

adverse effects of rail traffic on safety, vehicle traffic flow, or economic development; involving the vertical or lateral relocation of the rail line in lieu of the closing of a grade crossing or the relocation of a road; and provide at least as much benefit over the economic life of the project as the cost of the project. The Department of Transportation would fund 90 percent of the cost of these rail line relocation projects out of the general fund of the Treasury. The state or local government would be required to pay the remaining 10 percent, but would be allowed to cover this cost through appropriate in-kind contributions or dedicated private contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to evaluate the needs of the communities in their states in relation to the location of rail lines and join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING NATIONAL STUDENT  
BUSINESS CHAMPIONS

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 25, 2001*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the thirty five young men and women who comprise the 2001 National Championship Students in Free Enterprise Team from Drury University in Springfield Missouri. This is the first time in SIFE's 27 year history that a team from Missouri has won the national competition sponsored by this international organization headquartered in Springfield, Missouri.

These outstanding young academics achieved their top rating in open competition with teams from 111 other four year U.S. colleges and universities. The team took top honors for their multi-media presentation detailing their year's accomplishments.

Drury's SIFE team devoted more than 7,000 hours to 35 educational and community service projects. All of the projects were designed to develop leadership and communication skills through free enterprise education. Besides receiving excellent practical experience in business skills, the students were also investing themselves in their local and national communities.

Among their almost three dozen projects this year the team continued to develop and expand the Young Entrepreneurs Association, a web-based organization devoted to free enterprise education for middle school teachers and students. Only three years old, the program now serves 510 middle schools, representing 17 countries and all 50 states.

The Team also built on a three year relationship with an "at-risk" middle school in Laredo Texas and this year conducted a three day educational program built around the principles of free enterprise, ethical marketing and entrepreneurship. The project culminated with a "mercado," in which 800 customers purchased products designed and produced by the middle school students.

Their win qualifies them for the first SIFE World Cup, to be held in London on July 11-13. Teams from 23 nations will compete for the title of SIFE Global Champion.

SIFE is a grassroots student movement active on more than 1,000 college and university campuses in 48 states and 20 foreign coun-

tries. Seventy five percent all four year colleges and universities in the United States participate in SIFE and their programs reach some 4 million students annually.

I know my Colleagues, especially those from Missouri, join me in offering their heartiest congratulations to the team members and their advisors—Dr. Charles Taylor and Dr. Robert Wyatt at Drury University. I further offer the best wishes of all the Members of this Congress for a successful competition in London later this summer.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITIES ACT  
OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO ANN DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 801, the Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I am proud to be able to say that the committee referred a bill that has practical and immediate effects for many veterans and their loved ones. This legislation comprehensively addresses many issues associated with veterans and their dependents.

What I would like to speak about today is one section of this legislation that I believe will have an immediate and practical effect for the surviving families of many of our recently deceased veterans.

As you may know, I recently introduced a bill, H.R. 1015, the SGLI Adjustment Act. The substantive language of this bill was incorporated by the committee directly into H.R. 801. This legislation will directly and immediately help many of the families and beneficiaries of those killed since October 1, 2000.

I am extremely pleased and grateful the Veterans Committee included my legislative language in the final version of H.R. 801.

Mr. Speaker, I know you are aware that our military has recently suffered numerous tragedies: the bombing of the USS *Cole*, the crash of an Osprey, a Blackhawk, a National Guard airplane, and the accidental bombing of our own troops in Kuwait. All of these accidents were unforeseen, and all of these accidents resulted in the tragic loss of life.

Recently, on November 1st of last year, the President signed a bill increasing this maximum benefit to 250,000 dollars. Unfortunately for those recently affected families, this increase in coverage does not take effect until April 1st of this year.

By incorporating the substantive language of my bill, we will retroactively grant this increase to those families who had opted for the maximum benefit and subsequently lost a loved one in the performance of their duty.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not thank the committee and its staff for their hard work and dedication in seeing this bill brought to the floor. In particular, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, and the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. HAYWORTH, and the gentleman from Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, for ensuring that my legislation was attached to this bill in the form of a friendly amendment.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
*Richmond, VA, April 4, 2001.*

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,  
*U.S. Representative, 1st Congressional District of Virginia,*  
*Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DAVIS: I would like to thank you for your support and concern for the members of the 203rd Red Horse Flight Virginia Air National Guard and their families as we all struggled to cope with their tragic loss. I appreciate your participation in the Memorial Service March 10th for our 18 Guardsmen who lost their lives while serving their country.

While only time will heal the wounds, I take some solace in the knowledge that H.R. 1015 was, with your steadfast support, passed overwhelmingly and the members of the National Guard will enjoy increased benefits.

Your thoughtfulness and consideration is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

GARY K. ARONHALT,  
*Secretary of Public Safety.*

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION,  
 *Arlington, VA, March 14, 2001.*

Hon. JOANN DAVIS,  
*Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MS. DAVIS: The Air Force Association applauds your efforts to include those service members killed in the line of duty and covered at the maximum limit of the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Program since November 1, 2000 under the proposed increased limits for SGLI.

Your initiative will ensure that service-families mourning these tragic losses will receive the same benefits as those affected after the passage of the legislation.

We look forward to working with you to enact this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. SHAUD,  
*General, USAF (Ret.).*

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF  
THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, DC, March 14, 2001.*

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: On behalf of the members of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), I wish to extend our support for H.R. 1015, legislation that will provide for an increase in the amount of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of members who died in the line of duty.

With the increased level of operations for all members of the Armed Services, there have been an unfortunate increasing number of training accidents. This was all too evident when 21 members of the National Guard tragically lost their lives on March 3rd, in a military airplane crash. These good men died while serving their country, their state and their community. The severity of this accident is a grim reminder of the risks we ask of the members of the National Guard, along with all men and women who serve in uniform.

On November 1, 2000, the President signed into law S.1402 that increased the maximum benefit for the SGLI from \$200,000 to \$250,000. However, implementation of the increase was delayed until April 1, 2001. The legislation you introduced will provide those service members who previously contracted for the maximum benefit of SGLI and died in the line of duty to receive the increased maximum amount of \$250,000.