community agencies for representative payee services to help some of these homeless veterans manage their own personal funds and thereby avoid poor choices some of them have made that lead to personal catastrophe. The entity acting as a representative on the veteran's behalf can work with care providers of the Veterans' Health Administration and other parties to a veteran's reintegration to ensure that government funds are used appropriately to help the veteran be reestablished in society.

As I indicated, prevention of homelessness among veterans is an important objective of this bill. This should certainly include veterans transitioning from institutional settings who are at risk for homelessness. As I indicated and as we well know, many homeless veterans have been in jail or in prison. I believe we need to consider making provision for the particular services incarcerated veterans need, and begin providing them before they are released from these institutions into society. The bill includes a demonstration program to test the prevention hypothesis within the institutionalized veteran population, at 6 demonstration sites, one of which will be a Bureau of Prisons facility. The purpose of this program is to provide incarcerated veterans with information, referral and counseling with respect to job training and placement, housing, health care, and other needs determined necessary to assist the veteran in the transition from institutional living to civil life.

Also, Mr. Speaker, some programs with very high success rates have been growing on their own, basically without government intervention. One such program that comes to mind is the ''Oxford House'' concept. In this model, a group of recovering alcoholics determined to stay sober band together to rent a residential property. Oxford House, Inc., provides earnest money deposits, and the rest is up to the individuals to govern their own lives and run their own homes. This program has been highly effective, and now there are over 800 Oxford Houses nationwide. The bill authorizes a small demonstration project to provide housing assistance to veterans in group houses with similar goals of self-govemance. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to make grants up to $5,000 for the purpose of subsidizing housing for veterans who present this need. Elements of the Department of Veterans' Affairs recently have helped sponsor 20 such houses. My bill will provide for 50 more in fiscal year 2003 and an additional 50 houses in fiscal year 2004. This is a model worth exploring.

Mr. Speaker, these are the highlights of my bill, the ''Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001.'' I believe the bill will accomplish very important goals. It will provide needed assistance to homeless veterans, lift them to a sustainable level that will prevent them from returning to a state of homelessness, and help them to become self-sufficient individuals who are accountable for their own actions. This bill will also hold all grant and contract recipients accountable for performing their promised services in exchange for government investments, and promote a greater opportunity to work across departments to provide the best possible service for our Nation's homeless veterans. It also sponsors innovative approaches at prevention of homelessness in high-risk groups within the veteran population.

These are good purposes on which I believe we can all agree, Mr. Speaker, so I am very pleased to offer this bill to the House. On behalf of homeless veterans who need these services, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. LEONARD, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION LEADER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to bring to your attention the great life and great works of William E. Leonard. Bill is an old friend and one of the true community leaders of San Bernardino County. He will culminate a 30-year career guiding California's transportation system with the opening next month of what is probably the state's last major freeway: The Foothill Freeway.

The life blood of any community that hopes to succeed and grow are leaders who will step forward and commit their energy, time and personal resources to the goals of that community. Over the years, San Bernardino County has had relatively few leaders who have had the vision to see how the entire region might work together, and the courage to push that vision toward success.

Bill Leonard has been right at the point of able responsible leadership for all of San Bernardino County. For most of my three decades in public life, I have worked with Bill Leonard to improve the economy and quality of life for the residents of the Inland Empire. Although he never sought elected office, Mr. Leonard has been one of the region's—indeed the entire state's—most influential leaders on transportation.

After rising to the rank of First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1946, Mr. Leonard joined his father at the Leonard Realty and Building Company in his hometown San Bernardino. He was active in many construction projects throughout the area, and soon began his public service career as a member of the state Athletic Commission in 1956.

San Bernardino County had already established a statewide reputation for powerful highway planners. Local leaders like publisher James Guthrie and grocer Milton Sage, who served on the California Highway Commission, helped set the standard that allowed the state to create one of the best road systems in the nation. William Leonard carried on that tradition as a member of the state highway commission from 1973 to 1977, and on its successor, the California Transportation Commission, from 1985 to 1993. He was chairman of that commission in 1990-91. He is still a member of the HighSpeed Rail Authority.

Mr. Speaker, we know that a strong family life is the most important factor in a person's success in life. Bill and Bobbi Leonard created a family environment that emphasized a commitment to personal integrity and public service, and this is evident in the lives of their children. Daughter Christene is an elementary school teacher in San Bernardino; son Fred retired after a distinguished 20-year career in the U.S. Air Force. And William Leonard Jr. has been a highly-respected member of the California Assembly and State Senate for the past 23 years, serving as minority leader in both chambers and providing another generation of strong community leadership for the Inland Empire.

Bill Leonard has shown his commitment to action in many ways: He is a board member of the National Orange Show and many hospital, university and community groups. He has received a number of prestigious awards. But he will soon be recognized for his greatest contribution—to ensure the area's roads meet the needs of our citizens. The Legislature has voted to name the interchange of Interstate 15 and the new Foothill Freeway as the William E. Leonard Interchange. It is a fitting memorial to a man who spent his life working for the citizens of the Inland Empire and California, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on a career of outstanding public service.

IN HONOR OF LIFE RESOURCES NETWORK

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Life Resources Network for it's excellent accomplishments in social services that provide women with life affirming alternatives to abortion. Over 1,370,000 children, or one quarter of all pregnancies, are aborted each year. While many mothers and fathers want to raise their children, they often feel that abortion is their only viable option.

The mission of Life Resources Network is to solve underlying social issues that lead to unintended pregnancies and the societal pressures that compel both men and women to abort their children. This non-profit organization is operated by more than 100 volunteers that have logged over 1,370 hours. These volunteers focus on distributing the Women's Resource Guide in order to connect women with services that can enhance their lives and the lives of their children. This guide is a directory of services offering information on housing, adoption services, medical care, employment, birth preparation, and many other valuable resources.

From January 2000 to May 2001, Life Resources Network was able to educate 108,000 people through an active Speaker's Bureau and Media Outreach. The bureau covered topics including human life development, post-abortion trauma and abortion alternatives and also equipped teenagers with the facts about pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and pregnancy prevention.

Life Resources Network has shown remarkable progress in uniting individuals, businesses, and organizations of different philosophies and working together to build a society that offers affirming solutions that elevate women and improve the lives of their children. I would like to personally thank the management and all of the many volunteers at Life Resources for their exemplary efforts to foster a community that promotes healthy choices for women and a healthy environment for their children.