing the most thankless but essential tasks required. David pitches in wherever and whenever he is needed, never complaining and always accomplishing his work on time and of the highest quality.

David loves interacting with our constituents. He truly goes above and beyond what is expected of him to ensure the satisfaction of our constituents. This high regard for the people of Middle Tennessee is reflected each and every day in his attitude and dependability.

David is a fine young man and has been an invaluable member of my staff. He deserves the highest praise for his dedication to a job well done.

It has been a pleasure to have Gary David Dedman serve in my office, and I join my staff in thanking him for all his hard work and invaluable contribution in serving the people of Middle Tennessee.

HONORING NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Science Foundation on the 50th anniversary of this excellent and important agency. The NSF has been the central advocate for basic and applied scientific research in five decades of service to this country.

Before NSF came into existence in 1950, government-sponsored research system for the sciences was disjointed. Different government agencies had made advances in areas as far-reaching as medical research and atomic energy. Under President Truman, the NSF was directed, among other things, to forge a national policy for the promotion of basic research and science and math education. The success of the Soviet Union's space program, exhibited through the successful launch of Sputnik, focused new attention on the need to promote science research and education at all levels. This was done through a strengthened relationship among the government, universities and researchers, with the Foundation in the lead.

NSF built a project grant system that President Eisenhower found so effective he promoted it as a government-wide model. Proposals were widely solicited from all geographic areas and from all branches of science, including the social sciences. Scientific merit was the main criterion for award. The prestige of American scientists was encouraged through NSF's support of international travel by its project teams and by sponsoring scientific symposia and conferences.

In its early support for science education, NSF increased the number and quality of scientists nationwide that could be used as its research base. Many of today's leading scientists owe their training to the NSF. This was accomplished through a fellowship program for graduate students and post-doctoral scientists.

NSF took the lead in performing "big science," which eventually became a sizable percentage of their budget. The Foundation was able to conduct programs that required facilities and instrumentation so costly that only the government could afford them. These facilities were open to all researchers and led to major developments in atmospheric research and radio and optical astronomy. Big-science projects at NSF also led to major breakthroughs in the theories of the shape of the universe, continental drift, and sea floor spreading.

NSF's role has been essential in producing science that could enhance America's competitiveness. In an effort to improve science and math education, NSF received a big boost in its budget in the mid-1950s for teacher institutes, other educational projects and new curricula in physics, biology, chemistry, and mathematics. Although Congressional support for education at the NSF has wavered over the years, based on each Administration's commitment to science, the need continues to increase as we find ourselves in an increasingly technological society.

The environmental movement provided a context for the growing interest in applied science, and new legislation authorized the Foundation to support applied, as well as basic, research. As President Kennedy stated on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences, "scientists alone can establish the objectives of their research, but society, in extending support to science, must take account of their own needs." The science-government relationship is an essential one, both for the betterment of our society and for the advancement of mankind. NSF has been a leader in this area, and I am sure that we will be celebrating a full century of their contributions fifty years from now.

HONORING DAN GERNATT, SR. UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE DEWITT CLINTON MASONIC AWARD

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both an extraordinary man and a dear friend. On Saturday, May 12, 2001, Dan Gernatt, Sr., will be honored with the prestigious DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award from the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

Named in honor of former New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, this award recognizes those who have given "distinguished or outstanding community service," and "whose actions exemplify a shared concern for the well-being of mankind."

A dairy farmer who built the largest sand and gravel business in New York State, which today employs more than 200 people in seven plants, Dan Gernatt, Sr., has always worked to improve the quality of life in his community. He was not content simply to build a successful business, and believed strongly in giving back to those less fortunate. As the Dunkirk Observer noted, "Gernatt is a philanthropist by definition: one who practices good will to fellow men; one who is active in the effort to promote human welfare; a humanitarian."

Mr. Speaker, in "Song of Myself," Walt Whitman wrote "I do not give lectures on a little charity. When I give, I give myself." Throughout his life, Dan Gernatt, Sr. has given of himself time and time again, and I ask that this Congress join me in saluting those philanthropic works upon his receipt of the DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR DETERMINATION ACT OF 2001

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Small Business Committee, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Independent Contractor Determination Act of 2001, to clarify and simplify the determination of whether an individual worker is an employee or an independent contractor. The current definition of independent contractors is so complex that many small businesses face inconsistent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) worker reclassifications and potentially crippling back taxes, penalties and fines. Today's tax law hinders our dynamic economy, which includes millions of independent contractors now used by roughly 60 percent of all businesses and many diverse industries.

The Independent Contractor Determination Act of 2001 would provide a new safe harbor to help small business owners use independent contractors with more confidence, and to minimize IRS reclassifications of their legitimate business relationships. New objective criteria would protect both employees and independent contractors. These criteria include economic and workplace independence, a written contract, and the ability to realize a profit or loss. In addition, to protect employees further, the bill includes an effective anti-abuse provision that would limit the ability of corporations to treat former employees as independent contractors.

As important as this bill is to protecting all workers by providing an objective test for the determination of worker classification, the bill also limits the ability of the IRS to reclassify workers retroactively. Most small businesses operating as or hiring independent contractors do so in good faith and, therefore, face unfairly imposed back taxes, penalties and fines. Consequently, the bill allows only prospective IRS reclassifications of good faith independent contractor determinations, and shifts the burden of proof to the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer this bill as an identical, companion bill to one introduced earlier this week by Senator KIT BOND, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business, and recommend its passage in this Congress.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS OF OHIO'S 8TH DISTRICT

HON. JOHN A. BOEHRER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. BOEHRER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 20 veterans of the United States Armed Forces who will be honored at a special ceremony on, May 11, at Lakota East High School in my congressional district. These men and women have made sacrifices that most of us cannot fathom. They left their homes, their schools, their families, and their friends to travel to far-away lands for a single purpose: the defense of freedom.

On May 11, these exceptional men and women will be receiving honorary diplomas at this very special ceremony. They are:

John L. Burden, Sr., who served in the Army from 1942 through 1945 and was stationed in Europe.

Henderson Caudill, who served in the Navy from 1942 to 1965 and was stationed in both Europe and the Pacific.

Everett Cole, who served in the Army and the Air Force from 1944 through 1946 and was stationed in the United States and the Philippines.

Lorenzo Denson, Sr., who served in the Army from 1943 to 1945 and was stationed in the United States and Europe.

LaMar G. Doutaz, who served in the Navy from 1943 to 1945 and was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Doherty.

Harry Thomas Falck, who served in the Army from 1945 to 1946, when he was stationed in Europe, and from 1950 to 1953, when he fought in the Korean War and was held as a Prisoner of War.

Sam Fishman, who served in the Army from 1943 through 1946 and was stationed in the Philippines.

Uell Flagg, who served in the Army from 1943 to 1945, when he was stationed in Europe, and from 1951 to 1955, when he fought in the Korean War with the Air Force.

Louis E. Fox, who served in the Navy from 1943 to 1946 and was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Sage.

Wesley P. Gaunce, who served in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1945 and was stationed in the Pacific.

Ralph Grothjan, who served in the Army from 1950 to 1952 and fought in the Korean War.

Robert H. Hale, who served in the Army from 1951 to 1953 and was stationed in Germany and Korea.

Charles E. Hall, who served in the Army from 1952 through 1957 and was stationed in Korea.

Andrea F. Hangbers, who served in the Army from 1979 through 1982 and was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Carl C. Hess, who served in the Air Force from 1958 to 1959 and was stationed in Korea.

James McGonigle, who served in the Marine Corps from 1967 through 1970 and was involved in the Vietnam War.

Wilson W. Smith, who served in the Army from 1944 through 1946 and was stationed in Europe.

David Thomas, who served in the Navy from 1943 to 1946 and was stationed in the Pacific.

Also receiving honorary diplomas will be James Johnson and John Wilson, but they will be unable to attend the special ceremony.

What these veterans have achieved in their lives is truly among the greatest feats in American history. Whether fighting against Nazi Germany, Imperialist Japan, or the communist forces in Korea and Vietnam, these brave men and women are to be commended for their strength, their commitment, and their patriotism. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. It is our responsibility to remember their courage, not just in ceremonies like the one being held on May 11, but everyday. They are Americans who have made it possible for us to enjoy the freedoms that we so often take for granted. For that, and for the special recognition by Lakota East High School, I congratulate and thank them.

HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NV

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I include my testimony concerning nuclear waste storage at your Mountain for the Record.

I would like to thank the Chairman for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the proposed FY02 Appropriations for Energy Department, Nuclear Waste Management and Disposal relating to the Department of Energy's (DOE) proposal to store high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. This issue is critical to me because my district is located 90 miles southeast of Yucca Mountain, and it is my constituents who would be the most affected by the Yucca Mountain Plan.

More than a decade has gone by since the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act designated Yucca Mountain as the only site to be studied, and the scientific evidence against the Mountain continues to grow. Yucca Mountain is located in an earthquake and volcanic eruption zone. As recently as last month there was so much moisture at the proposed site that electrical test equipment was shorted out. It is widely known that ground water will corrode the waste storage containers, and release the deadly toxins into the environment.

Scientific evidence against the proposed Yucca Mountain site is plentiful, but just like the 1987 "Screw Nevada" bill, each time legitimate arguments are raised, standards for Yucca Mountain are changed. Regarding the current situation with groundwater and personal radiation dose standards, the goalposts have again been moved. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a groundwater standard of no greater than 4 millirems, and a personal radiation dose standard of 15 millirems per year at 18 kilometers, for the first 10,000 years of waste disposal. Despite the fact that the personal dose radiation standards are significantly weaker than similar sites around the country, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has still asked the EPA to rewrite these standards to allow an even higher dose of radiation. The NRC knows full well that without reduced standards, Yucca Mountain can never be found suitable. So again, the rules must change.

On three separate occasions the State of Nevada has demonstrated, using DOE's own data, that the site should be disqualified under both the EPA standard and DOE's own internal site screening regulation. And each time, the DOE or Congress has changed regulations to ensure that Yucca Mountain would not be disqualified, regardless of the health and safety consequences to Nevadans.

In fact, the DOE has found the geology at Yucca Mountain so poorly serves the need of a repository, that over 95% of the waste isolation capability would have to be provided by metal waste containers, and other so-called engineered barriers around the waste. When this project started, the idea was to find a site capable of containing the radiation entirely through its natural geologic features. That standard has since been lowered from 100% to 5%.

Aside from the earthquakes and the potential for volcanic eruption, an aquifer flows beneath the mountain, with water moving so rapidly that even with all engineered barriers, radiation will unavoidably escape the repository and contaminate our water table. This fact is underscored by a U.S. Geological Survey report entitled "Flooding in the Amargosa River Drainage Basin, February 23–24, 1998, Southern Nevada and Eastern California, including the Nevada Test Site." This document, which I would like to include with my statement, details two floods, one in 1995, and one in 1998, that, would have had severe repercussions on the proposed repository. Most notable is the conclusion that, "Both the 1995 and 1998 floods indicate . . . that the Amargosa River, with contributing streamflow from one or more among Beatty, Fortymile, and Topopah Washes, has the potential to transport dissolved and particulate material well beyond the boundary on NTS and the Yucca Mountain area during periods of moderate to severe streamflow." Yet once again, in clear English, scientific evidence condemns the Yucca plan.

In addition to the mounting scientific evidence against Yucca Mountain, there are also ongoing General Accounting Office investigations into mismanagement by senior staff, and a review of the Inspector General's report on bias at the DOE.

The first issue was brought to my attention by an anonymous letter I received at my office from an individual who appears to be highly knowledgeable about the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Site Characterization Project. The letter reflects a high level of expertise and first hand knowledge. It is alarming to say the least. Among the allegations are the lack of oversight in relation to the continually escalating lifetime costs for storing nuclear waste at the mountain, unnecessary travel abroad by senior level managers, lack of experience and technical background of those in charge of the project, and an adversarial relationship between managers of the project—and this very body—the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. The General Accounting Office is still in the process of investigating these very serious charges.

As for the second issue, as you are likely aware by now, the Inspector General has found that there were several statements in the draft Overview and a note which was attached to one version of the Overview, that "could be viewed as suggesting a premature conclusion regarding the suitability of Yucca Mountain." Of particular concern to me is the section of the I.G.'s report that states, "Based on Correspondence received by the Office of the Inspector General, it is fair to observe that, at least in some quarters, public confidence in the Department's (DOE) evaluation of Yucca Mountain has eroded." The IG also noted disincentives at DOE for Yucca Mountain employees to question assumptions, or to, in any way, "rock the boat."

The Inspector General's report serves to underscore what Nevadans have been saying since the origins of the "Screw Nevada" bill. Politics plays the leading role in determining the fate of the Yucca Mountain project.

It is pointless to discuss how we can restore the public confidence into this doomed project. The American public has seen behind the curtain, and we cannot erase from our memory that we have seen a tainted process, driven by politics, with questionable scientific merit.

The further we investigate Yucca Mountain, the more money we spend, the more obvious it becomes that Yucca Mountain is not the answer.

Scientific evidence and ongoing investigations continue to shed doubt on the feasibility of a Yucca Mountain Repository. Now is not the time to increase this budget, while the GAO continues to investigate, and science continues to condemn this plan. I again request that federal agencies change their course, and stop trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. Instead of trying to change the rules to keep the proposed plan alive, they should immediately begin the decommissioning of the Yucca Mountain Project.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber when roll call votes number 87, 90, 91, 100 and 101 were cast. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 87, "yes" on roll call vote 90, "yes" on roll call vote 91, "no" on roll call vote 100 and "yes" on roll call vote 101.

HONORING THE CITY OF MONTROSE, COLORADO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the City of Montrose, Colorado on receiving the 'Small Community of the Year' award from the Economic Developers' Council of Colorado. Montrose was given this honor for its economic activity through out the year.

Every year the EDC honors a small community that has distinguished itself in economic or community development. "The Montrose Economic Development Council has shown itself to be one of the most effective, viable and responsible economic development programs in Colorado," said Don Dunshee, president of the state council, in a Daily Sentinel article. Clearly, the Montrose EDC has been the driving force behind Montrose's prosperity.

In 2000, MEDC facilitated four deals that by 2005 will have contributed more than \$12 million in annual payroll to Montrose. It retained three local companies and recruited a New Jersey manufacturer, generating 117 additional jobs. Also in 2000 the MEDC launched its new five-year prosperity plan, which predicts a \$188.4 billion return to the area's economy on an investment of \$2 million. "It's that can do attitude that we possess, I think, that this award reflects," said Steve Jenkins, executive director of the MEDC.

In 2001, the MEDC is implementing its "Cornerstone Initiative" to shepherd economic growth into the future. "What we want to do is create the right type of jobs without the impact

to the community. That ensures the community is prosperous in the long term," said Jenkins.

Mr. Speaker, for years the Montrose Economic Development Council has helped small, local businesses achieve their American Dream, and with that, the City of Montrose is experiencing a period of economic growth that benefits everyone. For that, they deserve our thanks and praise.

HONORING DAN PENRY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize an individual who throughout the course of his career—and indeed his life—has served the citizens of the United States with great distinction, Mr. Dan Penry. After over 25 years of service as a Federal Probation and Parole officer, Dan is set to begin a much-deserved retirement at the end of this May. As family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate his accomplished tenure with the federal courts, I too would like to pay tribute to Dan and thank him for his service. Clearly, his hard work is deserving of thanks and praise of Congress.

Born in Detroit, Michigan to Marian and Fred Penry, Dan moved to Fairhope, Alabama at a young age, a place he would call home throughout his formative years. Growing up in Alabama with five brothers—Leonard, Fred, Pete, Jim and Tom—Dan was a wonderfully gifted young athlete, a talent shared by all of his brothers. He would go on to a noteworthy athletic career at Fairhope High School, lettering in four sports as a schoolboy—football, basketball, baseball and track. To this day, Dan and his brothers are remembered for their athletic prowess during their high school days.

After graduating from high school, Dan experienced first hand the defining experience of his generation—the Vietnam War. Drafted into the United States Army, he served America in Vietnam as a Military Police Officer stationed in, among other places, the City of Saigon. Dan broke away from the war effort in September of 1966 on a brief furlough to marry Linda Smart, his beautiful wife of the last 34 plus years. After marrying in Hawaii, Dan returned immediately to Vietnam, finishing out his tour just as he had started it—with honor and distinction.

After returning Stateside, Dan immediately enrolled in college, earning his undergraduate degree from Metro State College in Denver and Master's from the University of Northern Colorado in a matter of only a few years. Thereafter, he went to work for the Texas Commission of the Blind, eventually moving to the United States Courts as a federal parole officer where he's worked ever since.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 25 years Dan Penry has served his community, state and nation well as a United States Probation Officer. While asserting a genuine toughness with his parolees, Dan has also shown a compassionate side, earning the respect and, in many cases, the friendship of those who have committed themselves to true rehabilitation. Dan has been a tireless worker throughout his tenure, covering a field area that looks an awful

lot my Congressional District—a District larger than the State of Florida. Through it all, Dan has been a model of integrity, hard work and professionalism. That service and leadership will be very difficult to replace.

As Dan's accomplished career with the federal government winds down, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his service to our country. I know that his wife Linda, his daughter Kristi, and his son Josh couldn't possibly be prouder of him. That, Mr. Speaker, is a sentiment shared by Dan's friends, colleagues and associates, as well as the United States Congress.

Dan, congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for continued success and happiness during your well deserved retirement!

IN RECOGNITION OF ALICE WATERS BERKELEY PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S 15TH ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Celebration of a Community Treasure, Miss Alice Waters, chef and owner of Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley, California. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for her leadership in educating the public about the necessity to incorporate healthy, sustainable foods into their daily lives, and her active contributions to the schools, children and community of Berkeley.

Alice Waters is an internationally recognized and respected chef, author, activist, and humanitarian. She has brought about a wealth of positive changes to her community since she opened Chez Panisse in Berkeley thirty years ago. The philosophy behind the restaurant's menu—only preparing foods that are “fresh, local, seasonal”—has had a major influence on chefs and restaurants throughout the world and has helped to “redefine the American diet.” Alice Waters has worked closely with local farmers and food suppliers who share her belief that food tastes the best and is the best nutritionally when it is grown organically and harvested using environmentally responsible methods. In this respect, Miss Waters is a pioneer in the sustainable agriculture movement that has recently gained visibility now that we are in the age of genetically-engineered foods.

Ongoing advocacy for farmer's markets and sustainable agriculture has led Miss Waters and Chez Panisse to support and create programs that will educate others through hands-on growing and cooking experience. One such program was the Garden Project, which taught organic gardening skills to former San Francisco County Jail inmates. This program transformed and enriched their lives.

Most of all we want to recognize and thank Alice Waters for the time and effort she has given to Berkeley children. The idea of the Edible Schoolyard came to Miss Waters after she noticed the worsening conditions at neighboring Martin Luther King Junior High School. She presented her ideas for an edible garden at the school in 1995. The program has been integrated into the academic curriculum and the school lunch program. For years she

worked with the school staff, community members, and outside supporters to make the garden happen. Today the garden is famous, as is the refurbished kitchen where students cook and eat its bounty together. Principal Smith credits the Edible Schoolyard with helping “change the culture of the school.”

Less well known is the time Miss Waters put in as one of the most active members of the Measure A Site Planning committee at Martin Luther King Junior High School. For two years she worked with parents, neighbors, faculty, and architects on plans to rebuild the school with bond funds allocated by voters in 1992. Miss Waters' insistence that MLK, Jr. High School should strive to be rebuilt as a welcoming, appealing center of learning and community pride inspired us all.

In 1996 she created The Chez Panisse Foundation to help underwrite these exemplary cultural and educational programs.

I thank Alice for dedicating her time and insight for many years and for providing the means for financial support for many important programs. Alice has planted a seed in a garden that has grown into a lush landscape of sustenance from which we all learn and benefit.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES QUINLAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of Mr. James Quinlan, a resident of my 20th Congressional District, from Johnson, New York who is being inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame for the year 2001.

For the past 24 years, Mr. Quinlan has taught industrial arts at the Vernon Township High School in Vernon, New Jersey.

As a teacher of vocational education, Mr. Quinlan brings a new level to his students beyond the typical stereotype associated with this field of education.

James Quinlan has stated, “yes, of course they're using their hands, but they're working with their minds.”

Mr. Quinlan has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education, including: The 1999–2000 Vernon Township and the Sussex County Teacher of the Year, the 1999 Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar from the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission, and the 1997 National Foundation for the Humanities Fellow.

In addition to his excellence in the classroom, Mr. Quinlan devotes time to his students outside of school. He is a facilitator for project Quest, an adventure-based counseling program for students in need of a personal growth experience. Furthermore, to help meet the challenges of teaching neurologically impaired students, Mr. Quinlan created the Roaring Lion Chair Company. This enterprise places emphasis on developing marketable work skills and attitudes for students with special needs.

Students and colleagues collectively recognize James Quinlan's ability to help students build their individual strengths and skills and understand the world of opportunities surrounding them. Mr. Quinlan respects his stu-

dents and is willing to put forth the extra effort to help them discover more about themselves and their potential.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join in honoring the achievements of teacher James Quinlan and the other four notable inductees into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial “The Moving Wall” that will be placed on exhibit for public viewing at Father Judge High School, in the Northeast section of the Third Congressional District in Philadelphia.

The Vietnam War, which began in early 1957 and ended with the surrender of the South Vietnamese government on April 30, 1975, took the lives of many United States servicemen. Six hundred and thirty of these men came from Philadelphia. Of this total, twenty-seven graduated from Father Judge High School, more than any other private or parochial school in the nation.

“The Moving Wall” was created in October 1984, and first placed on display in Tyler, Texas. Since that time, “The Moving Wall” has traveled to over eight hundred cities honoring America's military men and women who lost their lives during this heartrending period in our country's history.

As of June of last year, there are 58,219 names inscribed on the memorial, and I rise today to recognize the twenty-seven men who courageously gave their lives serving their country and whose names are inscribed on “The Moving Wall”.

Mr. Speaker, these men and the many other men and women involved in the Vietnam War should be commended for answering the call of duty and serving in the United States Armed Services. I am delighted that Father Judge High School was selected as the area host for “The Moving Wall”, and the Father Judge Alumni Association should be commended for their dedication in honoring these men and their efforts in bringing such a distinct honor to the city of Philadelphia.

FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDIA

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to be one of 19 signers of a letter sent last month to President Bush urging him to work to get political prisoners in India freed. We are Republicans and Democrats from across the political spectrum, but we understand that democracies don't hold political prisoners and countries that do are not friendly to democracy.

It is interesting that on the day after we sent our letter, a well-known Sikh human-rights organization called the Movement Against State

Repression (MASR) issued a report exposing the continuing holding of political prisoners in India and the repressive laws under which they have been held, such as the very repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Despite this, many prisoners are still being held under TADA. According to the report, in many cases, the police would file TADA cases against the same individual in different states "to make it impossible for them to muster evidence in their favor." It was also common practice for police to re-arrest TADA prisoners who had been released, often without filing new charges.

MASR reports that the Indian government itself admitted in 1993 to 52,258 persons, detained under TADA. Of those, according to the report, "14,457 were in Punjab and 14,094 in Gujarat, a relatively peaceful state. Obviously there were a number of Sikh TADA prisoners held in Gujarat jails." Gujarat was only one state that the police would use to register secondary TADA cases against Sikhs. They would also register cases in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi, among others.

"In November 1994," the report states, "42 employees of the Pilibhit district jail and PAC were found guilty of clubbing to death 6 Sikh prisoners and seriously wounding 22 others. They were TADA prisoners. Uttar Pradesh later admitted the presence of around 5000 Sikh TADA prisoners," the Movement Against State Repression wrote, "Another press report in 1993 mentioned beating of striking prisoners held in jail at Bharatpur, Rajasthan. Nearly 500 of these prisoners belonged to Punjab and were held under TADA." It was also in November 1994 that the Indian newspaper *Hitavada* reported that the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to foment covert state-sponsored terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir.

According to the report, the Punjab Civil Magistracy wrote a memorandum to the Governor of Punjab in 1993 in which it said that "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would add up to lakhs [tens of thousands.]" To this date, neither the central government nor the state government has revealed the list of people killed or those detained under TADA. In September 1995, the police kidnapped Jaswant Singh Khalsa, a human-rights activist who exposed the government's policy of picking up innocent Sikhs, torturing them, murdering them, then cremating their bodies, declaring them "unidentified." The Jaijee report says that "thousands of Sikh young men have disappeared since 1984." According to General Narinder Singh, another human-rights leader, "Punjab is a police state."

The Movement Against State Repression is headed by Inderjit Singh Jaijee, a longtime human-rights activist who wrote the book *The Politics of Genocide*, which exposed the fact that the Indian government has killed over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the last 17 years. The government has also killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and many thousands of other minorities, including the Dalit "untouchables," the dark-skinned aboriginal natives of the subcontinent. Is this the behavior of a democracy?

If India is a democracy, as it claims, why does it need a Movement Against State Repression anyway?

According to Amnesty International, tens of thousands of Sikhs are being held in illegal detention in India without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984. Many Christians, Muslims, and other minorities are also being held.

This is not an acceptable situation, Mr. Speaker. I am a minister's daughter. I understand the importance of religion and the need for religious tolerance. It is time to take action to protect the religious liberty of all the people of South Asia.

There are so many more details of this repression in the report that I do not have time to tell my colleagues about all of them. I would like to submit materials relating to this situation into the RECORD.

LIKE AN UNDECLARED EMERGENCY

(By G.S. Grewal)

Militancy in Punjab was not controlled by the extra-judicial killings or by the enforcement of harsh laws like TADA. It was contained, firstly, because the people in Punjab did not support it and secondly, by establishing democratic rule under the determined mass-based leader Sardar Beant Singh who had built a successful bridge between the people and the rulers.

Under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA), not a single known militant had been convicted in Punjab. During Operation Black Thunder, more than 250 militants hiding in the Golden Temple complex were arrested and the whole scene was viewed by millions of people all over the world on television. They were booked under TADA. Within a few months, they had to be released from jail because of insufficient evidence. The prosecution made the request and the court discharged them. Mr. K.P.S. Gill was confronted with this episode at a Rotary Club (Mid town) meeting and he replied that the investigating agency had become corrupt. When he was asked how and why none of the persons discharged was alive, he preferred to duck the question.

The validity of TADA was challenged in the Supreme Court with the plea of the government in defence of TADA being that under abnormal circumstances, abnormal laws were necessary. This plea was accepted by the Court. The State counsel further argued that an undeclared war was going on with the active provocation of our neighbour. The situation could not be classified as a mere law and order or disturbance of public order. Activities of terrorists were such which could not be controlled by ordinary laws. So TADA had been framed to meet that special situation.

In actual practice, the TADA became notorious more for its abuse than for its legal use. The head of the police department assumed more powers than the Chief Secretary of the state. It became impossible to tame the DGP of that time. Even the Chief Minister time found himself helpless before the DGP who was more feared than respected. This was the era when many innocent people were illegally killed. Some because of suspicion, others because of greed and revenge. The CBI had discovered the dead bodies of thousands of people who were supposed to have been killed in fake encounters by the police.

At the insistence of the Supreme Court, the matter is being debated before the National Human Rights Commission, for the last many years but no decision has yet been taken. The era of terrorism in Punjab had been an era of affluence both for the police

and terrorists alike while the people lived in fear of both. Many cases of kidnapping and extortion took place where the police and militants were to be blamed equally.

Though the police was and is, by and large, a disciplined force, during militancy many of them lost their sense of commitment towards duty and were involved in making a quick buck.

Militancy not only affected the routine life of an average citizen, it also made the administration spineless. While some lawyers were killed, allegedly by the police because they defended militants, some district and session judges were attacked. Threats were issued to some High Court Judges and it was not too difficult to believe that the cause of justice had received a setback.

Since religious places remained the centre of militancy, the sanctity of those places was also damaged. It further facilitated the cause of those who wanted to exploit religion for political powers.

During the Emergency, the government gagged the press with some success. During militancy, the terrorists tried the same with partial success. Now, when there is neither militancy nor emergency the government wants to control the press by making a law which would compel the Press to disclose their sources, which they gather through their own resourcefulness. Nowhere in the free world are such conditions imposed on the Press.

When the Press is not free, even other institutions become weak. During the Emergency, fundamental rights were suspended and it created fear and havoc among those who wanted to be bold and fearless. Even the Judiciary ceased to protect people and started justifying the excesses of the Executive. In the case of ADM, Jabalpur, the Supreme Court held that even if a person was to be killed illegally by the state executive with mala fide intentions, he had no right of life and could not seek protection from the courts. When the Emergency ended, many judges, who had constituted the bench, admitted that the judgement was wrong and the Janata Party Government had to pass the 44th Amendment to the Constitution to nullify the affect of the judgment.

If the proposed amendment in the new TADA was incorporated into the law of the land, it would operate as an undeclared emergency with its side-effects. In one sense, undeclared war is more dangerous than the declared one because it lasts much longer. Similarly, an undeclared emergency with lame freedom of the press would convert our enlightened, democratic free society to an ignorant and controlled system that the country could and should never accept.

JUNE 3, 1997.

To: The Prime Minister of India, Mr. I.K. GUJRAL

DEAR PRIME MINISTER: The Movement Against State Repression is heartened to read Mr. K.P.S. Gill's open letter to you, published in *The Tribune* of June 1, 1997, and supports his demand for equality before the law for all persons, for prosecution of all persons, including police, as per the due process of law, and for a review of judicial, and administrative functioning in Punjab over the past 15 years.

Mr. Gill admits that security forces committed excesses during these years and pleads—not for immunity—but that they may be judged leniently in view of the circumstances. MASR has always advocated that justice be tempered by mercy. In the case of officers of the state accused of serious crimes it must be remembered that not only is the crime per se at issue, but there is an issue of public responsibility. All officers

of the state, whether administrative, police or military, take an oath at the time of joining service to uphold the Constitution. This is a most sacred duty, making it all the more important for them to not only observe the law in letter and spirit in all their actions . . . but to be seen to observe the law. When one sworn to uphold the law himself disregards it, the common citizen is all the more encouraged to hold the law in contempt.

The citizen does not exist for the state, rather the state exists for the citizen . . . to provide protection to life and property, to provide opportunities for potential of every citizen may be realised and brought to productive use. This is the *raison d'être* of the state. When officials of the state act in a way that betrays disrespect for human life they act against the very purpose of the state.

Mr. Gill asks for a special fund to be raised to pay for best legal defense of policemen brought to trial for excesses. There is reason to believe that the Punjab Police already gives policemen money to hire the best lawyers from its own secret fund. Is Mr. Gill in fact asking that this practice be brought into the open? In any case, the Constitution already empowers the courts to appoint lawyers at state expense for those who cannot afford them. However, "best lawyers" raises the issue of equality. If the state provides lawyers of great ability to the defendant while the complainant, having no such assistance, can only afford a weak lawyer, then where is equality before the law?

It may be remembered that the next of kin of the alleged militants suffered not only loss of their relatives but confiscation and destruction of property, with a result that they can ill afford litigation costs and in many cases have to depend on lawyers on "shared compensation" basis. This category of persons need state aid.

Aside from a commission to be set up to examine records of judicial processes, Mr. Gill demands a commission to identify all officers in all branches of the judiciary and administration who were guilty of gross dereliction of duty during this period. Mr. Gill goes on to urge that "these steps demand the active participation of the judiciary and the legislature". MASR appreciates this suggestion but cautions that while such commissions must be respected by the government, at the same time they must be independent and insulated from official pressures; their findings must be placed before the public. A situation in which the judiciary and legislature sits in judgement on themselves must be avoided. The interests of truth and justice demand independent commissions.

MASR points out that the past 15 years saw not only the malfeasance of individuals, it was also a period when institutions were subverted, with some services subjected to the dictation of others. The civil services ceased to control the police, rather the police controlled the civil services, including the state magistracy. Officers of the state medical service were made to give reports dictated by police. Even the office of governor came under Police domination to the extent that two governors were made to leave the state abruptly for demanding accountability from the police.

MASR sympathises with conscientious and upright officers of the Punjab Police who may feel that they have been unjustly maligned on account of the misdeeds of some of their colleagues. We also sympathise with the families of those policemen who have been accused of wrongdoing and treat their suffering at par with that of the families of those killed or disappeared over the past 15 years.

It is certainly a terrible thing to be slandered. The entire Sikh community will

vouch for this, as they have borne some of the most abhorrent epithets—"anti-national", "traitor", "terrorist", "religious fanatic"; the Sikh soldier has smarted under the label "questionable reliability". They have not only had to bear verbal insult, the Sikh community has been subjected to genocide on a terrible scale for the "crime" of demanding more powers for the state.

The Sikhs were made victims of politicians' power games. In "Policing the Police", (Indian Express, August, 1996) Shekhar Gupta asked ". . . who provided K.P.S. Gill and a select band of the most trusted Intelligence Bureau aces suitcases full of unaudited cash to buy militant loyalties, to build a whole army of cats? . . . The Punjab crisis saw five prime ministers as many internal security ministers. Each one knew precisely what was going on. Some routinely boasted of how ruthlessly they were putting rebellion down. Why are they hiding now?"

In his letter, Gill says "the real question is whether a strategy of state terrorism was adopted by the police; and the answer is unequivocally in the negative." Was the strategy adopted at a higher level and simply passed on to the police for implementation? In "Dateline: Tarn Taran" (Pioneer, June 1, 1997) Ajaz Ashraf and Bindu quote Satya Pal Dang as saying: "The clearance for fake encounters could have only been given by political leaders."

Regarding Mr. Gill's apprehensions of "media trial" of accused policemen and hounding of the police in the press, MASR sees little evidence to support these misgivings. The press, both local and national, has given ample space to police versions both during the worst days of turmoil and now. Nearly two full columns of precious space have been spared for Mr. Gill's letter—surely that does not bespeak a biased press. No human rights group has ever had its letter published in full, even if it were a short one.

Mr. Gill accuses the human rights movement of twisting facts. If we have erred in respect of any case we are sorry. Part of the problem is that we must rely on Mr. Gill for much of our information. For instance in his letter he writes: "Even in a case as fully documented as Operation Blackthunder, where the entire action was carried out in full view of the media, not a single conviction was pronounced." But earlier, addressing a Rotary Club (Midtown) meeting, Mr. Gill said: "that some people sympathetic to the militants had infiltrated into the prosecution agency of the police and, therefore, enough evidence could not be collected" and subsequently cases against all the persons accused in Operation Black Thunder had to be withdrawn. Mr. G.S. Grewal, Advocate General has accused Mr. Gill of twisting facts. Grewal says: "Those persons who were arrested during Operation Black Thunder were in fact put on trial. After a few months all were released at the insistence of the prosecution because of lack of evidence. It is another matter that, perhaps, none of them may be alive today. It will be too much to presume that they have died a natural death."

Mr. Gill also has no reason to disparage the human rights movement. Human rights are for all, including Mr. Gill and his policemen. Human rights stands for political and religious freedom, for the legal rights of common citizen of criminal offenses.

Mr. Prime Minister, a previous letter sent to you jointly by MASR, PHRO and PUCL Punjab Chapter, will be in your hands. This letter asked your support for our request to the Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal for an independent census of human rights violations, including killings and disappearances during the 1984-1996 period. We had also enclosed the various assessments re-

garding disappearances and killings. We again ask for your help in implementing this census.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

INDERJIT SINGH JALJEE,

CONVENOR,

Movement Against State Repression.

[From the Burning Punjab News, May 9, 2001]

BIHAR—BLAST IN CHURCH, CHRIST STATUE DAMAGED

MUZAFFAPUR.—Cracker explosions by miscreants in a church here has caused partial damage to a statue of Christ sending shock waves among the Christian community in the Bihar town, official sources said. The unidentified miscreants burst three crackers one after another on Saturday evening in St. Francis Church which led to the ripping off of the head of a statue of child Christ seated on the lap of St. Joseph, the sources said. The miscreants also left behind pamphlets which said "Seva Ki Aar Mein Dharmantaran Band Karo (stop religious conversions in the garb of service)," "Isaiyon Bharat Choro (Christians leave India)" and "Poore Bharat Ko Hindu Rang Mein Rangna Hai (Hindus should prevail in entire India)." An FIR was lodged at the local police station by Father Julius Lazarus of the church. The top district and police officials remained tight-lipped over the incident, but said the investigation was on. A police contingent had also been posted at the church, they said. When contacted, State Director General of Police RR Prasad in Patna ruled out the possibility of the explosion being triggered by bombs and said the police were looking into the matter. Lazarus said the Christian community was terribly hurt by the incident and described it as "extremely serious." He felt that some religious institution was behind the incident, but refused to name anybody.

WTO MEETING

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member strongly urges his colleagues to read and carefully consider the excellent column of Paul Krugman, a New York Times columnist, which appears in numerous American newspapers.

He has it right in describing the motivation, misguided views, and counterproductive actions of key groups involved in organizing the demonstrations against their perception of globalism at numerous international meetings since the WTO meeting in Seattle.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 24, 2001]

FOES OF GLOBALISM DON'T USE THEIR HEADS
(By Paul Krugman)

There is an old European saying: Anyone who is not a socialist before he is 30 has no heart; anyone who is still a socialist after he is 30 has no head. Suitably updated, this applies perfectly to the movement against globalization—the movement that made its big splash in Seattle back in 1999 and did its best to disrupt the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City this past weekend.

The facts of globalization are not always pretty. If you buy a product made in a Third World country, it was produced by workers who are paid incredibly little by Western standards and probably work under awful conditions. Anyone who is not bothered by

those facts, at least some of the time, has no heart.

But that doesn't mean the demonstrators are right. On the contrary: Anyone who thinks that the answer to world poverty is simple outrage against global trade has no head—or chooses not to use it. The anti-globalization movement already has a remarkable track record of hurting the very people and causes it claims to champion.

Even when political action doesn't backfire, when the movement gets what it wants, the effects are often startlingly malign. For example, could anything be worse than having children work in sweatshops? Alas, yes. In 1993, child workers in Bangladesh were found to be producing clothing for Wal-Mart, and Sen. Tom Harkin proposed legislation banning imports from countries employing underage workers. The direct result was that Bangladeshi textile factories stopped employing children. But did the children go back to school? Did they return to happy homes? No according to Oxfam, which found that the displaced child workers ended up in even worse jobs or on the streets—and that a significant number were forced into prostitution.

The point is that Third World countries aren't poor because their export workers earn low wages; it's the other way around. Because the countries are poor, even what look to us like bad jobs at bad wages are almost always much better than the alternatives: Millions of Mexicans are migrating to the north of the country to take the low-wage export jobs that outrage opponents of NAFTA. And those jobs wouldn't exist if the wages were much higher: The same factors that make poor countries poor—low productivity, bad infrastructure, general social disorganization—mean that such countries can compete on world markets only if they pay wages much lower than those paid in the West.

Of course, opponents of globalization have heard this argument, and they have answers. At a conference this month, I heard paeans to the superiority of traditional rural lifestyles over modern urban life—a claim that not only flies in the face of the clear fact that many peasants flee to urban jobs as soon as they can, but that (it seems to me) has a disagreeable element of cultural condescension, especially given the overwhelming preponderance of white faces in the crowds of demonstrators. (Would you want to live in a pre-industrial village?) I also heard claims that rural poverty in the Third World is mainly the fault of multinational corporations—which is just plain wrong but is a convenient belief if you want to think of globalization as an unmitigated evil.

The most sophisticated answer was that the movement doesn't want to stop exports—it just wants better working conditions and higher wages.

But it's not a serious position. Third World countries desperately need their export industries—they cannot retreat to an imaginary rural Arcadia. They can't have those export industries unless they are allowed to sell goods produced under conditions that Westerners find appalling and by workers who receive very low wages. And that's a fact the anti-globalization activists refuse to accept.

So who are the bad guys? The activists are getting the images they wanted from Quebec City: leaders sitting inside their fortified enclosure, with thousands of police protecting them from the outraged masses outside. But images can deceive. Many of the people inside that chain-link fence are sincerely trying to help the world's poor. And the people outside the fence, whatever their intentions, are doing their best to make the poor even poorer.

SELECTION OF JOHN P. WALTERS
AS DRUG CZAR

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to applaud President Bush for his selection of John P. Walters as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and for his support for our war on illicit drugs in our country and around the world. I was pleased to join President Bush in the Rose Garden today, to announce the selection of John Walters and a reinvigoration of our war on drugs. John Walters' extensive experience under former Drug Czar Bill Bennett, provides the Bush Administration with the knowledge and character necessary to get the war on drugs back on track, with appropriate balance and support on both the supply side and the demand side.

John Walters started his public service at the Department of Education, working hard on drug abuse prevention, including service as the principal author and project manager for the "Schools Without Drugs" prevention and education program. He served as ONDCP Chief of Staff in the first Bush Administration, and later was confirmed by the Senate as Deputy Director. During his tenure at ONDCP, Walters was a major designer of the largest Federal funding increases for drug treatment and treatment research in U.S. history.

The selection of John Walters and the recognition of the importance of keeping the Office of Drug Czar at the Cabinet level, truly reflects the President's national commitment to effectively fighting the drug epidemic. The President's new drug policy sends a clear signal to America's youth that drug use is dangerous and wrong. The President wants to reach our youth as early as possible to help steer them away from the dangers of illegal drug use and addiction.

Mr. Speaker, drug abuse prevention begins with the family. To help families lead the way in combating drug addiction, the President is directing ONDCP to develop a parent drug corps, to reinforce the efforts of families. The President's drug policy will also provide needed support to schools and communities in their efforts to prevent drug abuse.

President Bush has directed ONDCP to focus Federal anti-drug efforts on results. To assess the effectiveness of existing anti-drug efforts, Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson will lead a state-by-state review of treatment needs and capacity to make certain that we provide effective resources to meet the demand where it exists.

The President has also directed Attorney General Ashcroft to develop a plan to use our criminal justice system—from prisons to probation and parole—to protect citizens by helping addicts recover and stay away from drugs and violence when they return to the community. The President's budget reflects his commitment to preventing drug abuse and treating those already addicted. His budget provides \$25 million over 5 years to create the parent drug corps to mobilize parents and families. The President's budget doubles funding for local anti-drug coalitions over 5 years, providing up to \$350 million over 5 years, including an \$11 million increase in fiscal year 2002,

to support community-based drug prevention and education efforts.

The President is committed to closing the treatment gap with a 5-year commitment to increasing treatment resources by \$1.6 billion, including targeted treatment programs for teens and adolescents, and increased funding for the National Institute of Drug Abuse by \$126 million for fiscal year 2002, expanding research into prevention and treatment. The President substantially increases funding for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, fully funds the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, and makes a strong commitment to drug courts and other criminal justice diversion programs to help more Americans break the vicious cycle of addiction and incarceration.

The threat from illegal drugs is our most insidious national security threat. Throughout my tenure in the Congress, I have been dedicated to fighting the plague of illicit drugs in our Nation and throughout our world. Accordingly, I am proud to stand together with President Bush and John Walters to reassert our national commitment to our war on drugs, for our young people, our communities, our law enforcement officers, and our international allies.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of the President's remarks on the announcement of the Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy to be included at this print in the RECORD:

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY, MAY 10, 2001

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you all so very much for being here. It's an honor to see so many members of the United States Congress who are here. Thank you so very much for coming—and members from both political parties, members who are dedicated to joining with an administration which is dedicated to reducing drug abuse around America. Thank you for being here. (Applause.)

I'm pleased that members of my Cabinet have joined us—the Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft; the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. Thank you all for being here. (Applause.) Mr. Surgeon General, thank you for being here, as well, sir. We're honored to have you here. (Applause.)

Also with us is John J. DiIulio, who is the Director of the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives. John is on the leading edge of encouraging faith-based programs to become energized to help people who need help. And, John, thank you so much for being here, as well. (Applause.)

I'm honored to be joined on stage by five Americans—well, six Americans—five Americans who won't speak. (Laughter.) Which is saying something for the first American I'm going to introduce. William J. Bennett. (Laughter and applause.) He was our nation's first Drug Czar, former Secretary of Education, a fearless—fearless—fighter against drug abuse. As well, as Joe A. Califano, who has a Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, former Secretary of Health and Education and Welfare under President Jimmy Carter, as well, like Mr. Bennett, a fearless advocate for those of us who are dedicated to reducing drug abuse. Thank you both for being here. (Applause.)

And we have three members from the community—antidrug community—who have joined us. Arthur R. Dean is the Chairman and CEO of the Community Antidrug Coalitions of America. Thank you so much for coming. I appreciate you being here. (Applause.) Jessica Hulseby is a member of the

Drug-Free Community's Advisory Commission. Thank you, Jessica. (Applause.) And Henry Lozano, Californians for Drug-free Youth, a member of the DFCAC, a graduate from Teen Challenge. (Applause.)

I'm pleased to announce that as of today, the federal government is waging an all-out effort to reduce illegal drug use in America. (Applause.) And I'm proud to nominate John P. Walters as my Director of National Drug Control Policy, where he will serve as a valuable member of my Cabinet. (Applause.)

Mr. Walters has had a distinguished career in government. He served as the chief of staff to Bill Bennett, and later served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of National Control Policy. John will bring tremendous skill, knowledge and good judgment to this job. He's an articulate advocate, an able administrator, and a man of deep and reasoned convictions. He has repeatedly been called on to provide guidance to the United States Congress. John cares passionately about this issue and he is the right person to lead America's antidrug efforts.

Our effort rests on the firm belief that by focusing more of our nation's attention, energy and resources, real progress will be made. From the early 1980s until the early 1990s, drug use amongst high school seniors was reduced every year. We had made tremendous strides in cutting drug use. This cannot be said today. We must do, and we will do, a better job. (Applause.)

Fortunately, today we know more about what works in prevention and education, treatment and law enforcement. We will put this knowledge to use. But above all, our efforts rest on an unwavering commitment to stop drug use. Acceptance of drug use is simply not an option for this administration.

Illegal drugs impose a staggering cost of more than \$100 billion every year, principally from lost productivity. Yet this dollar figure does not capture the human tragedy of drug use—lost lives, educational and job opportunities unmet, families torn apart, health care costs, school dropout rates, and more. Drug use harms people of every economic class. But drug use is doing the most damage to the poor.

John Jacob, former President of the National Urban League, has said that drugs are destroying more children and more families than poverty ever did. John Walters and I believe the only humane and compassionate response to drug use is a moral refusal to accept it.

We emphatically disagree with those who favor drug legalization. (Applause.) Drug legalization would be a social catastrophe. Drug use and addiction would soar. Hospitals would be filled with many more drug emergency cases. Child abuse would increase. The cost of treatment and social welfare would rise. There would be more drug-related accidents at work and on the road. And legalizing drugs would completely undermine the message that drug use is wrong.

A successful antidrug effort depends on a thoughtful and integrated approach. Mr. Walters understands this as well as anybody in America. During his career, he's worked to improve the effectiveness of drug education and prevention programs. He played a key role in ensuring a record commitment of resources to drug treatment and research in a previous administration. He helped ensure that the federal government did its part in source countries, on our borders and on our streets.

My administration will continue to work with nations to eradicate drugs at their source, and enforce our borders to stop the flow of drugs into America. This will make working in close cooperation with Mexico a priority. It will make having strong rela-

tions in our hemisphere a priority, a priority which I will keep. (Applause.)

However, the most effective way to reduce the supply of drugs in America is to reduce the demand for drugs in America. (Applause.) Therefore, this administration will focus unprecedented attention on the demand side of this problem. We recognize that the most important work to reduce drug use is done in America's living rooms and classrooms, in churches and synagogues and mosques, in the workplace, and in our neighborhoods. (Applause.)

Families, schools, communities, and faith-based organizations shape the character of young people. They teach children right from wrong, respect for law, respect for others, and respect for themselves. They're indispensable. And my administration stands ready to assist them in every possible way. Joe Califano is the President of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, and a man whose research has helped shape my thinking. Joe has said that teens of parents who eat, talk, pray and play together are not likely to be lured into the world of drugs. A child who reaches age 21 without using illegal drugs is virtually certain never to do so. And children cite parents as the number one reason they don't use drugs.

And so we'll energize the parents movement by creating a parent drug corps, which will provide needed support to educate and train parents in effective drug prevention. (Applause.) We must increase funding for drug-free communities programs, and for the drug-free workplace program. (Applause.) And within 30 days, Professor John DiIulio will compile a complete inventory of existing federal antidrug partnerships with local faith-based and community groups, and work with John Walters to strengthen those efforts.

Despite every effort, however, some individuals will become addicted to drugs. There are around 5 million hardcore users of illegal drugs in America today. And while they represent one-third of the drug users, they consume two-thirds of all drugs. It is estimated that more than half of them are not receiving any treatment.

I am, therefore, asking Secretary Tommy Thompson to conduct a state-by-state inventory of treatment needs and capacity, and report back within 120 days on how to most effectively close the treatment gap in this country. (Applause.) In order to close that treatment gap, we will provide \$1.6 billion over the next five years.

We want to advance our understanding of drug abuse and addiction, so we're planning to significantly increase funding for the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (Applause.) We also recognize the benefits of coerced abstinence, and so we will support drug courts and drug testing for prisoners, probationers and parolees. (Applause.)

We know that inmates receiving drug treatment are 73 percent less likely to be re-arrested, and 44 percent less likely to use drugs than those who receive no treatment at all. I'm, therefore, asking the Attorney General, John Ashcroft, to come up with a comprehensive plan within 120 days to ensure our federal prisons are drug-free, to expand drug testing for probationers and parolees, and to strengthen our system of drug courts around the nation. (Applause.)

We must reduce drug use for one great moral reason—over time drugs rob men, women and children of their dignity and of their character. Illegal drugs are the enemies of innocence and ambition and hope. They undermine people's commitment to their family and to their fellow citizens. My administration will send a clear and consistent message that drug use is dangerous and drug use is wrong. (Applause.)

John Walters will lead that effort with firm resolve and a caring heart. He will do an exceptional job. I am proud to submit his name to the United States Senate, and I look forward to working with members of the House and the Senate from both political parties to reduce drug use in America. (Applause.)

I'm honored to welcome so many people who devote their lives to the well-being of others to the Rose Garden here in the White House. I want to God bless—thank you for your work, and ask God's blessings on your work and this great nation of ours.

It's my honor to welcome John Walters. (Applause.)

Mr. WALTERS. Thank you, Mr. President, for honoring me with this nomination. I look forward to the confirmation process in the Senate, and the opportunity to work with Congress again in reducing the problem of illegal drug use.

As the President has mentioned, our country has made great progress in the past in reducing drug use, and we will do it again. We will especially protect our children from drug use. We will help the addicted find effective treatment and remain in recovery. We will shield our communities from the terrible human toll taken by illegal drugs. We will stop illegal drug use and the drug trade from funding threats to democratic institutions throughout our hemisphere.

Most of all, Mr. President, as you have stated so clearly, and as symbolized by those of us here today who represent—with us here today who represent millions of Americans working effectively every day to reduce drug use, addiction and crime, our efforts rest on the knowledge that when we push back, the drug problem gets smaller. This fact is beyond question today, even if it is not always beyond denial.

Mr. President, thank you for nominating me to be Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, at this important time. If the Senate permits, it will be my privilege to support the outstanding individuals represented here, who work every day to combat the drug problem throughout our nation.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you all for coming.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES DR. ROBYN AGRİ FOR HER SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Robyn Agri's installation as the 121st President of the Mercer County Medical Society. Although Dr. Agri is the 121st President, she is the first woman to hold this office since the establishment of the Society in 1848.

Dr. Agri's active interest in politics and community service began during her studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1979 Dr. Agri served as an intern in the U.S. House of Representatives.

After receiving her BA in Biochemistry from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Agri went on to attend the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York where she would receive her medical degree in 1985. Throughout her time at Upstate Medical Center, she continued to be active in politics by becoming an officer in the American Medical Student Association. Due to her steadfast efforts to establish a

school wide counseling program for students and residents Robyn would receive the Ciba-Geigy award for community service.

Robyn would later return to Pennsylvania to complete her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She would use this time to continue her study of movement through her research work in multiple sclerosis. In 1989, Dr. Agri would continue her work on MS when she joined the staffs of St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center and Capital Health System.

Dr. Agri continues to maintain a private practice in Lawrenceville and remains active within the community through her work with various associations' and societies. I applaud the installation of Dr. Robyn Agri as President of the Mercer County Medical Society and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her steadfast commitment to our community.

MAY SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Floral Park Memorial High School as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for May 2001.

Gloria M. O'Connor is Principal of Floral Park, and Dr. George Goldstein is the Superintendent of Schools for the Sewanhaka Central High School District.

Floral Park has incredible student outreach programs. A student at Floral Park is destined to be a well-rounded, community-minded, educated young person by the time they graduate.

Floral Park has long been known by the parents, students and community as a jewel in the Sewanhaka Central High School District—as a school of exceptional excellence among public high schools.

Floral Park has an excellent reputation in Nassau County. They can be especially proud of their past, recent and future recognition which shines as an example of the quality education provided at the school.

Floral Park waves its school flag high as a Nationally Recognized School of Excellence, and is designated by Redbook magazine as one of America's Outstanding Schools. Also, Floral Park has received the New York State Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and the Department of Education National School of Excellence Award. Furthermore, Floral Park is one of the outstanding schools in a prestigious high school district which received the New York State Governor's Excelsior Award.

Floral Park is a junior/senior high school comprised of 1,472 students and is one of five high schools in the Sewanhaka Central High School District. In order to ensure all of our students meet new regents standards, Floral Park offers a broad range of extra help sessions in all academic areas before and after school, such as Operation Success, Homework Helper, Regents Prep and Review classes, Peer Tutoring and one on one tutoring with members of the faculty in each department.

Students excel at Floral Park. The Class of 2000 was comprised of 207 students where 75% attended four year colleges, 20% attended two year colleges and 5% enrolled in

technical programs, employment or the military. In addition to the outstanding academics, the wealth and diversity of extracurricular activities and athletics are fostered.

The School of the Month program highlights schools with outstanding students, teachers and administrators. Each month, I will recognize a different school that demonstrates a unique contribution to Long Island education.

I will honor Schools of the Month with a speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as bestowing a Congressional Proclamation of Distinction award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS T. HAIDER, "PRIDE IN THE PROFESSION" AMA HONOREE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute today to Dr. Thomas T. Haider, a constituent of mine from the 43rd congressional district, who was recently recognized with the American Medical Association's (AMA) top national honor, the inaugural 2001 Pride in the Profession Award. The award highlighted the work of six physicians nationwide who have not only healed patients, but enriched the communities and inspired the colleagues with whom they come into contact.

I once heard a quote that goes, "It seems to me that a doctor's is the most perfect of all lives; it satisfies the craving to know, and also the craving to serve." I can think of no better words to describe the incredible devotion and duty that Dr. Haider has shown in his lifetime career as a physician.

Spurred to become a physician at the age of 12, Dr. Thomas Haider intended to use his medical skills to help people in his home country of Afghanistan. Ultimately, political turmoil has prevented that, but he has still managed to touch and improve the lives of thousands all over the world.

In 1994, Dr. Haider established the Children's Spine Foundation in the United States to provide free comprehensive spinal care for children without health insurance. And across the globe he sponsors a children's hospital in Afghanistan by supporting the salaries of 40 physicians and providing funds for all medication and food supplies.

Additionally, Dr. Haider's philanthropy includes: development of a new polyaxial pedicle screw for use in spine fusion surgeries, increasing their success rate; establishment of the first Spine Fellowship Program at the University of Colorado Medical Center; volunteer work to train doctors; creation of the American Board of Spine Surgery; and, endowment to the Biomedical Sciences Program at the University of California at Riverside, which bears his name.

Mr. Speaker, in my district of Riverside, California we are fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated individuals who give unselfishly of their time and talents to ensure the well-being of our city, state, nation and—in Dr. Haider's case—world. These individuals work tirelessly to enrich and brighten the lives of so many. Therefore, it is my distinct pleasure to take to the House of Representatives' chamber today to personally honor and commend

Dr. Thomas T. Haider for all of his dedicated service to our community.

NATIONAL GUARD PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC AND SMALL ARMS COMPETITIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the Member rises to give a brief explanation of H.R. 1705, which will authorize members of National Guard units to use appropriated funds to conduct and participate in athletic competitions and small arms competitions. This Member introduced H.R. 1705 on May 3, 2001.

The National Guard Competitive Events Program provides National Guard members with an opportunity to hone their training-related skills, such as running, swimming, and marksmanship, in a competitive atmosphere. As the National Guard actively recruits new members, this can be another feature in recruitment and retention programs for certain members of the National Guard. Through these competitions, National Guard members can qualify for higher level national and international competitions, including the Pan Am Games and the Olympics.

Also, National Guard members who compete in athletic and small arms competitions can now do so with members of the Active Duty military. Bringing Active and Reserve components together in this fashion builds better appreciation among the various components and overall force cohesiveness.

Additionally, some of the National Guard-sponsored competitions, including the Lincoln Marathon held in this Member's district, are open to participation by the entire civilian community for participation. The high visibility and the community interaction that such events provide is key for continued support for local National Guard units.

For the National Guard Competitive Events Program to continue to thrive, greater funding flexibility must be granted to the National Guard units sponsoring competitions and sending members to those competitions. Currently, only non-appropriated funds from post exchanges and other activities and from competition entry fees can be used to cover operating expenses for the events and all health, pay, and personal expenses for participating National Guard members. This funding system places National Guard members at a disadvantage.

Unlike Active Duty military personnel who have all health, pay, and personal expenses covered while competing, National Guard members are not on duty while competing and thus are not covered. For example, if National Guard members suffer injuries while competing at the marksmanship competition in North Little Rock, Arkansas, they must pay for the incurred health costs although they were competing with their Guard unit. And, unfortunately, placing National Guard members on orders is not a solution to the coverage issue for National Guard members placed on active duty cannot compete with their National Guard unit's team.

Mr. Speaker, the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. LANGEVIN, and this

Member introduced H.R. 1705 to provide the necessary funding flexibility. By authorizing the use of appropriated funds in addition to the non-appropriated funds, National Guard units face fewer budget constraints when hosting competitions and when sending teams and individuals into competition. Health, pay, and personal expenses could be covered for participants who otherwise might not be able to afford costs stemming from physical injuries.

This bill levels the funding playing field so that National Guard units are not at a financial disadvantage when sponsoring competitions and participating in these valuable competitions. It should be emphasized that the legislation does not create participation incentives for National Guard members which are greater than those incentives for Active Duty military.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to review H.R. 1705 and to favorably consider co-sponsorship and legislative action on the measure.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, AFL-CIO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The Central Labor Council of Alameda County has a long history of organizing, advocacy, activism and progressive leadership over the past century. I would like to highlight some of their many accomplishments and contributions.

The Central Labor Council was one of the first labor organizations in the country to take a high profile position in support of the Civil Rights Movement. Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Groulx joined Martin Luther King, Jr. in the march in Selma, Alabama in 1964.

The Central Labor Council was in the forefront in the demand for divestiture in apartheid South Africa. Long before the issue captured national attention, the Central Labor Council of Alameda County joined with religious, community and student groups to demand divestiture by the University of California. Secretary-Treasurer Groulx spoke to a rally of over 20,000, vowing labor's support for the divestiture.

The Central Labor Council of Alameda County was one of the first labor bodies to recognize the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and Cesar Chavez by lending money and physical support to the fledgling organization.

When the Port of Oakland was locked in a year-long bureaucratic quagmire in its attempts to dredge the shipping lanes to accommodate the new larger container ships, it was the Central Labor Council of Alameda County and its Secretary-Treasurer Owen Marron who brought the stalemate to an end. He brought business, labor, elected officials and the Port together in a coalition. As a result, the impasse was broken and dredging within an acceptable environmental plan is underway.

Thanks to the political clout of the Central Labor Council in partnership with a coalition of

local unions, community and religious organizations, Living Wage ordinances have been passed by the cities of Oakland, Berkeley and Hayward as well as a major employer, the Port of Oakland.

A collaboration of the Central Labor Council, under the leadership of the present Secretary Judy Goff, and the Labor Immigrant Organizing Network, has led to the passage of a resolution of immigrant's rights. The immigrant rights resolution was sent to the California Labor Federation and the AFL-CIO leading to a change in the AFL-CIO's position on immigrant worker's rights.

Congratulations Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO on your centennial birthday and best wishes in your continued successful efforts to organize for justice in our community.

HONORING DR. KENNETH L. MATTOX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox, on the occasion of his receiving the 2001 Distinguished Houston Surgeon Award by the Houston Surgical Society on May 15, 2001, in Houston, Texas. I believe this is an honor that is well deserved, and I want to congratulate Dr. Mattox for this accomplishment.

Dr. Mattox is an internationally recognized cardiovascular, thoracic, and trauma surgeon who has saved many lives in the Houston area. I believe he has contributed much to our community through his career of direct patient care, teaching and research.

Dr. Mattox was born in Ozark, Arkansas and attended high school in Clovis, New Mexico. He graduated with a B.S. degree from Wayland College in Plainview, Texas and a M.D. degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Mattox currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. In addition, he has served as the Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff of Ben Taub General Hospital since 1990. During his tenure at Ben Taub, he has made significant contributions in trauma resuscitation, trauma systems, thoracic trauma, complex abdominal trauma, and multi-system trauma. The "Mattox Maneuver" for abdominal aortic injury is used internationally. His recent research in preoperative fluid restriction for penetrating trauma is shaking the foundation of surgical doctrine in this area.

Dr. Mattox is a dedicated teacher and has contributed to the education of thousands of physicians. In total, Dr. Mattox has published more than 500 articles on research that he has conducted and has expanded the medical knowledge of our nation. In addition, Dr. Mattox is well known for serving his community in leadership positions both locally and internationally. In the past, he has served as president of nine organizations and received numerous awards for his dedicated service to the surrounding community.

Dr. Mattox has also served our country in numerous ways. He was a Flight Surgeon Captain in the United States Medical Corps

from 1965 through 1967. In 1967, he received the Legion of Merit, United States Army Presidential Citation for his dedicated service to the nation. He also served as Aeromedical Consultant to the Department of the Army from 1967 through 1970. He currently supervises trauma training of Armed Forces personnel at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston as Clinical Professor of Surgery and Adjunct Professor of Military/Emergency Medicine of the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences.

Again, I want to congratulate Dr. Mattox for receiving this Award. I wish to extend my congratulations to him and his family upon this important acknowledgment of his service to the Houston area.

THE MELISSA FROELICH MEDICAID CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT WAIVER ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I come before you to introduce the Melissa Froelich Medicaid Congenital Heart Defect Waiver Act. This legislation would permit a State waiver authority to provide medical assistance in cases of congenital heart defects.

My interest in sponsoring this legislation stems from contact with a special constituent, Melissa Froelich. Melissa is a five-year old who has undergone numerous painful procedures and operations because she was born with multiple congenital heart defects. The medical expenses for Melissa's family during the first 18 months of her life totaled more than one million dollars. More than \$270 thousand of those dollars were not covered by the family's two health insurance policies. The family discovered that carrying two health insurance policies was of little help due to a Coordination of Benefits provision, which prevents a family from taking advantage of the benefits of both combined health plans. Even though the family has been paying for two separate health plans they can only receive the best benefit from each policy. This bill would help middle-class families with children like Melissa whose only current options are unacceptable.

More than 32,000 American babies are born each year with cardiovascular defects, which translates to 1 out of every 115 to 150 births. To put these numbers into perspective, 1 in every 800 to 1,000 babies is born with Down's Syndrome. Congenital heart defects make up 42 percent of all birth defects, making Congenital Heart Disease the most common of all birth defects. The American Heart Association estimates that there are approximately 1 million people living with heart defects in the United States today.

Prior to 1960, most children with heart defects died within the first year of life. In the subsequent decades of the 1960's, 70's and 80's, research produced by skilled surgeons and cardiologists led to a variety of different treatments and interventions which allow the vast majority of infants with heart defects to survive. However, these medical procedures place an enormous burden on the families of children born with congenital heart defects. In addition, many of these children who survive

infancy still face a life of dependency on medications, medical procedures, and open-heart surgeries.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help reduce these families' burden and allow them to focus their resources on providing the best possible care for their child.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S MEMORIAL DAY AND 53RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, these are troubling and arduous times for Israel. Over the past seven months, the continuous clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have claimed the lives of more than 70 Israeli citizens. Car bombings, mob attacks and widespread terrorism in residential areas have caused an outbreak of panic and worry among the residents of Israel. Men and women fear that an ordinarily simple trip to their local shopping center will result in tragedy. Children no longer feel safe to ride their school buses, for they fear that they will be the next targets of this senseless bloodshed. Sadly, terrorism and fear are everywhere, and the violence continues to escalate.

Two weeks ago, Israelis commemorated the 53rd anniversary of their independence and mourned the lives lost as they marked their Memorial Day. Grieving countrymen gathered together to remember the thousands of men and women who sacrificed their lives in the fight for Israel's existence. Those commemorating these events were reminded that despite their independence, Israel must continue in their struggle for recognition and liberty.

Before and since being elected to Congress, I have supported a strong Israel. America has had for a long time, and should continue to have for a long time, a unique relationship with Israel—the only democratic nation in the region, our most important strategic ally in this volatile area, and a nation whose founding and existence clearly makes the world a better place. I believe that the United States must continue to voice its support for Israel and for the peace process that the Israelis have courageously undertaken. As I have stated many times before, the United States must be prepared to provide the diplomatic, military, and economic support that Israel needs.

The United States plays an essential role as a broker of peace in the region. However, we must not let that role keep us from speaking the truth. I am saddened to see that optimism for quick and lasting peace in the Middle East has been thwarted by the Palestinians' continued violence. I believe it is time for our government to acknowledge that the Palestinians are contradicting the promise Chairman Arafat made in January—a promise to continue working for peace. It is time for our government to exert pressure on the Palestinians to persuade them to put an end to the uprising and to prevent terrorist attacks on Israel. If the Palestinian leaders act as the Palestine Liberation Organization of old, seeking conflict rather than peace with Israel, then we must be clear in our disapproval and resolute in our efforts to once again promote peace negotiations.

Most importantly, the Palestinians must end the violence against the Israelis, and Israel must respond, as I am confident it would, with corresponding steps to reduce the level of violence on its side. That is the only way to get back to the peace table. Only peace discussions can achieve the lasting, just peace that will best serve the interests of all Israelis, all Palestinians and indeed, all of us throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, my personal sense of commitment to Israel has only been strengthened by recent developments. We must put an end to this terror and return to a period of goodwill. I believe the same is true for many of my colleagues. Let us reaffirm our solidarity with Israel as they commemorate their independence and struggle for freedom.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I express my support for 34th annual National Nursing Home Week. When the very first National Nursing Home Week began, the theme was to let millions of Americans know the "fuller life" elderly lead in America's nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker in Woodmere, New York, there is an outstanding nursing home that I commend for giving Long Island's elderly a fuller life. Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center offers incredible rehabilitation services and skilled nursing services to Long Islanders. This year, Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center celebrates its 30th year and I am proud of their work they do.

I especially thank Director Anthony Matese, whom made changes and improved the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. The 2001 theme is the effect Nassau County nursing boxes have on the community and that nursing homes in the Nassau County area have had on the community, and how the administrators are striving to create a warm, homelike environment without an institutional atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center on their success and wish them and all our nursing homes the best during National Nursing Home Week.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA A. PHILLIPS, 2001 ATHENA AWARD HONOREE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor Judge Virginia A. Phillips, the recipient of the 2001 ATHENA of the Inland Valleys Award, which recognizes Judge Phillips for her professional excellence, community service and mentoring of fellow women.

The ATHENA Foundation Award Program originated in 1980 by Martha Mayhood Mertz,

who realized that in the 75 years of presenting community awards, her Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, of Michigan, had only once honored a woman. This realization led her to establish ATHENA so that focus would be given to the incredible number of professional women found throughout our communities nationwide.

In the 43rd congressional district Judge Virginia Phillips not only epitomizes all that the ATHENAs stand for but also all that we could possibly hope for in a role-model for the young women of today.

Judge Phillips received her B.A., Magna Cum Laude, from the University of California, Riverside in 1979, and later obtained her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law. Additionally, her professional and community activities include: Board of Directors member of the Federal Bar Association—Inland Empire Chapter; Chairperson of the City of Riverside Law Enforcement Policy Advisory Board; Board of Directors member with the Riverside Youth Center; member of the Riverside Human Relations Committee; and much, much more. Judge Phillips' life long commitment to the Inland Empire community is obvious and compelling.

Presently, Judge Phillips serves as the first female district court judge from the Inland Empire appointed to the Central District of California, which encompasses over 18 million people, with more than three million people in the Eastern Division—the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, California. And Riverside County, while being one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, has over 1.5 million people alone. In this position, Judge Phillips fills a critical need given the sheer number of cases that come before the Central District each month.

Mr. Speaker, my district is fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated community leader in Judge Phillips. She has given her time and talents providing motivation and inspiration to the young women with whom she comes into contact.

Judge Virginia Phillips' outstanding work makes me proud to call her a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Riverside, including myself, is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of our community and salute her on May 10th with the 2001 ATHENA Award.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and the many professional women of Riverside County for the good of our community. I would like to close with the ATHENA Foundation motto by Plato: "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARIA OCHOA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Maria Ochoa, Ph.D. Dr. Ochoa has been director of the Sun Gallery in Hayward, California, for five successful years and is leaving to conduct art history research. Her exemplary leadership at Sun Gallery will be missed.

Sun Gallery is a community based gallery that obtains its funding through foundation

grants and community support. Through Dr. Ochoa's numerous programs and outreach activities Sun Gallery has become a true community based art gallery in which individuals feel invested and point to Sun Gallery with pride of ownership.

Dr. Ochoa was hired in April 1996 to serve as the Director of Sun Gallery. During her tenure, the growth at Sun Gallery has been remarkable. She developed a comprehensive educational program for children, increased the Gallery's funding base, brought a wide range of internationally and nationally regarded artists to exhibit at the gallery, and most importantly, brought the community to Sun Gallery. She tripled the number of school children served annually by the gallery.

Sun Gallery's classroom field trip program is now regarded as one of the premiere art education programs in the region. Dr. Ochoa also developed, in tandem with local artists and teachers, a bronze-casting curriculum that is now offered in high schools in Hayward, California.

Dr. Ochoa has stated that she is quite honored to have been selected to bring Sun Gallery into the 21st Century and is deeply humbled to have been able to serve the community, while working in a visual arts setting.

We are honored that Dr. Ochoa chose to lead Sun Gallery with her energy, commitment and talent. She leaves a legacy and her indelible mark on Sun Gallery. I join her friends and admirers in thanking her for a job well done.

HONORING ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL
HOSPITAL'S NATIONAL MAGNET
AWARD

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital for earning a Magnet Award, the highest honor a hospital can receive for patient care. St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is the first hospital in Houston and one of only 31 hospitals nationwide to win this coveted distinction. This Magnet Award is presented by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the patient care provided by the St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital's nursing staff. As the representative for St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, I want to congratulate the entire nursing staff for the quality health care services that they provide not just to local residents, but also to patients from throughout the world.

On Monday, May 7, 2001, I participated in the Magnet Award Ceremony at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital to honor these dedicated nurses who provide top quality care. I can personally attest to the care provided at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital through my family's experience. Several years ago, my uncle former Senator Lloyd Bentsen was treated at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital where he received the best available care to treat his illness. Also participating at this Awards Ceremony to honor the nursing staff of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital were two prestigious patients, former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier and Nolan Ryan. In addition, the Ceremony included former Houston City Councilman

Judson Robinson's wife, Mrs. Margarette Robinson. Mrs. Robinson was the first African American nurse to work in the surgical facilities at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

In a time when many hospitals are facing difficulties in recruiting and retaining their nursing staff, this Magnet Award demonstrates that St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is providing a nurturing work environment where all employees work collaboratively toward the common goal of providing quality health care services to their patients. A recent Wall Street Journal article recommended to its readers that they should seek care at a magnet hospital in their area.

The Magnet Award program began in 1993 as a means to recognize centers of excellence in nursing care. This program reviews the management philosophy and practices of nursing staff; adherence to standards for improving the quality of patient care; leadership in supporting continued competence of nursing personnel; and attention to the cultural and ethnic diversity of patients and their significant others.

Clearly, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital has worked hard to provide the resources and personnel needed to accomplish this goal. The nursing staff is the backbone of any hospital and the nurses at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital have earned a distinction worthy of special praise.

CONGRATULATING ESTONIA, LAT-
VIA, AND LITHUANIA ON THE
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR
INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania threw off the yoke of Soviet domination and regained their independence. Between World War I and World War II, they had been sovereign nations and respected members of the international community. In 1939, however, they were illegally partitioned between Hitler and Stalin as part of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement. Based on this agreement, Hitler gave Stalin the green light to seize the Baltic states. I am proud to state that the illegal incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union was never recognized by the United States Government.

Stalin's NKVD killed or exiled thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who resisted the takeover and subjugation. If not murdered outright, tens of thousands of Baltic citizens were rounded up and loaded into railroad cars to be shipped to distant regions of the Soviet Union. The current president of Estonia, for instance, grew up in Siberia. The President of Latvia, whom I recently had the pleasure of meeting, grew up in a refugee camp in Germany where her family had fled from the Soviet incursion. Almost 300,000 Lithuanians were deported to Siberia in the 1940s and 1950s. Those Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who remained in their homelands saw their native languages and cultures denigrated in favor of Soviet "culture" and linguistic "Russification."

Among the political prisoners in the post-Stalin GULAG, the Balts were well represented. We still remember the names of Baltic political prisoners such as Mart Niklus, Gunars Astra, and Nijole Sadunaite, and many others willing to sacrifice their freedom and, in some cases, give their lives to resist Soviet oppression of their homelands.

But the Soviet system was doomed and the people of the Baltic nations knew it. "Glasnost" and "perestroika" gave them the opportunity to resolutely, but peacefully, work to regain their independence. In August 1989, on the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement, about one million Balts created a human chain the "Baltic Way," stretching about 400 miles from Estonia, through Latvia, to Lithuania to protest Soviet rule over their nations. Two years later, after a bloody but ultimately fruitless attempt by Moscow to regain armed control over its unruly subjects, the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had regained the independence they had dreamed of for so long.

And now, ten years after that momentous event, the Baltic nations are again sovereign nations, respected members of the international community. Their David-and-Goliath struggle is an inspiration to enslaved peoples everywhere.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Mr. HOYER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, in submitting a resolution which congratulates the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the restoration of their full independence. This resolution also calls upon the United States Government to continue the close and mutually beneficial relations with these countries that have existed since the restoration of full independence.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO STETSON
UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as the State of Florida recently celebrated its 156th anniversary, Stetson University and President H. Douglas Lee, along with the Dean Gary Vauss of the School of Law, recognized the occasion by hosting an event attended by Floridians in Washington, D.C.

Stetson University was founded in 1883 with a population of only 13 students. It established Florida's first professional schools in Business, Law and Music.

The University, with 2,491 students and a student-faculty ratio of 11 to 1, embraces six core values of education: (1) Ethical Decisions, (2) Religious and Spiritual Life, (3) Environmental Responsibility, (4) Diversity and Global Awareness, (5) Community Service and (6) Gender Equality. The School of Law, with 708 students and a student-faculty ratio of 18 to 1, has established centers of excellence in Advocacy, Elder Law, Dispute Resolution Health Law and Litigation Ethics. It also ranks in the top three of accredited Law Schools in the United States for Trial Advocacy.

I am pleased and honored to represent Stetson University, which lies within the Seventh Congressional District, in DeLand Florida. I am also delighted that the School of Law, which is located in the Tenth Congressional District, in St. Petersburg Florida, is represented by my friend and colleague Representative C.W. Bill Young.

Finally Mr. Speaker, the attendees of the State of Florida anniversary event received a copy of the March 15, 1845, edition of the St. Augustine Newspaper which detailed the Congressional action that confirmed Florida as America's 27th State. Some of the advice given by the editor in the article, to give us your "good, tried and honest men" who will lay "party feelings . . . aside" to represent the new state, should be equally important today.

I submit for the RECORD the article from the March 15, 1845, edition of The News of St. Augustine, Florida.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA

The Bill for the admission of the State of Florida into the Union has passed Congress. The day of trial has come, and the people will soon feel the full benefits arising from the change and from the visits of the tax collector. The die is cast, and all, who have opposed State Government, must submit. They can support the burdens of a State as well as those, who have heretofore been most clamorous for it. In many instances, the personal interests of those, who have opposed our admission at this time, will probably be promoted by the change. They resisted it not from personal considerations, but because they entertained the sincere conviction, that the interests of Florida and its prosperity would be injuriously affected by it. Such is their belief still. But the measure has been brought about despite of their opposition. With others rests the responsibility, whatever the result.

Now it is the duty of all to adapt themselves to the new order of things, and to make the most of it. All should unite in organizing the new government in the best and most economical manner. The intelligence and the integrity of the whole Territory should be sought out and employed in putting the government in motion. Much, very much of the future prosperity and greatness of the country will depend on our action now. More than the mere party politicians is needed at this time. The occasion requires those, who have made our free institutions and the science of government their study. A direction and an impulse are now to be given to the machinery of our institutions. Much nearly everything depends on a right commencement. To do this, the mind of the country must be put in requisition. Good, tried and intelligent men must be sent to the Legislature. Party feeling should be laid aside. Partialities and prejudices should be sacrificed to the good of the country. The inquiry should be, who can lend the most efficient aid in imparting the right impulse to our State Government. By no other consideration should any be influenced. At the first session of the Legislature, Officers are to be selected, and their salaries determined; Taxes levied, and their amount fixed and adjusted; the representation of the Counties is to be apportioned; and all the expenses of the new government is to be settled, and whether our burdens are to be light or heavy, whether we are to be free or oppressed, must be determined. The consequences of the action of the first Legislature will be long felt for good or ill. Under these circumstances, we call upon our friends in the country to reflect, and to act with that deliberation, in preparing for the State Government and in

the selection of members of the next Legislature, which the importance of the occasion and the momentous interests at stake, demand of all. The power lies with the country, and we trust it may be exercised with discretion and fidelity. They are called upon to act not only for themselves, but for their children. As the stream is now caused to flow, so it will continue. Great effort will be required to divert from its wanted channel. Reflect seriously, deliberate cautiously, determine justly, and act patriotically.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL RICHARD ZAHIGIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corporal Richard Zahigian for his service and dedication to the United States Marine Corps. In addition, I would like to recognize his book, *The Other Side of Conflict*, which chronicles his stateside service to his country in the Vietnam Era, between the years of 1966–1968.

While his exemplary career spanned a number of years, his service in the Marine Corps was highlighted on December 22, 1967. On that date, Corporal Zahigian was the honored recipient of the "Meritorious Mast" for his performance and devotion to duty, in keeping with the highest tradition of the Naval Service, as the "Lone Marine" of McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey.

The *Other Side of Conflict* is dedicated to the generations of young people who served in the Armed Forces, to Corporal Zahigian's fellow Vietnam Era veterans who trained alongside him, and especially to all those who did not return.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Corporal Richard Zahigian for his selfless dedication to this country and the freedoms that we enjoy. Please join me in celebrating Richard's career and literary success.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN NURSES DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a remarkable group of dedicated health professionals—the nearly 3 million registered nurses in the United States.

These outstanding men and women of every race, creed and ethnic background will celebrate National Nurses Week May 6–12, 2001. This week is set aside as a special week to recognize those who have worked hard to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals. I believe that all Americans who have ever been cared for or comforted by a nurse should celebrate National Nurses Week.

According to the American Nurses Association, National Nurse Week was first observed October 11–16, 1954, on the 100th anniversary

of the founding of modern nursing by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. National Nurses Day and Week was eventually moved to May to incorporate Florence Nightingale's birthday, which is May 12th.

This year, the American Nurses Association (ANA) and its 53 constituent associations will highlight the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. Studies show that the higher the ratio of nurse-to-patients in a hospital, the lower the patient death rate. In short, registered nurses provide top-quality, cost effective health care services for their patients.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of America's nurses during this week of May 6–12, 2001 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO MARK BROXMEYER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mark Broxmeyer; entrepreneur, community activist, and friend. On the occasion of today's dinner, benefiting the Greene Emergency Center of the North Shore University Hospital, it is appropriate to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated himself to improving our communities.

Twenty-eight years ago, Mr. Broxmeyer founded Fairfield Properties, which, through years of hard work and determination, has grown into a complex network of properties including over 8,000 units in Long Island and beyond. His professional success has earned him the respect of many in the fields of building and real estate, resulting in a cover story on his success in *Builder* and *Remodeler News* and a profile in the real estate section of the *New York Times*.

Mr. Broxmeyer has also been a devoted community activist. His enthusiasm for our communities on Long Island has resulted in his being named "Man of the Year" by the United Cerebral Palsy Association and an Advocacy Award from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. He was appointed by former President Bush to the Board of Directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank for the New York Region. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the United Nations Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Broxmeyer has also served as the Vice President for the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs and he was the recipient of a Leadership Award from the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, given to him personally by our former colleague, Secretary Jack Kemp.

He has also been active in his Alma Mater, Hofstra University, from which he has received an Alumni achievement award and made a member of the Board of Trustees.

Most important of all, I have come to respect his commitment to his family. As an entrepreneur, demands on Mark's time must be tremendous, yet he still finds time for his children Michael, Evan, Marissa, Daniel, and Becky.

I have been fortunate to know Mark Broxmeyer, and I respect his success and his enthusiasm for his community and his loved ones.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Nurses Week. This week is an important reminder of nurses and their continued dedication and concern for their patients every day.

Well trained nurses are the cornerstone of our nation's health system. Currently, hospitals and other health care employers are faced with an emerging nurse shortage. After meeting with several nursing and health care organizations in my district, I believe increased funding of existing nurse education programs and new programs to recruit and retain nurses are desperately needed to provide advanced training and to build the faculty workforce. I am actively working with my colleagues to pursue these goals.

It is important to support the goals and ideas of National Nurses Week, because their impressive level of achievement and accomplishment are a milestone for the nursing profession as a whole. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in support and appreciation of these extraordinary individuals.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF OF POLICE
DENNIS MINNICH

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis Minnich, who was recently appointed the new Chief of Police of West Boylston, Massachusetts.

Chief Minnich brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this important post. He began as a full time Patrolman with the West Boylston Police Department in 1992 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1977 and has also served as Interim Police Chief. Previously, for several years, he was a member of the Police Department of the neighboring town of Boylston. Chief Minnich has expressed a commitment to lead a visible, active police department and to remain fully accessible to the public. He recently stated "I really care about the community—I plan on raising a family here and want it to be a safe town for my kids and all the children of the town to grow up in."

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Chief Minnich on his appointment and for his distinguished law enforcement career. I offer my best wishes and support to him and the members of his department in their service to the citizens of West Boylston.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS LIABILITY REFORM
ACT OF 2001

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, the

gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN; the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. BURR; and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. MORAN in introducing the Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2001.

Members will recall the House's consideration and passage of similar legislation during the last session of Congress. Following legislative hearings in the Fall of 1999, that bill (H.R. 2366, 106th Congress) was the subject of three days of markup in the Judiciary Committee, during which the Committee considered 21 amendments and adopted five. On February 16, 2000, the full House took up H.R. 2366 and adopted three of the four amendments considered before passing the bill on a bipartisan vote of 221-193.

Like its predecessor, Title I of the bill we are introducing today proposes three basic reforms to our civil justice system for defendants with fewer than 25 full time employees—the smallest of America's small businesses. Section 103 of the bill establishes fair standards of evidence and liability for the award of punitive damages, and establishes proportionality in the awarding of punitive damages against America's small businesses. Section 104 establishes a fair share rule for the payment of non-economic awards. This reform in effect abolishes so-called "joint and several liability" for damages for pain and suffering, ensuring that only those defendants who are truly guilty of inflicting such harm will be held financially responsible.

Title II of the bill contains two important reforms to the product liability system and is applicable to all who sell, rent or lease products. First, Sections 204(a) and (b) establish a fault-based standard of liability for non-manufacturer product sellers in product liability cases, while preserving a strict liability standard for breach of the seller's own express warranty and where an otherwise culpable manufacturer is beyond the court's reach. Section 204(c) appropriately protects those who merely rent and lease products from being held vicariously liable for the wrongful conduct of someone else (a customer for example) simply due to product ownership.

Mr. Speaker, the reforms proposed in the Small Business Liability Reform Act are both modest and fair and will improve the administration of civil justice in the United States by reducing needless litigation and the wasteful legal costs associated with it. Most important, the bill will advance the core purposes of our civil justice system: to prevent harm through the deterrence of careless or wrongful conduct; to assign responsibility for harm to the party in the best position to avoid it; and to require those whose careless or wrongful conduct cause harm to pay.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting this important legislation, the enactment of which is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a section-by-section summary of the Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2001 for the RECORD.

The Small Business Liability Reform Act of 2001—Section-by-Section Summary

A bill to offer small businesses and product sellers protection from litigation excesses.

TITLE I: SMALL BUSINESS LAWSUIT ABUSE
PROTECTION

SECTION 101: FINDINGS

This section sets out congressional findings concerning the litigation excesses facing small businesses, and the need for re-

forms to protect small businesses from abusive litigation.

SECTION 102: DEFINITIONS

This section defines various terms used in the bill. A small business is defined as any business or organization with fewer than 25 full time employees. Punitive damages are defined to exclude civil penalties, civil fines, or treble damages assessed or enforced by a government agency under federal or state statute.

SECTION 103: LIMITATION ON PUNITIVE DAMAGES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

This section provides that punitive damages may, to the extent permitted by applicable state law, be awarded against a small business only if the claimant establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant acted with a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of others, and that the conduct was the proximate cause of the harm that is the subject of the action.

This section also limits the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded against a small business. In any civil action against a small business, punitive damages may not exceed the lesser of three times the amount awarded to the claimant for economic and noneconomic losses, or \$250,000. However, a court is permitted to exceed the punitive damages cap in the event it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant acted with specific intent to cause the type of harm for which the action was brought.

SECTION 104: LIMITATION ON JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY FOR NONECONOMIC LOSS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

This section provides that in any civil action against a small business, each small business defendant will be liable for non-economic loss only in proportion to its responsibility for causing the harm.

SECTION 105: EXCEPTIONS TO LIMITATIONS ON LIABILITY

This section ensures that the benefits of this legislation are not available to any defendant whose misconduct (1) constitutes a crime of violence or an act of international terrorism; (2) results in certain natural resource damages; (3) involves a sexual offense or a violation of civil rights law; (4) occurs while the defendant is under the influence of an intoxicating alcohol or a drug; (5) is prosecuted under the Federal False Claims Act; or (6) is prosecuted under fraud or false statement laws.

SECTION 106: PREEMPTION AND ELECTION OF STATE NONAPPLICABILITY

This section provides for uniform rules with regard to small business liability. The bill preempts state laws to the extent that any such laws are inconsistent with the provisions of Title I. However, the bill includes an opt-out provision for the states. A state may opt out of the provisions of this title for actions in state court against a small business in which all parties are citizens of the state. In order to opt out, the state must enact a statute citing the authority in this section and declaring its intention to opt out.

TITLE II: PRODUCT SELLER FAIR TREATMENT
SECTION 201: FINDINGS

This section sets out congressional findings concerning the effect on interstate commerce of damage awards in product liability cases; the present inequities resulting from inconsistent product liability laws within and among the states; and the need for national, uniform federal product liability laws.

SECTION 202: DEFINITIONS

This section defines various terms and phrases used in this title.

SECTION 203: APPLICABILITY; PREEMPTION

This section applies to any product liability action brought in federal or state court. Civil actions for commercial loss are excluded from the applicability of this title.

In addition, this section clarifies that the preemption of state law by this title is limited to only those issues specifically addressed by the legislation and not other unrelated liability laws.

SECTION 204: LIABILITY RULES APPLICABLE TO PRODUCT SELLERS, RENTERS AND LESSORS

This section provides that product sellers other than the manufacturer (such as wholesaler distributors and retailers) may be held liable only if they are directly at fault for the harm; if the harm was caused by the failure of the product to conform to the product seller's own, independent express warranty; or if the harm was the result of the product seller's intentional wrongdoing.

However, the provision ensures that product sellers will "stand in the shoes" of a culpable manufacturer when the manufacturer is judgment-proof. In addition, the statute of limitations in such cases is tolled.

Finally, this section specifies that product renters and lessors will not be liable for the tortious acts of another solely by reason of product ownership.

SECTION 205: FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION PRECLUDED

This section clarifies that the bill does not create federal district court jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1331 or Section 1337 of Title 28, United States Code.

TITLE III: EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 301: EFFECTIVE DATE

This section provides that the bill's provisions will apply to any civil action commenced after the date of enactment of the legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE YMCA COMMUNITY SERVICES NEW MILLENNIUM PROGRAM GRADUATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of citizens in Northern Virginia who will be celebrating their graduation from the YMCA Community Service New Millennium Program on Friday, May 11, 2001. Forty-eight people will be receiving their certificates for completing this challenging program.

The New Millennium Program is a joint, after-school effort run by Arlington Public Schools, Arlington Community Television and YMCA Community Services Department. It is also the only television program exclusively for youth in this area. It has been in existence for two years and has been extremely successful. The goal of the Program is to teach volunteer secondary school students the field of video production. After receiving instruction from the staff of Channel 33, the students pick a subject, and then write, film and edit their work.

The Metropolitan YMCA Community Services Office and its predecessor, The Refugee Services Office, based in Arlington, have been providing multi-cultural programs for our ever-more-diverse and dynamic population for over twenty years.

The YMCA Community Services Office has been instrumental in opening doors for people

who have come here from all over the world. Among the many services provided are:

English as a Second Language classes for adults during the evening hours.

After-school tutorials for students so that they keep pace with their peers.

Multi-cultural and adaptation workshops for adults and teens and their families to ease "culture shock."

Millennium Youth Program designed to focus on technology, its impact on youth, and approaches for positive influence on the target audience.

Interpreting and translating services.

Job placement and housing referral service.

The above programs, staffed and executed almost entirely by volunteers, are an admirable example of how a few people can make a positive difference in the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to the individuals who have completed this program. It is truly an honor to have individuals like this in our community.

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending this hardworking group.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LANDIS RUTH

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John Landis Ruth. Dr. Ruth compiled an exhibit, part of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, which illustrates the "Route 113 Corridor" in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Route 113 winds its way through central Montgomery County and is arguably one of the most historic roads in the county.

Dr. Ruth was born on his family's eight-generation homestead in Lower Salford, Montgomery County. He is a graduate of Eastern College and Harvard University where he earned his Ph.D. in English and American Literature. He later returned to Eastern College as a teacher, and also taught at the University of Hamburg in Germany.

Dr. Ruth has authored numerous books and articles on the Mennonite people and their way of life and produced films about the Mennonites and the Amish. He served as the Associate Minister of the Salford Mennonite congregation for twenty years. Following his retirement from the ministry in 1993, Dr. Ruth has continued to serve on the Board of the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania. He currently is working on a multi-volume narrative interpretation of Mennonite life in the Lower Salford/Franconia area.

Dr. John Landis Ruth's photographic expertise and work have been invaluable in helping to preserve the history of our community. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize him as his works are showcased at the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit and the outstanding contributions he has made.

HONORING JUDGE ELDON B. MAHON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great citizen, Federal Judge Eldon B. Mahon from the Northern District of Texas. Judge Mahon has dedicated his life to public service and justice. For these reasons, I have introduced legislation that will designate the United States courthouse located at 501 West 10th Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Eldon B. Mahon United States Courthouse."

Judge Mahon was born and raised in the west Texas town of Loraine. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts Degree in history and government from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. Judge Mahon then attended the University of Texas Law School where he graduated in 1942. He has three children with his wife, Nova Lee: Jana Cobb of Lubbock, Texas; Martha Haag of The Woodlands, Texas; and Brad Mahon of Fort Worth, Texas.

Like so many from America's "greatest generation", he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps to fight overseas during World War II. He left the military after 40 months of dedicated service, including one year in the South Pacific with the 5th Bomber Wing, as a captain.

Judge Mahon carried this same dedication and strength of character into his career as an attorney and judge. From 1945-46, he served as the briefing attorney for the Supreme Court of Texas. From 1948-60, Judge Mahon served as district attorney for the 32nd Judicial District of Texas, covering Nolan, Mitchell, Scurry, and Borden counties. After his years as district attorney, Judge Mahon became a district judge for the 32nd Judicial District, presiding over that court from 1961-63. He then moved to Fort Worth to take a position as vice president of Texas Electric Service Company. After one year in the corporate world, the law called him back; and he became a partner in the Abilene, Texas, law firm of Mahon, Pope & Gladdon.

Judge Mahon entered public service at the federal level when President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas. Judge Mahon is a life long Democrat, but President Richard M. Nixon appointed him to the Federal Court for the Northern District of Texas in 1972. He reached senior status in 1989 and continues to be an active member of the federal bench today at the young age of 83.

During his years on the federal bench, Judge Mahon presided over the racial integration of the Fort Worth School District. Judge Mahon considers this as the greatest accomplishment of his court.

Judge Mahon has tirelessly served every community of which he has been a part. He is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, serving in most lay positions in Westcliff United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. He is a past president of the West Texas Girl Scout Council in Abilene and of the Colorado City, Texas, Lions Club. Judge Mahon is a past member of the Board of Trustees at McMurry University in Abilene and served on the Board of Trustees for Harris Methodist Health System in Fort Worth. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees at

Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. Judge Mahon has been a member of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth since 1988.

Judge Mahon has been recognized many times for his immeasurable contributions to the community. In 1989, the Eldon B. Mahon Scholarship Fund was established at his alma mater, McMurry University. Judge Mahon received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1974, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987 from McMurry University as well. In 1990, Texas Wesleyan University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree. July 10, 1997 was declared "Judge Eldon B. Mahon Day" throughout Tarrant County, Texas, to commemorate his 25th anniversary as a federal judge. The Tarrant County Bar Association recently established the "Eldon B. Mahon Lecture Series on Ethics and Professionalism" at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. In 1998, Judge Mahon received the "Samuel Passara Outstanding Jurist Award" from the Texas Bar Foundation. Last year, he was selected as one of 100 lawyers from the state of Texas as a 20th Century "Living Legend" by Texas Lawyer Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, we should honor Judge Mahon by naming the United States Court in Fort Worth, Texas after him. Serving on the federal bench for over 28 years, he has made a profound impact on the legal community and on America.

COMMENDING M. B. "SONNY"
DONALDSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated educator, a role model for countless students and a good friend. In June, after 14 years as superintendent of schools and 34 years as an educator in the Aldine Independent School District, M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson will retire.

Sonny Donaldson has spent his career working tirelessly on behalf of all children. He has always promoted what was best for school children, never forgetting that their best interest was his driving force.

Superintendent Donaldson has held the position of Superintendent of Schools since 1986. Prior to his service as superintendent, he held the positions of teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, athletic director, and assistant superintendent, all with Aldine ISD. He is an active member in numerous professional associations and organizations and a committed civic leader dedicated to public service.

Among his numerous honors and awards, Sonny was selected Superintendent of the Year in 1994 and 1996 for Region IV, which includes 57 school districts in the Houston area. He was also one of five finalists for Texas Superintendent of the Year in 1994 and 1996.

The Success of the Aldine ISD does not happen by accident. Sonny Donaldson has created and fostered an environment that demands quality and dedication from both teachers and students.

When Texas A&M University evaluated the test scores of minorities in districts with more

than 15,000 students, Aldine ranked first in the state. In addition, researchers at the University of Texas said that Aldine is one of a handful of districts showing impressive successes with students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Because of the emphasis placed on education by the administrators, the teachers, the students and the parents, Aldine ISD has received a "recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency for the last four years. Of the district's 48 schools rated by the state, four are exemplary, 28 recognized and 16 acceptable.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once stated that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Sonny Donaldson, the lives he has touched over his many years in the education field will ensure that his influence carries on far into the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of one of Texas' education heroes. Sonny, we wish you and your wife Suzanne well.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF
SAINT PARIZE LE CHÂTEL,
FRANCE

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, in cities and towns all across America, Memorial Day will be marked with parades down Main Street, patriotic speeches on the town square and little league games in the park. But for others—families and surviving comrades in arms—it is a day of pilgrimage to cemeteries and memorials, for a moment of remembrance.

For some, this pilgrimage takes them to places far away from that town square; to places made infamous through the fury of war, and where now, peace holds its gentle sway.

One such pilgrimage will take place in the French Village of Saint Parize le Châtel and its neighboring hamlet, Moiry. During World War I, this area was home to one of the largest US Army hospitals, the Camp Mars-sur Allier. Its 44,000 beds were filled with wounded Americans who went off to fight for peace and liberty in the homeland of Lafayette.

After the Armistice, the villagers of Saint Parize le Châtel and Moiry built a monument to this hospital on the site of a cemetery where over 2,000 victims of the war are buried. Inscribed on the memorial—AUX AMERICAINS MORTS POUR LA FRANCE LE DROIT ET LA LIBERTE 1916–1918—to the Americans who died for France, Right and Liberty.

On this Memorial Day, a permanent exhibit commemorating the hospital, its staff and the soldiers and civilians who died and recovered there will open. At this ceremony, in an expression of the strong friendship between the United States and France, a new walkway to the memorial will be dedicated.

I know that all my colleagues join with me in an expression of gratitude to the people of Saint Parize le Châtel and Moiry for their desire to ensure an appropriate and lasting memorial to those Americans who gave so unselfishly of themselves in the name of peace and freedom.

A TRIBUTE TO RITA BEE HILL

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rita Bee Hill of Visalia, California, a loving mother and wife, a community leader, and a dear friend of mine who passed away in an automobile accident on May 4, 2001.

Rita was born in Hayward on Aug. 1, 1949. After graduating from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in 1971, Rita moved to Visalia to work for the Tulare County Planning Department. She married Jim Hill in Visalia on Dec. 16, 1972. Throughout her 17-year career with the Planning Department, she served in many local and state leadership roles and was instrumental in the establishing and managing the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation.

In 1989, Rita joined my sister in law, Diana Dooley, as partners in a local public relations agency. The company, which later became Rita B. & Company, worked on behalf of local community projects and groups, exemplifying Rita's commitment to community.

As a friend recently observed, Rita Bee Hill was her father's daughter. Her father, Carlos Bee, was speaker pro tem of the California Assembly and was a champion for higher education. Like her father, Rita believed people could solve problems by working together. She inspired, cajoled and shamed people into doing the right things and she rolled up her sleeves and worked alongside everyone from whom she requested help.

Rita was active in a number of community organizations, serving as a member or leader of groups including the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Visalia and County Center Rotary Clubs, Networking for Women, Visalia Planning Commission, City Manager's Advisory Group, California Women for Agriculture, Family Planning Program and the United Way of Tulare County. In 1998, Rita was recognized for her record of service by being bestowed with Visalia's Woman of the Year award in 1998.

In addition to all she did for our community, Rita was extremely dedicated to her family. She is survived by her husband, Jim, a math instructor at Redwood High School; her son, Tony; her granddaughter, Libby; and a large extended family throughout the country. Rita also leaves behind many friends who feel as she treated them as family.

On a personal note, my wife Linda and I had the opportunity to become close friends with Rita and Jim over the years. When I first ran for office at a time when few believed that I would succeed, Rita was one of my strongest and most dedicated supporters. She went on to be one of my most loyal supporters in all my subsequent re-election efforts, and even hosted my campaign office in her company's conference room for many years. This year, I designated her as my delegate to the California Democratic Party convention.

Rita's strong civic spirit, generous heart, and concern for others were obvious to all those she touched. Always living life to the fullest and always advocating the most noble of causes, Rita was a shining example of what it means to be a citizen and friend. Her passing

will leave a tremendous void in the life of the Visalia community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Rita Bee Hill and celebrating her legacy of service to her family, her community, and her country.

YMCA TEEN ACTION AGENDA
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues, Reps. WAMP, PORTMAN, SERRANO, ETHERIDGE, ISAKSON and GREEN (WI) join me, in introducing the YMCA Teen Action Agenda Enhancement Act of 2001.

For 150 years, the YMCA has provided our nation's youth with safe, healthy activities. The YMCA is volunteer founded and volunteer-led. The YMCA depends on more than 600,000 volunteers to meet the unique needs of their communities. YMCAs serve people of all faiths, races, abilities, ages and incomes. 1 in 10 teens—2.4 million teens across the nation—are involved in a program offered by a local YMCA. Recognizing the unique obstacles faced by the teenagers of today, the YMCA has launched the Teen Action Agenda, a nationwide campaign to double this number and serve 1 in 5 teens by 2005.

This legislation authorizes federal appropriations of \$20 million for fiscal years 2002 through 2006 to carry out the Youth Teen Action Agenda. Similar legislation was enacted into law in the 105th Congress to aid the Boys and Girls Club of America and in the 106th Congress to aid Police Athletic Leagues, in their efforts to improve academic and social outcomes for youth. Under this legislation, subgrants will be made to YMCA teen programs that have a primary purpose of serving youth that are at-risk of delinquency or are in failing schools.

In my district, a number of YMCA clubs are serving our teenagers. In the town of Lafayette, CO alone, twenty-five programs at two YMCA Centers serve close to 1300 kids. The YMCA Arapahoe Center is a full youth and family center for teens and preteens ages 11–17, and the YMCA Lafayette Youth Center serves low income, at risk kids. These two clubs lead programs for Youth Employment services, after school drop-in, drop-in sports, field trips, Leaders club, Arts and Humanities classes and camps, high school and middle school sports, baby-sitting training, Youth and Government, Leadership development (Leaders-in-Training and Junior Leaders summer program), and Teen Adventures camps.

A recent nationwide study shows that participation in afterschool activities leads to better grades and better behavior in teens. Nearly eight in 10 teens (79%) that engage in afterschool activities are A or B students, but only half (52%) of teens who do not participate in afterschool activities earn these high marks. Teens that do not engage in afterschool activities are five times more likely (15%) to be D students compared to students who do participate in activities after school (3%).

This study has also documented the need for more afterschool programs. Over half (52%) of teens say they wish there were more

afterschool activities in their neighborhood or community. Two in three (67%) teens say they would likely participate in afterschool programs that would help them get better grades, develop leadership skills and be more involved in their community while having fun with other teens if they knew that churches, recreation centers and the YMCA offered such programs. Six in 10 (62%) teens left unsupervised during the week say they would likely participate in afterschool programs.

The need for more after-school opportunities has been made clear to me in my visits to every high school in my district. Students have told me that if there were more after school activities, they would participate in them. This bill will help give kids safe, productive places to go when the school bell rings at the end of the day. We all know that the teenagers of today face challenges and pitfalls unimaginable a generation ago. I believe this bill helps a proven community based organization with a rich history of providing quality programs for America's youth to offer our teenagers with the opportunity to develop and thrive.

MODIFY THE DEPRECIATION OF
PROPERTY USED IN THE GEN-
ERATION OF ELECTRICITY

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will foster adequate electric generation and reliability. Excessive electricity price volatility, concerns about power shortages, and harmful consequences for the regional economy in the West are all related to inadequate generation and transmission capacity in and around my home state of California.

Moreover, the energy crisis in California and neighboring states has demonstrated the importance of developing generation facilities to ensure that electricity supplies are widely available at reasonable prices. But capacity shortages are not just an issue in California, and addressing this tax code problem is critical to helping avoid similar problems from developing in other regions of the country.

To encourage new investments in generation, my bill would reduce depreciable lives of generation systems from their current cost recovery period of 15 or 20 years to 7 years. The current electric industry depreciable lives are longer than those of any manufacturing segment.

America's booming technology-reliant economy of the 1990s spurred a demand for more electricity. However, that increase in demand was not met by building new generation. In the 1970s and 1980s, America had power surpluses. As a result, state regulators, trying to keep consumer rates down, often disallowed the costs of some excess capacity and did not allow utilities to recover in rates all of their costs for building power plants. In many cases, utilities were required by their regulatory commissions to buy power from other suppliers rather than build their own plants. That, and the advent of competition, engendered a cautious attitude toward investment costs that might not be recoverable. The result was a construction lag, while demand for power increased by about 2 percent per year.

Nevertheless, between 1978 and 1992, America's utilities had reserve margins that averaged between 25 percent and 30 percent to meet emergency demand situations. Since 1992, the reserve margin has dropped significantly—to less than 15 percent nationwide.

Meanwhile, the Energy Information Administration (EIA), in its Annual Energy Outlook 2001, raised its own projections of electricity demand for the next 20 years because of projected increases in economic growth and the growth in electricity use for a variety of residential and commercial applications. To meet demand growth, EIA projects that 1,310 new plants—with a total of 393 gigawatts of capacity—will need to be built by 2020. The 393 gigawatts represents nearly a 47% increase over current installed capacity, or the ability to serve approximately 60 million additional customers.

The current tax law profoundly impacts a generator's bottom line, making it difficult to compete, and discourages the formation of much needed capital investment. The price spikes and major power outages in recent years, most notably in California, have brought this issue home to millions of people. By way of example, no significant new generation has been built in my state of California in more than a decade, despite higher than-expected growth in the demand for power.

Nationwide, the structure of the electric industry is rapidly changing from vertically-integrated, regulated monopolies to unbundled and fully competitive generation services— independent transmission companies and local distribution companies. Currently, 24 states and the District of Columbia, encompassing some 62% of the Nation's population, have either passed electric industry restructuring legislation or enacted regulatory orders to implement unbundling and competitive customer choice. In addition, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is promoting wholesale competition and the formation of regional transmission organizations. Because of the introduction of competition, previously applicable rules regarding the cost recovery of capital simply do not apply any longer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this urgently needed legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF
CARPENTERS LOCAL 1005 OF
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I congratulate the members of Carpenters Local 1005 of Merrillville, Indiana who will be honored at their 29th Annual Pin Recognition Banquet. The union members of Northwest Indiana have consistently demonstrated the work ethic and quality craftsmanship on which the community prides itself. The banquet, to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2001 at the St. Elijah Serbian American Hall in Merrillville, will be held in honor of those members who have completed between 20 and 65 years of service with the union. Also to be awarded are the Joe Manley Humanitarian Award, the Ken Castaldi Apprentice of the Year Award, and the Contractor of the Year Award.

Carpenters Local 1005, which received its charter on March 7, 1972, and is one of the largest Carpenters locals in the state of Indiana, will honor its members for their years of dedicated service. Charles James, initiated in 1936, will be honored for his 65 years of service. Those members who will be honored for 60 years of service include: Rexford McDaniel and Nicholas Mudry. Those who will be honored for 55 years of service include: Lester Cornett, Billy Frost, William Gabbard, Sam Loiacano, Harold Massa, Fred Roberts, Robert Rosenbaum, John Taylor, Leonard Taylor, Robert Tucker, James Williams, and Ivan Wynkoop. The members who will be honored for 50 years of service include: Melvin Anderson, Jack Bartruff, Walter Catlow, Carl Cauley, James Cooley, John Curtis, Otis Davis, John Gottby, Robert Green, Bartul Letica, Walter Mahns, John Mihalko, Sam Pysh, Jr., Glen Snow, Albert Touchette, and Tage Borg. Those members who have served for 45 years include: Kenneth Anderson, Felix Bannon, Eugene Claus, Clyde Fauser, George Hendershot, Kenneth Horan, William Kristoff, Clive Leach, George Nannenga, Raymond Nicksch, George Patterson, Jr., Fred Reynolds, Harry Spurgeon, Charlie Stokes, Raymond Wardell, and Jessie Castle. Those members who will be honored for 40 years of service include: Howard Johnson, Jr. and Peter Znika. The members who will be honored for 35 years of service include: Eddie Andersen, Steve Hostinsky, Otto Massow, Oscar Mischan, Loren Pollard, James Thoreson, Grant Wedding, Warren Wilkerson, Dennis Williamson, and Kenneth Mahler. Those members who will be honored for 30 years of service include: Leroy Dewar, Gene Harlow, Winford Harris, Charles Prewitt, John Rassbach, Ronald Robinson, Charles Spiller, and Joe Sulhoff. The members who will be honored for 25 years of service include: Gordon Anderson, Theodore Blahunka, Joseph Crnkovich, Michael Darden, Ronald Dwight, Joseph Erb, William Herbst, Paul Hernandez, Sr., Kenneth Huhn, George Klippel, Nick Kotur, Wray Loney, Roy Scarborough, Rich Steinhilber, Robert Stivers, Bruce Thomas, Thomas Trulley, Michael Twilla, and Donald Welch. Those members who will be honored for 20 years of service include: Jeff Basco, Paul Cieszkiewicz, Harold Evers, Eugene Glowacki, Jeffrey Hall, Roy Jonkman, John Kucik, William Lueder, Daniel Lustgarten, William McCarty, Ricky Nance, Robert Paske, Warren Perry, Jessie Simmons, Drew Smith, and Michael Stanton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of Carpenters Local 1005, in addition to the hardworking union men and women throughout the country. The countless hours of exceptional service the men and women of Carpenters Local 1005 have provided to their community deserve our admiration and respect. Their dedication and commitment are the epitome of the values we hold in Northwest Indiana, and I am proud to represent such fine men and women in Congress.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the President and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) in celebrating small business week. Small businesses are the engine of our nation's economy providing 53 percent of the private work force and \$63 billion worth of goods and services to the federal government. Additionally, small businesses are at the heart of our nation's communities providing charity to community service organizations and donations to direct service providers. I would like to acknowledge the hundreds of small businesses that reside in my district which are essential to our nation's social and economic vitality.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend my congratulations to Allstate corporation, which is located in my district, on receiving a 2001 Phoenix Award for their quick response in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd. The Allstate Corporation along with the countless other business and individuals who have dedicated their time and resource to our nation's communities should be commended.

MAY 11, 2001: PROVIDER
APPRECIATION DAY**HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor childcare providers throughout the world on the eve of Provider Appreciation Day.

Provider Appreciation Day, celebrated annually on the Friday before Mother's Day, was spearheaded by a group of volunteers from New Jersey in 1996. They saw the need for a day to show our appreciation to childcare providers. And as a result of their dedication and perseverance, Provider Appreciation Day has not only spread nationwide, it is also celebrated in Canada, Europe, and Asia.

Early childhood is undoubtedly the most critical time of development for our children. Today, approximately 13 million children in the United States under the age of six, are in childcare at least part-time. An additional 24 million school age children are in some form of childcare after school. Provider Appreciation Day recognizes the hard work childcare workers perform and the sacrifices they make in their dedication to the development of our children.

I encourage all parents with children in childcare to join me in showing their providers how much they are appreciated. While the profession is one of the most under-recognized and underpaid professions in the country, providers bring compassion, patience, encouragement and love to our children each and every day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne Williamson, Chairwoman of Provider Appreciation Day, for her commitment to establishing a national day of recognition for childcare providers. Ms. Williamson is also the

Director for Monday Morning Child Care, Inc., a network of childcare providers located in Union County, New Jersey. Her endless efforts have made Provider Appreciation Day possible.

NATIONAL FIBROMYALGIA
AWARENESS DAY**HON. JOHN E. PETERSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day on May 12, 2001.

Fibromyalgia remains a great mystery of the medical world. It affects 3 to 6 million Americans and causes debilitating symptoms that often times make it impossible for an afflicted individual to lead a normal life. Fibromyalgia patients describe their pain as being so severe that it can be impossible to lift a glass of water or even get out of bed some mornings.

While the disease tends to affect women between the age of 35 and 50, cases have been reported in children, men and the elderly.

Fibromyalgia is a chronic disorder characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain, fatigue and multiple tender points. These tender points are located in the knee, shoulder, hip and back and can make walking a short distance a challenge. It is also common for Fibromyalgia patients to have a sleep disorder, causing the fatigue to worsen.

The most frustrating aspect of this disease is that it causes a chronic pain for which there is neither a cure nor a known cause. I hope that through awareness efforts like National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day, more attention will be focused on finding a cure and 3 to 6 million Americans can return to living normal, pain free lives.

I applaud the efforts of the National Fibromyalgia Awareness Campaign and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 12, 2001 as National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day.

THE TRAGIC HELICOPTER CRASH
KILLING A JOINT US/VIET-
NAMESE MIA SEARCH TEAM**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, while much of the world was focused just a few weeks ago on the crisis in the South China Sea, at the same time a tragedy occurred in that part of the world that should be remembered. On Saturday, April 7th, we lost seven American and nine Vietnamese personnel in a helicopter crash. The accident happened while this joint U.S.—Vietnamese team was on its way to an operation to help find the remains of missing US service members from the war.

In many of my visits to Vietnam, I had the privilege to meet the members of the Joint Task Force—Full Accounting, the US military unit tasked with helping to find our missing. I

marveled at the stories of their dangerous missions to find the remains of our missing servicemen. They told me of operations done on treacherous mountaintops surrounded by landmines and unexploded ordnance. Intense jungle heat, hazardous weather conditions and insects and animals often made their jobs incredibly tough. In more turbulent times, they even encountered fire from across the Cambodia border. From my exposure to them, it was clear to me that these were truly remarkable men and women. It is a tragedy that we lost these brave soldiers.

I think it would be even more tragic if the important work they did was not remembered. They were proud of their mission, which they saw as a sacred duty. It was also a mission that brought our two nations closer together. Many of the Vietnamese who perished in the crash had been deeply involved for much of their lives in helping us find more answers about our missing. The cooperation and friendships forged by this work has only helped to heal the scars of a war that ended some 25 years ago.

These men were American heroes and we should remember their sacrifices as well as the Vietnamese who gave their lives in trying to answer the questions about our missing. My thoughts are with all of their families.

REGARDING LUIS RENDON

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a unique patriot and beloved sports figure in Texas, and the nation, Luis M. Rendon.

He will be honored this Saturday, May 12, in Laredo by the International Latin Hall of Fame, a sports hall of fame focusing primarily on athletes of Hispanic origin, into which he was inducted several years ago. He underwent an operation for colon cancer recently,

and the Hall of Fame is putting on a party for him to welcome him home.

Luis Rendon is an amazing man who has had a lifelong love affair with sports, particularly baseball. He was a professional baseball umpire for 40 years. The International Latin Hall of Fame began in Laredo over 30 years ago. Each year, only a very few athletes are inducted. Luis Rendon is the first and only umpire inducted into this sports hall of fame.

As a professional umpire, Luis traveled all over the country, and all over the world. He has officiated at games in England, France, Germany, Mexico, as well as the United States. His services are still in demand, and he volunteers to teach umpires of Little League baseball.

As a veteran myself, I am an enormous fan of Luis Rendon, who has served this nation in uniform in three of the major wars fought by the United States in the 20th Century. He was drafted to serve in World War II and dropped out of school to go fight in the war. He would later serve in Korea and Vietnam before retiring in 1967 after 20 years of service in the United States Army.

Knowing the importance of an education and of setting an example for his children and others, Luis eventually got his GED, later obtaining an associate degree at what is now Laredo Community College at age 50.

He has always been intellectually curious. He is extremely proud of being a Mason, and was recently given an award for teaching other Masons.

He is wholly dedicated to the game of baseball and is a walking encyclopedia of baseball rules and trivia. He is a stickler for those rules and has always been committed to those rules. His philosophy is: if a rule is in the book, it is part of the game; if not, then it is not part of the game. Balls that hit birds or get stuck in the roof of a dome get no special consideration since those situations are not noted in the rules he so reveres.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Luis Rendon for the gift of his lifetime to the game of baseball and to the

young people in Texas, and elsewhere, he has taught about life through baseball.

TRIBUTE TO RUBEN SIVERLING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ruben Siverling, the recipient of the Clay/Platte Development Corporation's Small Business Advocate of the Year.

Mr. Siverling is a full-time business consultant serving on the staff at the Rockhurst University Small Business Development Center. During his years as a consultant to the Small Business Community in the Kansas City region, he has helped start or expand over 1,700 small businesses.

Mr. Siverling was instrumental in opening a satellite Small Business Development Center in the Missouri 6th District. Being a resident of the district, he saw firsthand the growth in the Northland region of Kansas City and understood the importance of a guiding presence to help the area's burgeoning entrepreneurs. His dedication to this cause is proven in the early mornings, long days and late evenings that he endures to help each and one of his clients achieve success. Success to him does not only involve just having a client receive a loan, but all facets of learning the start-up process. Whether it is revising a loan package that was not approved on the first submittal, or following through with revision and follow-up meetings, he ensures that the small business client is getting a first-class education that will help their business flourish.

I commend the Clay/Platte Development Corporation on choosing Mr. Reuben Siverling as their Small Business Advocate of the Year, and once again congratulate and thank Mr. Siverling for his years of hard work and dedication to the Small Business Community.