

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT (MESA)

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MESA for receiving the prestigious 2001 Innovations in American Government Award. MESA has been successful in assisting educationally disadvantaged students excel in math, engineering and science.

MESA has touched over 30,800 students' lives, via the outreach programs in 440 schools, 35 community colleges, and 23 universities across the nation. Through participation in MESA 85 percent of graduating high school seniors advance to college. MESA promotes its participants by establishing an atmosphere of diverse partnerships among students who support each other's academic success. MESA is one out of five programs in the nation to receive the award, and the only program from California to be honored with the award this year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate MESA for receiving the 2001 Innovation in American Government Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking MESA for its outstanding service to the community and wishing MESA many more years of continued success.

### CONCERN FOR NEW FLOOD CONTROL RULES

### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the goal of improving our environment and providing cleaner air and water for future generations is an essential one.

Cleansing our national waterways has been a top priority for me throughout my time in public service. At the same time, however, I have recognized that we must undertake these efforts in ways that achieve important objectives without placing unduly onerous burdens on the communities responsible for implementing environmental regulations.

The cities that share Los Angeles County are now facing precisely this challenge as a result of a recent interpretation of storm water runoff regulations. As Don Waldie, a city official in Lakewood, wrote in an article printed in the February 4, 2002, Los Angeles Times, cities throughout Los Angeles County are, "about to be hit with a 'storm water tax' of up to \$53 billion over the next 10 years to attempt what may be impossible—to make the waters of the Los Angeles River fishable, swimmable and potentially drinkable."

The Coalition for Practical Regulation, comprised of 42 cities directly affected by these

regulations, has been formed to seek sensible solutions to the storm water runoff issue. I am pleased to be working with these cities in an effort to secure federal funding for a pilot program aimed at finding solutions. We must find solutions that will not force cities to choose between cutting essential services or drastically increasing local taxes.

I urge my colleagues to review Mr. Waldie's article, which follows my remarks. What is happening to the cities in my district and in those of several other Members representing the cities of Los Angeles County, may be coming to your area soon. Sensible, affordable solutions must be found so that communities throughout the nation do not soon find themselves placed in the untenable position now confronting the communities of Los Angeles County.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Feb. 4, 2002]

#### NEW FLOOD CONTROL RULES MUDDY THE LOCAL WATERS

(By D.J. Waldie)

Neither good science nor good technology exists today to test for or remove all the possible contaminants flowing into the county-operated flood control system from lawn watering and cars driving on city streets.

Yet cities throughout Los Angeles County are about to be hit with a "storm water tax" of up to \$53 billion over the next 10 years to attempt what may be impossible—to make the waters of the Los Angeles River fishable, swimmable and potentially drinkable.

But should they be? What if the cost means less money for parks, police, housing and community services?

What if the cost of turning the Los Angeles River into a mountain stream means severely degrading the quality of life in the small cities along the river's banks?

Neither the voters nor their elected city and county representatives had the opportunity to have those questions answered because the nine members of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, all appointed by the governor, decided that these questions don't matter.

The board unanimously adopted in December a revised storm water permit for most of the county's 84 cities that contains 44 new quality standards.

Meeting just one of them—a "total maximum daily load" for trash in the flood control channel of "zero" by 2012—will cost county taxpayers an estimated \$1 billion.

The cost for meeting this standard—and all the others—will be covered by new city fees and user charges for property owners or will be taken from municipal funds needed to maintain streets, pay for police or keep community centers open.

Some of the hardest-pressed cities in the state must remake their budgets to become the Los Angeles regional board's enforcement arm.

Maywood has a general fund budget of about \$6 million. What part of law enforcement in Maywood does the regional board consider appropriate to cut in order to police storm drains?

In Bell Gardens, enforcement efforts would be equal to 100% of the city's recreation budget. In Huntington Park, it's at least 75%.

Even worse, these cities face a grinding round of citizen lawsuits under the federal Clean Water Act and fines of up to \$27,500 a day if they fail to comply with the board's mandates.

Cities and the county can be sued even if they make good-faith efforts to clean up storm water or if the experimental technologies they use don't work.

These costs didn't impress the members of the Los Angeles regional board.

One member waved off concerns, saying cities would find the money somehow.

In response to such indifference, the county, the city of Los Angeles and most of the county's other cities have appealed the regional board's storm water permit to the State Water Resources Control Board.

It may be too late, however, to rescue workable storm water regulation from a future of unnecessary conflict and the expense of the inevitable court cases.

All this could have been avoided.

We already have a model for negotiating environmental goals into the operation of the flood control system.

Five years ago, when the small cities of the southeast area of the country were faced with the catastrophic failure of the local flood control system, everyone—the county Public Works Department, the cities, federal agencies and skeptical environmental organizations—sat down (after initial conflict) to work out solutions that restored flood protection and began the environmental revival of the wastelands along the rivers' edge.

With realistic goals, everyone at the table became an advocate for both the efficient operation of the flood control system and the riverside environment.

The open space and recreation projects that came out of this process are an integral part of the \$100-million, state-funded revitalization of the entire Los Angeles River.

The give and take of negotiation won't satisfy environmental absolutists, who are intolerant of less-than-perfect solutions, but the State Water Resources Control Board should at least try.

The state water board should halt the imposition of the regional board's storm water tax and assert its leadership by joining with the cities, the county and the environmental community in a collaborative review of realistic, scientifically sound and environmentally just goals for storm water quality.

### TRIBUTE TO MR. BOON SWAN FOO

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a gentleman I have come to know and respect in recent years as we have worked on defense and economic development-related opportunities for South Texas.

I want to commend Mr. Boon Swan Foo, the former Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Technologies, for winning the title of Outstanding CEO for 2000. The award is one of several Singapore Business Awards administered by the Business Times and DHL Worldwide Express.

• 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.

Singapore Technologies designs, develops, manufactures and markets a range of engineering opportunities for both the military and commercial uses. Mr. Boon has been with the company since 1979, beginning as a marine engineer.

His vision to take this global enterprise to the next level was not hot air; he did it the old-fashioned way, from the ground up, taking care of the assorted details along the way. Market capitalization grew by \$6 billion in roughly five years and he raised disclosure standards.

He has two philosophies for running a successful company. One, he got the best people by recruiting, retaining and retraining. He found smart, talented people; he enticed them to stay and he offered them continual professional development.

The other philosophy is enshrined in the company motto: "A bowstring which is always kept taut will soon become over-stretched, lose its elasticity and cease to be of use. So it is with human beings, who must alternate work with relaxation."

To that end, this high-level executive lives on the edge by indulging in deep sea diving and skydiving. Between these activities he is an avid jogger.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending my friend, Boon Swann Foo, for winning the prestigious Business Award.

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING  
SEAS TO COMMANDER LAURELL  
A. BRAULT

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding naval officer, Commander Laurell A. Brault, who served with distinction and dedication for over two years for the Secretary of the Navy and under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (FM&C) as a Navy Appropriations Liaison Officer. It is a privilege for me to recognize her many outstanding achievements and commend her for the superb service she has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our nation.

On a professional level, Commander Brault has supported members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and associate staffs, providing critical information on Department of the Navy plans, programs and budget decisions since January 2000. Her valuable contributions have enabled the Defense Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well-trained and well-equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of our great nation. As a Member of the Subcommittee representing the San Diego naval community, I have worked extensively with Laurell, and have come to greatly admire her.

Although she is a quiet and very humble person, no one should mistake those qualities as weaknesses in the rough and tumble world of Washington. Laurell is a very strong, talented and reliable professional, who has worked her system to be more responsive to

our needs on Capitol Hill. More than serving as a conduit of information between the legislative and executive branches, Laurell has reached out to her colleagues and taken the time to get to know us on a personal level.

Nowhere is that personal touch and caring more evident than in her life outside the Pentagon. Despite the long and demanding hours she keeps as a Navy liaison, she continues to devote considerable time to her faith and community. She dedicates considerable time each week for a host of volunteer programs at her church and to an ever expanding group of "adopted" family that she has come to know through those efforts. I am certain that everyone who has had the opportunity to get to know Laurell and work with her is the better for it, and I am pleased to be among that fortunate group.

Mr. Speaker, Laurell Brault and her husband Jim have made many sacrifices during her Navy career, and her distinguished and unselfish service has exemplified the best our nation has to offer. As they depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another great Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon colleagues to wish them both every success, and the traditional Navy "fair winds and following seas."

REMEMBERING ALFRED P.  
HOLMES, JR., OF MOBILE, ALA-  
BAMA

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in remembrance of my fellow Alabamian, Alfred P. Holmes, Jr., who was laid to rest earlier today in his hometown of Mobile. He was 71, and filled those years with family, friends, and service to his country and community, and I believe Congress should take note of his exceptional life.

Mr. Holmes believed in public service. He believed that people should use their talents to help their fellow man. After earning a bachelor's degree and juris doctor degree from the University of Alabama, he began a distinguished legal career built upon those noble ideals.

Mr. Holmes served his Nation as an officer in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General Corps and as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. He was a member of the local, State and Federal bar associations and past president of the Mobile Area Federal Bar Association.

Mr. Holmes retired in 1990 as chief of the legal division in Mobile's district of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. While serving nearly three decades in that capacity, he helped guide the Corps' much-needed activities through complicated litigation, and paved the way for many of the monumental engineering and transportation projects that continue to benefit his fellow Alabamians.

While at the Corps, Mr. Holmes was presented with the U.S. Corps of Engineers Exemplary Service Award and was inducted into the District Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

Mr. Holmes was a graduate of Murphy High School and had lived in Mobile since child-

hood. He was a member of Ashland Place United Methodist Church and was chairman of its board of trustees at the time of his death.

Alfred Holmes was a fine man who lived a fine life. He was loved and cherished by his wife, Angie, honored and respected by his sons, Parker and Brock, and adored by his grandson, Michael.

They will miss a husband, a father, and a grandfather, and the entire city of Mobile will miss a dear friend and loyal citizen.

We in Congress salute the life of Alfred Holmes.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARTHUR R.  
KONDRUP

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the YMCA of Western Monmouth County's 2002 Community Service Honoree, Mr. Arthur R. Kondrup, president of the Western Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce and his significant contributions to central New Jersey.

For more than three decades, Mr. Kondrup has given selflessly of his time, treasure, and talents through his commitment to community, church, and family. With a reputation that precedes him, Arthur's legacy of hard work and dedication to worthwhile endeavors makes him well known throughout Central New Jersey.

Over the years, Arthur has served his State honorably in numerous public service positions. As an elected official, he served on the governing body in Freehold Township for 14 years, including five terms as mayor. At the State level, Mr. Kondrup was appointed by Governor Kean as the first chairman of the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing. As chairman, he took on the difficult task of implementing the New Jersey Fair Housing Act.

A keystone of Arthur's life has been his involvement with church and his commitment to his faith. Among his varying accomplishments, he has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 46 years and has served as a lector at Sunday mass for over 30 years.

Additionally, it is appropriate to note that this September 13th, Arthur and his wife Patricia will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Arthur and Patricia are the proud parents of five children and grandparents of nine.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to celebrate, honor and commend this outstanding New Jerseyan. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Arthur Kondrup's invaluable contributions to our community and to central New Jersey.

RARITAN'S 2002 WOMEN OF DIS-  
TINCTION AND GIRL SCOUTS OF  
DISTINCTION HONOREES

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2002*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the Girl Scouts of Delaware-

Raritan's 2002 Women of Distinction and Girl Scouts of Distinction honorees and their significant contributions to Central New Jersey.

Through its efforts, the Girls Scouts of Delaware-Raritan serve over 12,000 young women across Central New Jersey. Tonight's honorees exhibit and exude the altruistic ideals that our Nation needs now, more than ever. These ideals, no doubt grew from their involvement in Girl Scouts and the grounding principals of the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law which read as follows:

THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be  
Honest and fair,  
Friendly and helpful,  
Considerate and caring,  
Courageous and strong, and  
Responsible for what I say and do,  
And to  
Respect myself and others,  
Respect authority,  
Use resources wisely,  
Make the world a better place, and  
Be a sister to every Girl Scout.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we honor each of these recipients for their hard work and dedication and we celebrate the legacy they have created for women and women's history in Central New Jersey.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION/GIRL SCOUTS OF DISTINCTION

World of Corporate Leadership, Ms. J. Andrea Alstrup, Johnson & Johnson and Ms. Erin McKinley, Senior Troop 1099, Princeton.

World of the Arts, Ms. Deborah Ford, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Ms. Megan Copenhaver, Senior Troop 1703, West Windsor/Plainsboro.

World of Education, Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein, Ph.D., The College of New Jersey and Ms. Melissa Shulman, Senior Troop 523, Old Bridge.

World of Industry, Ms. Margaret Guillianio, Inland Paperboard & Packaging, Inc. and Ms. Amirah Patterson, Senior Troop 308, Somerset.

World Citizen, Ms. Katherine M. Kish, Market Entry, Inc. and Ms. Maryanna Vicente, Independent Senior, Mojasphe.

World of Science, Dr. Elaine Leventhal, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-RWJ Medical School and Ms. Victoria Rollins, Senior Troop 3038, Piscataway.

World of the Environment, Ms. Mary T. Shell, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection and Ms. Kristen Schechter, Senior Troop 399, Somerset.

World of Women, Ms. Melanie Willoughby, NJ Retail Merchants Association and Ms. Sweta Patel, Senior Troop 308, East Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to celebrate, honor and commend these outstanding New Jerseyans. I have personally observed the effective work of some of these honorees and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their invaluable contributions to our community and to New Jersey.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND  
RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it has been six months since the September 11th attacks. During that time, millions of working people in the United States have lost their jobs. Even before the attacks, our economy was slowing down and unemployment was on the rise. House leaders responded to the economic downturn with calls for deeper tax cuts for the wealthy and tax breaks for businesses. Congress even enacted a measure to bail out the airline industry. However, it continued to ignore the very individuals who need the assistance the most: the unemployed. With the consideration of H.R. 3090, the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act, I am pleased that the House is finally voting on a bill that will truly help workers.

The 13-week extension of unemployment benefits provided in this legislation will bring much needed relief to the many displaced workers across the country whose benefits are near exhaustion. It will be particularly helpful in my district, where unemployment in some cities is well above the national rate of 5.5%. In South El Monte alone, for example, the unemployment rate is 10.3%. It is time that we help people in this city and others across the country as they struggle to make ends meet during these difficult times. It is the very least that we can do for them.

While I support this measure, I am disappointed that it does not include additional benefits for unemployed individuals. Compensation for unemployed part-time and low-wage workers and health insurance for displaced workers are among the benefits that should have been included in this economic stimulus bill. Also, my proposal to provide an immediate one-time payroll tax rebate up to \$300 to lower income working individuals should have been included. Working families need all the help they can get and unemployment benefits are sometimes insufficient to meet the day-to-day necessities. Inclusion of the above proposals would have strengthened the economic security of millions of unemployed workers until they found jobs. As the House continues to monitor the economy and its impact on working families, I urge it to consider these important proposals.

Although this legislation does not reach its full potential as a true worker assistance measure, it is a step in the right direction and will be enormously helpful to many hard working individuals and their families. In this regard, I support it and urge its passage.

IN HONOR OF EASTERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY'S PLACEMENT ON  
THE AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES  
LIST

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Eastern Illinois University in

Charleston, Illinois, of my district. This Fall, Eastern Illinois University moved from the second tier to the first tier of the Midwestern Regional Universities in US News and World Report's 2002 annual guide to America's Best Colleges, placing it among the top public universities in the Midwest.

Eastern Illinois University is the only public university in the State of Illinois listed in the first tier of four tiers of 145 institutions in the "Best Universities—Masters (Regional Midwest)" ranking category—universities that offer a full range of undergraduate degrees and some master's degree programs, but few, if any doctoral programs. In addition, the magazine also rated Eastern fifth among all public Midwestern universities with master's programs, compared to seventh place of last year. The rankings are based on schools academic reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources, graduation and retention rates, financial resources, and alumni giving.

One of the most impressive statistics regarding Eastern Illinois University is that they have an average graduation rate of 67 percent. This rate reflects their strong commitment to the students that attend Eastern, and the effective leadership provided by interim president, Louis V. Hencken. Mr. Speaker, these graduates leave Eastern Illinois University with a quality education that makes them desired candidates for jobs within my district and the entire State of Illinois.

It is an honor to represent the city of Charleston, Illinois, and I offer my congratulations to the entire faculty and staff of Eastern Illinois University and commend them on this tremendous achievement.

HONORING EARLENE HILL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earlene Hill as she retires after 29 years as a Registered Nurse with General Motors. During her career she has provided outstanding patient services to the employees of General Motors. Mrs. Hill will be honored at a celebration on March 14th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

As a certified Occupational Health Nurse, Earlene has been on the front lines of health care in the workplace. As a member and past president of the Flint Association of Occupational Health Nurses she always abided by the high criteria imposed by that organization. The times I have met with her, I was impressed with Earlene's commitment to cultivating professional standards and her compassion for the workers in her care. As an Occupational Health Nurse she was charged with the awesome responsibility of assessing work environments for potential health or safety problems. Earlene has been an excellent advocate for safeguarding workers at Fisher Body Number 1, Flint Metal Fabrication, the Buick City Complex and the GM Regional Medical Complex.

Earlene's efforts on behalf of the workers under her protection resulted in her promotion to Manager of Health Service Administration at General Motors. This enabled the entire GM Health Service staff to draw on her expertise. Her retirement will leave a gap in the accumulated wisdom of the Health Service Administration. Her concern for others extends beyond

the jobsite. Her work with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society and Christ Fellowship Baptist Church are testimonials to her warmhearted benevolence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in wishing Earlene, her husband James, and her family all the best as she begins this new phase of her life.

IN RECOGNITION OF HISPANIC  
AMERICAN ATHLETES AT THE  
2002 OLYMPICS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the United States Latino athletes in the 2002 Winter Olympics. At these Olympic games we have seen a number of outstanding United States athletes from different ethnic and racial backgrounds. We have witnessed a number of "firsts" in our minority communities. These athletes have risen to the Olympic challenge against incredible odds, and for this, I honor them. I again recognize Mrs. Vonetta Flowers who won a Gold medal; in bobsledding at the Winter Olympic games, becoming the first African American to win a Gold medal for the United States in a Winter event.

In addition to those accomplishments made by the African American community, I also commend those achievements of Hispanic American athletes as highlighted in the Daily News article on Latino Olympians. The article follows this statement and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Olympians' reference in it. Mr. Parra, 31 years old, is a Mexican American speed skater from Orlando, Florida. He began his athletic career as an inline skater and only picked up speed skating on ice five years ago. Considered the first Hispanic American to ever win a medal in the Olympic games makes Parra incredibly unique, but Parra did not just medal. Parra came in first, receiving a Gold medal and breaking the world record for his performance in the 1,500 meter. He also received a Silver medal in the 5,000 meter race.

In addition, Jennifer Rodriguez of Miami, Florida became the first Cuban-American to medal in the Winter Olympics. A former inline skater—now speed skater, like Parra—Rodriguez competed in the women's 1,000 race and won a Bronze medal. Our nation's Puerto Rican heritage was also represented at the Salt Lake City Games. Though the two-man bobsled team was unable to complete in the end, Puerto Rico's presence was felt and we look forward to their full participation in 2006.

Parra, Rodriguez, and the Puerto Rican athletes have performed to commendable heights. They are a tribute to everything the Olympics stand for: courage, athleticism and national and international unity. I thank them for their hard work and perseverance. These, along with African American and Asian American, athletes are great examples to our future athletes, especially our minority communities. Their faces reflect the composition of our country and are an inspiration to countless young people who might believe the Olympics are not for them. Thank you again and congratulations.

[From the New York Daily News, Feb. 21, 2002]

LATIN OLYMPIANS GOOD AS GOLD

Global warming has affected the Utah Winter Olympics in unexpected ways. And all of them seem to be good.

For one thing, there are all these warm-weather people heating up the ice at Salt Lake City. And doing their part to make the medal count grow for the U.S.

Take Derek Parra.

Believed to be the first Hispanic ever to win a medal in the Winter Games, Parra, a 31-year-old Mexican-American, lives in Orlando, Fla., where Mickey and Donald are found all over the place, but snow is as rare as, well, speed skating.

He is 5-foot-4 and weighs 140 pounds, but Parra accomplished what many bigger men had unsuccessfully attempted before. He broke a world record to take the gold in 1,500 meters speed skating Tuesday in such spectacular fashion that even his competitors were thrilled.

"It sounds stupid, but I enjoyed [seeing] it," said Jochem Uytdehaage, of the Netherlands, who won silver, after Parra broke the world record he had set a few minutes before.

The reverse had taken place the opening day of the games, when Parra set a world record in the 5,000 meters. Uytdehaage destroyed it a few minutes later.

"It is just an amazing thing," Parra said after his 1,500-meter victory.

CUBAN-AMERICAN PIONEER

Now take Jennifer Rodriguez.

Born in sunny Miami to Cuban parents, Rodriguez is believed to be the first Cuban-American to compete in the Winter Games.

Rodriguez not only competed but won the bronze in the women's 1,000 meters. Another American, Chris Witty, won the gold and established a new world record.

That no Cuban-American had competed in the Winter Olympics before is not at all surprising. After all, in Miami, ice is usually found only in drinks. Not exactly an ice-skating paradise.

Baseball, football, swimming, boxing, soccer—all of them are pretty popular in warm, heavily Latino Miami. But a Cuban-American speed skater? Rodriguez's and Parra's feats will do wonders to change that.

Parra and Rodriguez—as did Apolo Anton Ohno, for that matter—got their start as inline skaters. Actually, Rodriguez didn't train on ice until six years ago, and Parra made the switch only five years ago.

The young Mexican-American also was a phenomenal in-line skater, becoming national champion three times in the 1990s and holding world records in short- and long-distance events.

And then take the case of the Puerto Rican bobsled team.

Yes, I know, you are asking yourself what in the world was the Caribbean island—average temperature 85 degrees—doing in Salt Lake City, where freezing weather is their daily bread? Did these sun-tanned, warm-weather guys stand a chance against all those cold-weather-seasoned athletes? We'll never know.

BOBSLEDDERS BLOCKED

On Friday evening, the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee dropped out of the two-man bobsled competition hours before it began. The reason: Michael González, one of the two team members, was not able to demonstrate to the island's Olympic committee that he had lived on the island for the required three years.

Ironically, the International Olympic Committee was satisfied with the two years and one month he was able to prove.

"He's a great, great guy, but those are the rules," said Héctor Cardona, president of the

island's national Olympic committee. "We have to follow the rules. As president of the Olympic committee, I took him out, according to our constitution."

Maybe next time. And count on it, there will be a next time.

HONORING HOLLY JOHNSEN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Holly Johnsen for being recognized by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards as a Distinguished Finalist for her impressive community service activities. The award is presented by Prudential Financial, with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and seeks to honor students who show exceptional achievement in the areas of community service.

Holly Johnsen, a sixteen-year old student at Bullard High School, has been recognized for initiating a "Lunch Buddy" program. The 30 Junior Ladies Auxiliary for Retarded Citizens (LARC) Club members that are involved in this program introduce special-education students to other groups, accompany them on field trips, and organize parties at school. Holly has shown top-quality leadership and organizing skills. The club operates at their school with a shared presidency between Holly and Molly Hopkins. Holly believes the club will make an impact through peer contribution. She encourages students to play a part in the program by taking special-education students to classes, club meetings, and lunch with them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Holly Johnsen for being honored by Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Holly for her outstanding ingenuity and service to the community and wishing her continued success in all future endeavors.

HONORING MR. RICHARD FIMBRES  
ON HIS SELECTION AS "MAN OF  
THE YEAR" BY THE TUCSON  
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2001*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize an outstanding individual who was recently recognized for his exemplary work and dedication to his community. On February 27, Mr. Richard G. Fimbres was honored by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as their "Man of the Year."

Mr. Fimbres' work throughout the community is evidenced by the time and energy he devotes to so many organizations throughout the City of Tucson and Pima County. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Knights of Columbus, the Tucson/Pima Arts Council, the Pima Youth Partnership, the United Way, and the Childrens Action Alliance are just a few of the entities he commits his energies to.

He has helped raise funds for local youth programs, establish drug education and prevention programs, and raise scholarship funds for underprivileged students. He has also developed youth leadership training seminars and established a youth education program assisting children with their reading skills. He contributes to various local and state policy boards regarding important issues such as education, immigration and redistricting.

Mr. Fimbres' standing as a community leader is evident by the respect and recognition he receives and for his countless hours of work on behalf of his community. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing this outstanding citizen and role model whom I am also proud to call my friend.

A TRIBUTE TO ALICIA CONTRERAS  
OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alicia Contreras of San Francisco, California for receiving the Paul G. Hearne American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Leadership Award for 2001. Alicia, herself disabled, is an inspiration to thousands of disabled individuals, and has been providing them valuable assistance through various organizations since 1994. The American Association of People with Disabilities, an outstanding organization founded by cross-disability leaders in 1995, has made an excellent choice in selecting Alicia Contreras as one the recipients of the Paul G. Hearne award.

Mr. Speaker, Alicia Contreras' work for the disabled has touched the lives of many individuals by demonstrating that being disabled does not have to get in the way of enjoying life. Alicia, herself confined to a wheelchair, learned how to improve her life as she began to work for the disabled in 1994 at a one-month leadership training program sponsored by Mobility International USA. Through this experience she learned that even with a wheelchair she could play sports, dance, and live an independent life. Through this experience, she learned, in effect, how to overcome her disability.

Mr. Speaker, after realizing that she had the power to take control of her life, Alicia Contreras founded the Independent Living Center for Women with Disabilities in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, so she could help other disabled women realize what she had learned. Alicia showed women, wheelchair bound like her, that being in a wheelchair does not mean one has to live in seclusion in one's own home, and that one could live a more independent life outside the home.

After her efforts through the Independent Living Center, Alicia took on a newly created government position, Program Coordinator for People with Disabilities in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. While there, Alicia created the first-ever accessible taxi-van service in the state, awarded more than 700 scholarships to disabled people, and provided more than 1,000 hearing aids and 300 wheelchairs to the disability community.

Through this work, Alicia became familiar with Whirlwind Women, an international orga-

nization that teaches women with disabilities how to build appropriate wheelchairs for themselves and others. In November of 2000, Alicia was hired as the Whirlwind Women Program Director and continues to serve in that capacity.

Mr. Speaker, Alicia Contreras has made a valuable contribution to the disabled community; the American Association of People with Disabilities has made an intelligent choice in selecting her as one of the recipients of this award.

Like Alicia, the AAPD is committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Founded by disabled individuals, AAPD is committed to promoting the economic and political empowerment of all people with disabilities, educating businesses and the general public about disability issues, and seeing through the full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act so that all disabled individuals may have an equal opportunity to fully participate in society.

Mr. Speaker, with these goals in mind, it is no surprise that AAPD selected Alicia. She exemplifies the dedication and determination necessary to give disabled people a fair chance in life, and most importantly, she gives them hope. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Alicia Contreras for receiving the Paul G. Hearne/AAPD Leadership Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NOEL  
CUNNINGHAM

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to pay tribute to a man whose life-long pursuit of improving and enriching the lives of others is an inspiration to us all. Noel Cunningham has dedicated his life to improving the lives of his fellow man. In recognition of this, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians is honoring Noel as Humanitarian of the Year. Although Noel bases his philanthropy in Denver his kindness and generosity have extended far beyond Denver to touch the lives of people around the state, the nation and indeed the world.

It would take hours to describe all that Noel has done for the Denver Community, however, certain projects of his stand out. Noel was one of the founders of Taste of the Nation, an incredibly successful program that raises money to help address hunger and poverty. Last year the event was held in 500 cities across the nation and raised \$300,000 in Denver alone. The millions of dollars that were raised will be distributed to states and countries dealing with the issue of hunger. For ten years, Noel has also run an event called "I Remember Mama" in which every Mother's Day he opens the doors of his restaurant to women from the poorest districts of Denver who participate in the Meals on Wheels programs. All of these women, who are without family in the Denver area, are treated to an incredible brunch, roses, gifts and music. Every Christmas, for the past decade, Noel has also hosted 300 foster children for a holiday party complete with food, gifts and a Santa who arrives in a helicopter.

Not only do Noel's efforts benefit individuals, they also have a tremendous impact on the community at large. Last year, Noel helped to raise a half-million dollars to build a brand new playground for the children of Garden Place Academy in Globeville, one of Denver's poorest districts. The playground was built with help from the surrounding community and by the students themselves. As a result, less than one year later, the discipline problem at the school has been nearly cut in half. Noel hopes to share his passion for helping others with the next generation through his Quarters for Kids program, where school children save a quarter so that someone else can have a meal. Thousands of children participate every year learning the joy of giving to others.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Noel Cunningham. He is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment to both his professional and philanthropic endeavors. It is his unrelenting passion for each and every thing he does, as well as his spirit of honesty and integrity with which he has always conducted himself that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. Noel Cunningham is a remarkable man, who has achieved extraordinary things in his career and in his community. It is my distinct pleasure to pay tribute to Noel Cunningham today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN L. HUERTA AS AN  
OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE  
TUCSON AND SOUTH ARIZONA  
COMMUNITY

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding member of the Tucson and Southern Arizona community. Mr. John L. Huerta. John has always served his community and his country with distinction, and although he has traveled extensively and held important positions at the national and state level, he has remained El Tucsonese at heart. On March 22, 2002, the University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni Association and the Concerned Media Professionals will gather to applaud and honor John for his many contributions to the cultural and educational vitality of the greater Tucson area. Today I join his family, friends and colleagues in expressing my sincere admiration for his many accomplishments.

John was born in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from Tucson High and the University of Arizona. While at the U of A, John co-founded the Los Universitarios, a social club for the university Hispanic community, which fostered many of today's innovative leaders in Tucson. After college, John worked as a Juvenile Probation officer and then joined a task force that was successful in bringing the "War on Poverty" programs to Tucson. John's effective leadership in these programs brought him to the attention of national leaders who encouraged him to relocate to Washington, DC, where he joined the staff of the Postmaster General as a Special Assistant.

John's career in Washington, DC, moved upward through several positions in the Department of Health Education, and Welfare, including Assistant Director of the Office for

Community Planning (Model Cities Program), Director of the Office for Community Development, and Director for the Office for Rural Development. In 1975, John decided to move closer to home. He relocated to Phoenix and became the Director of Arizona's largest agency, the Department of Economic Security, which had a yearly budget of half a billion dollars. Throughout his government service, John was an adept and respected leader.

In 1978, John returned to Tucson and became involved in the private sector as a successful businessman. His skills with money soon lead to a position with the University of Arizona Development Office where he founded the Office of Minority Programs. This office, almost unique among all colleges and universities, raises funds to benefit Hispanic, African-American, and Asian American scholarship endowments as well as special emphasis programs. Under his guidance, the Hispanic Alumni endowment enjoys a market value of \$1.7 million, the largest fund of its kind among all public universities, and the Black Alumni endowment is \$500,000.

Throughout his career, John has brought success to many community activities and is especially proud of his work with the Hispanic Alumni Board, Omega Delta Phi (the first Hispanic fraternity at the UofA) as a founder of the Tucson International Mariachi Conference, the Hispanic Professional Action Committee, the UA Hispanic Alumni, the Tucson Chapter of the America Israel Friendship League, and El Centro Cultural de las Americas.

In addition to his many career and community activities, John has enjoyed a rich and rewarding family life. He and his wife Nancy, high school sweethearts who recently celebrated 50 wonderful years together, raised 6 accomplished children. Now he enjoys being tata to his talented grandchildren. I am proud to enter John L. Huerta's name into the official records of our nation. He represents an American life well-lived for his family, for his community and for his country.

#### FUEL PRICE STABILITY ACT

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana with added flexibility in meeting federal reformulated gasoline (RFG) requirements. The Fuel Price Stability Act will simply allow the Governors of each of the states in the Milwaukee-Chicago market to permit the sale of gasoline from other markets if the price of RFG in our area sees a significant rise or if supplies of RFG in our region are especially tight. Presently, only the EPA has the authority to grant any type of waiver from "boutique" fuel requirements. The Fuel Price Stability Act would change this by allowing our Governors to make needed short-term adjustments.

Granting this new flexibility to local Governors has the potential to keep gas prices down in our area. In the past two years, when RFG prices in the Milwaukee-Chicago market skyrocketed, prices remained comparatively low in surrounding markets, including some of those on the same pipeline that supplies gaso-

line to our market. Should such an occurrence happen again, our Governors should have the authority to permit other gasoline types to be sold in the Milwaukee-Chicago region, thereby increasing potential supplies to our area.

I strongly support other reforms in this area, including efforts to reduce the number of "boutique" fuels used across the country, but, lacking the implementation of a broader plan, this legislation represents a solid step toward greater flexibility in fuel use. I am hopeful my colleagues will support this legislation and the House will act on this proposal expeditiously.

#### POLAR BEAR PROTECTION ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in a civilized society we oppose the mistreatment of animals. When that cruelty takes place in a public forum, as the worst example of "entertainment," we should be outraged. This is exactly what's happening in Puerto Rico.

That is why I introduced the Polar Bear Protection Act. This bill would simply make it illegal to have a polar bear in a traveling circus.

This bill will end the suffering of seven polar bears in the Suarez Brothers' circus in Puerto Rico, where the bears are tortured every day by being dragged from one tropical city to another. They are consistently exposed to high temperatures, lack of sufficient water, as well as whipping and other abuses.

Polar bears' natural habitat in Northern Alaska averages below 11 degrees Fahrenheit. They are Arctic marine mammals that spend a significant amount of time in the water. However, there are loopholes in federal animal protection laws that allowed the Suarez Brothers' circus to enter Puerto Rico with seven polar bears. The circus has exposed these bears to temperatures as high as 113 degrees Fahrenheit and denied them sufficient access to water. This is an outrage, Mr. Speaker.

The circus has been under investigation by authorities in Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Just last week the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confiscated one of the polar bears and placed it safely in the Baltimore zoo. But we need to make sure that the other six bears are not forgotten and that polar bears will not suffer like this in the future.

Polar bears are beautiful, dignified animals that belong in their natural arctic environment or in accredited zoos that can guarantee cool containment areas and access to water. The bottom line is that the circus is just not an appropriate place for a polar bear. We in Congress have the power to stop this outrage and end the cruelty. I urge my colleagues to join with me to prohibit the use of polar bears in circuses.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAXINE ADLER

**HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent retirement of an out-

standing leader in Maryland's public affairs, Maxine Adler.

I first met Maxine as a freshman delegate during the 1987 legislative session in Annapolis. I learned soon thereafter that her diminutive stature belied a tough, persuasive manner and character which loomed large on the Maryland legislative landscape for many years.

Few Marylanders may be aware of Maxine's long and distinguished career. She began her career in Annapolis as a legislative aide to the Baltimore County Delegation to the Maryland House of Delegates. After graduating cum laude from the University of Baltimore Law School, Maxine worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard Gilbert, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, and as a law clerk to the Department of Economic and Community Development under the Attorney General. For two decades, Maxine served as a successful lawyer and lobbyist as a member of the Baltimore-based law firm of Semmes, Bowen, & Semmes.

In addition, Maxine has been a valuable and active participant in the greater Baltimore community. Over the years, she has been a member of the University of Baltimore School of Law Advisory Committee, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Self-Insurance, and a Commissioner on the Baltimore County Commission for Women.

Maxine has also been a member of the Women's Housing Coalition's Board of Directors, which provides transitional and permanent housing for homeless, low-income, or at-risk women. Finally, she and her husband, my good friend Robert L. McKinney, were named one of "Baltimore's Power Couples" in the June, 2000 edition of Baltimore Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, Maxine will be sorely missed by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Annapolis. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Maxine and her husband Bob all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN CENTRAL  
NEW YORK FIREFIGHTERS JOHN  
E. GINOCCHETTI AND TIMOTHY  
J. LYNCH

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I have often risen and submitted comments recognizing the heroics of first responders across the country. Today I rise with a heavy heart to recognize two firefighters from my own congressional district who made the ultimate sacrifice just last week. On Thursday evening, March 7, during a three-alarm house fire in the town of Pompey, two central New York firefighters—John E. Ginocchetti and Timothy J. Lynch—were killed in the line of duty.

While acting on what appeared to be a routine house fire, Firefighters Ginocchetti and Lynch, both responding in a mutual aid capacity on behalf of the Manlius Fire Department, proceeded to mount an aggressive interior attack after successfully "venting" the roof. As Ginocchetti and Lynch made their way into the kitchen and laundry room from the home's attached garage, the floor suddenly gave way, and the men were consumed in a horrific "fireball," falling into the structure's basement

where the blaze had started. Despite repeated rescue attempts by their colleagues, both men were lost.

Firefighter John "Gino" Ginocchetti, age 41, was a paid professional with the Manlius Fire Department. Firefighter Timothy "T.J." Lynch, age 28, was a full-time firefighter with the Fayetteville Fire Department, a part-time paramedic with Rural/Metro Medical Services, as well as a volunteer responder with the Manlius and Kirkville Fire Departments. Each leave behind a wife and son.

Both men held a longtime commitment to fire service, and since the tragedy, numerous stories of their previous acts of heroism and compassion have been recalled. Their tragic deaths remind us all how dangerous the fire fighting profession truly is.

On behalf of a grateful community, I thank the Ginocchetti and Lynch families for their sacrifice. Our thoughts, prayers, and admiration are with them during this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAN BROOME

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Colorado's first class citizens, Mr. Stan Broome. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Club 20, Mr. Broome worked hard to promote the common interest in the economic future of Colorado's Western Slope. Stan's leadership was essential in developing Club 20's strong reputation for its ability to focus on important issues, while representing the interests of Western Colorado.

As President of Club 20, Stan Broome maintained the high standards of dedication and commitment to the Western Slope and the State of Colorado that the organization has built its reputation around. Because of his leadership, we enjoy the protection of our resources, the promotion of tourism, improvements in our transportation systems, the rise and creation of new telecommunications capabilities, creation of a powerful business infrastructure, and the ability to provide recreational activities in our region. Mr. Broome has remained steadfast in the Club 20's commitment as the "The Voice of the Western Slope."

Stan has made a number of contributions to the State of Colorado, and although he is retiring, I expect that he will remain an active public servant in his community. Stan's background is rich in experience and accolades, working as the Executive Director of Region 10 and President of SB & A Consultants. In addition, he has held several positions in planning and development in Garfield and Grand counties, and served a term with the Colorado Governor's office.

Stan has established strong ties with the Colorado communities in which he has lived and worked. These relationships with the residents and the land have inspired Stan to work with many organizations, including his chairmanship of the Colorado Rural Development Council, serving on the Economic Developers Council of Colorado, being distinguished as a fellow of the Society of American Foresters,

and his association with the Colorado Forestry Association.

Mr. Speaker, Stan Broome has dedicated his life to serving the interests of Colorado's Western Slope, both professionally and as a volunteer. It is my privilege to honor Stan for his many years of guidance and support of Club 20 and Colorado's Western Slope. His dedication and commitment to his fellow Coloradans deserves the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation. It is with great pleasure that I wish Stan Broome a pleasant retirement and all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. DAN MAYDAN

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to honor Dr. Dan Maydan, who has been president of Applied Materials since 1994 and a member of the Board of Directors since 1992. Dr. Maydan is the 2002 recipient of the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award. The Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award was established to recognize individuals and corporations who have exhibited humanitarian concerns, and whose everyday actions exemplify the principles on which the Anti-Defamation League was founded: namely, to "secure justice and fair treatment for all."

Born in Tel Aviv, Dr. Dan Maydan is a member of the United States National Academy of Engineering. Over the years, he has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to the global semiconductor industry and for his efforts to strengthen the links between Israel and global high-technology markets. He is the recipient of the International Partnership Award from the California Israel Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his long-term commitment to building bridges between Israel and California. Additionally, Dr. Maydan received the Israel Trade Award from the Israel Ministry of Industry and Trade. In 1998 he was also awarded the State of Israel Jubilee Award in recognition of his efforts to integrate Israel into the global economy and for realizing its world-class business potential.

In 2001 Dr. Maydan was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Edinburgh University in Scotland and from the Technion in Israel. In our community, Dr. Maydan is a noted patron of a number of local organizations. Dr. Maydan and Applied Materials have been recognized by numerous organizations for their leadership in responding to community causes.

As friends of Dr. Maydan's, we are incredibly proud at his being presented with this prestigious award. Both as colleagues and as fellow Californians, we are incredibly grateful to him for both his innovation and his compassion. We congratulate him and his family on receiving the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award, and thank him for his commitment and devotion to our community.

APPLAUDING VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Veterans Affairs Committee for their recommended increase over the Administration's request in the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Resolution for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We on the Committee constantly speak of a needs-based budget that fulfills our duty and our obligation to those who have given so much to this nation.

The Committee has been extremely effective under the expert leadership of Chairman Smith, and all of us on the Committee know much work remains. In fact, the Department of Veterans Affairs projects that nearly 700,000 additional veterans will seek VA healthcare in 2003. While we should be proud of the quality and the breadth of care that the VA provides, VA healthcare struggles because appropriated funding is not keeping pace with growth in enrollment and the increased demands for service. Additionally, there is a need for additional clinics and primary care facilities, and much of VA's physical infrastructure is in immediate need of hundreds of millions of dollars in repairs restorations and upgrades. The result of under-funding and inaction in this area could be crippling to the system, and in the end the losers are the ones who have sacrificed the most for this nation—our veterans.

In addition to providing adequate funding for veteran programs, the time has come for Congress to act to resolve inequities in current law, including the prohibition on concurrent receipt as provided for by H.R. 303; and an increase in premiums for the Survivor Benefit Plan as provided for in H.R. 548.

Mr. Speaker, we must fulfill our obligations to care for those who place their lives on the line to defend our nation, our people, and our principles; and to do so we must be willing to provide the needed resources, no matter the cost. The time has come to enact a VA budget that is worthy of this great nation and worthy of our veterans' sacrifice.

May God Bless our nation's veterans, and may God continue to bless these United States of America.

IN HONOR OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELAWARE BIBLIOPHILES

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Delaware Bibliophiles on the occasion of their twenty-fifth anniversary this month. The Delaware Bibliophiles are an organization of book collectors and one of twenty-six officially recognized book collecting societies in the United States. These members, however, collect more than books. They continue to build upon the strong humanities and arts foundations in Delaware and enrich our community.

The Delaware Bibliophiles have published five books with a sixth in the works and recently offered each public library in the State their choice of two books to add to their collections as a gift. In addition to this generosity, the club also participates in numerous exhibits that further enhance the history of the written word, the beauty of design, and the art of book collecting.

The Delaware Bibliophiles are members of the prestigious Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies and currently have over 100 members from eleven states. Certainly, the Delaware Bibliophiles have reached the goal of any bibliophile organization—to foster literary study and promote the arts pertaining to the production of books. I commend them for this fine accomplishment on the occasion of their silver anniversary.

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RECOGNIZING THE 317TH AIRLIFT  
GROUP STATIONED AT DYESS  
AIR FORCE BASE

**HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 317th Airlift Group as they return to Dyess Air Force Base from a three-month deployment in Southwest Asia. These folks have been supporting the war effort in Afghanistan and today they return to home to the cheers and support of their families, friends and the entire city of Abilene, Texas.

I want to add my voice to this chorus of support for these brave folks who have spent the last three months working in incredibly challenging physical conditions, flying and supporting missions, in our nation's assault on terrorism. They saw firsthand how the battle in Afghanistan has cost precious American lives even as they put themselves in harm's way.

Today, I join with a grateful nation to express not only thanks to members of the 317th Airlift Group and all those who wear Air Force Blue, but also to the wives and husbands and sons and daughters and family members who share in the sacrifices they make. Our ability as a nation to deploy throughout the world at a moment's notice is possible only because there are strong families and communities to provide support.

Since the terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, we have called on folks to make great sacrifices, and our nation's military has answered that call with swift, forceful action. Like all Americans, I have the highest level of confidence in those folks who volunteer to serve in defense of our nation. They have our confidence and respect because they have earned it. They earn it every day as they face hardship and danger. They serve because they believe in America, and America believes in them.

ATTACKS ON MUSLIMS IN INDIA  
ARE A REPEAT OF 1984 ATTACKS  
ON SIKHS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, more than 540 people have recently died in violent attacks on Muslims in Gujarat, India while police stand by and do nothing. This violence is very disturbing and very reminiscent of the violence against Sikhs in Delhi in November 1984. At that time, police also stood by and did nothing. Sikh police were locked in their barracks and the state-run radio and television stations fanned the flames of the massacre. Even a former Member of Parliament was killed in the riots last week while police stood by, according to a report in the National Post.

When the government, through its police, stands by and lets these attacks unfold, it condones them. Unfortunately, this shows the real truth about India's claim that it is secular and democratic. In a secular, democratic country, the police do not allow minorities to be massacred. This is the act of a theocratic country that seeks to wipe out minorities. That is not the kind of country that America should be supporting.

We should stop providing aid to India while its minorities suffer from this kind of repression. We should not build up its economy with trade. And we should support the people and nations of South Asia in achieving freedom. Self-determination is the right of all people; let us support a free and fair plebiscite on the future of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other countries seeking their freedom from India.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently published a press release discussing the parallels between the current violence and the Delhi massacres of Sikhs.

KILLING OF OVER 540 MUSLIMS BY HINDU MILITANTS PARALLELS 1984 MASSACRE OF SIKHS

WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 5, 2002.—The attacks on Muslims in Ahmedabad parallel the November 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, which leads the struggle for the independence of Khalistan. "The police stood by then, too, and the police gave a nod to the violence," Dr. Aulakh said. "This is part of the overall plan of a Hindu fundamentalist regime that is determined to wipe out minorities," he said. More than 540 people have died during the last week in the current violence in Ahmedabad. "When 13 people were killed in the attack on the Indian Parliament, there was a lot of outrage, as there should be for the killing of any human being," Dr. Aulakh said. "Where is the outrage at the death of over 540 people in this massacre?" he asked.

"The true face of Indian secularism is exposed," Dr. Aulakh said. "They demolished a mosque the other day, they demolished the mosque in Ayodhya and they are proceeding with plans to build a Hindu temple on the site," he said. "They attacked the Golden Temple in 1984. They have attacked Christian churches, schools, and prayer halls." In 2000, Indian troops were caught red-handed trying to set fire to Sikh homes in Kashmir. During the Delhi massacres in November 1984, Sikh police officers were locked in their

barracks while more than 20,000 Sikhs were massacred and the state-run television and radio called for more Sikh blood. "It is too bad that atrocities like these are carried out with impunity," he said.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947, along with tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, and other minorities. A report issued last year shows that 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are held in Indian jails, as well as tens of thousands of others. Since Christmas 1998, Christians have felt the brunt of the attacks. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death. Pakistan has requested the extradition of Home Minister L.K. Advani, who is wanted for the murder of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, 50 years ago.

Last year, a cabinet member said that everyone living in India must be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. In July 1997, Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, told National Public Radio, "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they're democratic, they're secular, but they have nothing to do with a democracy. They have nothing to do with a secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to please the majority."

The attacks in Ahmedabad reportedly came in retaliation for an attack on a railroad car full of Hindus on their way to Ayodhya to build a temple on the site where the most revered mosque in India was destroyed several years ago. 58 Hindus were burned to death in that attack. For several days, train loads of Hindu extremists had passed through the village of Godha, where the train attack occurred, shouting provocative slogans about building a temple.

"By standing by while this violence went on, the government condones it," Dr. Aulakh said. "The only way to escape this government-supported violence and tyranny is for the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities to claim their freedom from India," he said. "That is the only way to prevent the Hindu militant theocracy from wiping us out," he said. "Now is the time for a Shantmai Morcha (peaceful agitation) for the independence of Khalistan," he said. "Sikhs are a separate nation. Sikhs ruled Punjab until the British annexed Punjab in 1849. The people of South Asia must have self-determination now," he said. "India is on the verge of disintegration, as Steve Forbes predicted in the current issue of Forbes magazine," he said. "Khalistan will be free by 2008."

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARRY  
MUSSELL

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Harry Mussell and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to his community and to his state. As a resident of New Castle, Colorado, Harry has dedicated his life to improving the

community by selflessly giving his time and energy to a number of volunteer organizations. His remarkable philanthropic accomplishments are surpassed only by the level of integrity and honesty with which he has conducted himself each and every day of his life. As we celebrate his tremendous accomplishment of having a day, "Harry W. Mussell Day," named after him by the citizens of New Castle, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, applaud his efforts and are eternally grateful for all that he has done for the community of New Castle and the State of Colorado.

Harry has served in the Glenwood Springs Rotary Club for nearly 35 years, having a perfect attendance record for 32 straight years. Even when Harry was out of town, he always made a point to find a local Rotary Club Chapter, so he could attend the weekly meetings. Not only is Harry a lifetime honorary Rotarian in Glenwood Springs, but he also started Rotary Clubs in Aspen, Carbondale and Rifle, and has attended nine international Rotary conventions.

In addition to his dedication to the Rotary Club, Harry has devoted an enormous amount of time to a number of other organizations. He has been a volunteer with Colorado Mountain College's Senior Programs, serving on the advisory council of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for several years. In addition, he has volunteered at "The Gathering", a senior lunch program held every Monday in New Castle and Wednesday in Silt. In 1997, Harry was a candidate for the Glenwood Post Humanitarian Service Award, and has previously served on New Castle's Senior Housing Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Harry Mussell is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment to his community and to the people who reside in it. It is his unrelenting passion for each and every thing he does, as well as his spirit of honesty and integrity with which he has always conducted himself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. He is a remarkable man who has achieved extraordinary things and enriched the lives of so many people. It is my privilege to extend to him my sincere congratulations on the advent of "Harry W. Mussell Day," as he is most deserving, and I wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL ON THEIR VICTORY IN THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) men's basketball team for their accomplishment this season.

The CCSU Blue Devils defeated Quinnipiac College by a score of 78-71 to win their conference, improve their record to 27 wins and 4 losses and more importantly secure an invitation to the NCAA tournament for the second time in 3 years.

As the buzzer sounded the capacity crowd of 3,556 erupted in celebration of our home-

town Blue Devils continuing their nation-leading winning streak to 19 games.

Mr. Speaker, to watch the students storm the court, and to hear Head Coach Howie Dickenman, himself a CCSU graduate, say "This was an event tonight, an event that the whole city rallied around" is to understand what March Madness is all about.

I am proud to be a resident of the city of New Britain, home of the 2002 Northeast Conference regular season and conference tournament champions. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating this exemplary group of student-athletes, their coaches, parents, classmates, and others who supported and cheered them on this season.

Mr. Speaker, their exceptional play this season is an inspiration to all of us. Congratulations to the Blue Devils, and best of luck in the Big Dance. To steal a phrase from Dick Vitale and Bristol Connecticut's own ESPN, CCSU you are "awesome with a capital A baby!"

A TRIBUTE TO NANCY BLOOMER

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues and staff will celebrate the service of Nancy Bloomer to our country tomorrow.

Nancy served the House International Relations Committee for many years, both in the minority prior to 1995 and in recent years in the majority. The committee dealt with critical issues of our time—the cold war, Central America, Desert Storm, Haiti, Bosnia, and Iraq. After the elections in 1994, Nancy and the new committee staff director, Rich Garon, assembled a team that helped guide this House through the transition to a Republican majority.

Many people did not know what a Republican majority would do at the helm of the committee. Barely anyone was around in 1954 when Republicans last took charge. Under Chairman BEN GILMAN, Nancy and the committee team leapt into action as dedicated internationalists, committed to America's role in the world. We passed key parts of the Contract with America, the American Overseas Interests Act and numerous other pieces of legislation designed to strengthen U.S. foreign policy.

I was a staff member of that team. I remember Nancy as the complete professional, helping Chairman GILMAN organize many different member requests into a coherent whole. In those days after the cold war and before the War on Terror, it was hard to build a central core of members with a common vision of America's role in the world. It took vision by members of this body and it took solid staff work by Nancy and her colleagues through endless hours spent between hearings, mark-ups and consideration of legislation on the floor.

Nancy should be very proud of her work. Congress has played a strong hand in modernizing the State Department, paying our dues to the United Nations and backing up key allies in need. We also played the leading humanitarian role in feeding starving North Koreans and helping refugees around the world. Much of this work would not have been done

or would have not looked easy to do without Nancy's contribution to her country. As she departs the Congress after years of service, we wish her well and know that America is stronger overseas in part due to the service of Nancy Bloomer.

HONORING AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE AND FOR TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate AAA on 100 years of serving Americans. On March 8 in my home state of Idaho, the Oregon-Idaho AAA office will hold a grand opening for its brand new building in Boise.

When AAA started 100 years ago, America was starting to emerge as a technological trendsetter. Alexander Graham Bell was developing the telephone. Thomas Edison was experimenting with electricity and the light bulb. The Wright Brothers were jumping off hilltops to attempt flight. Henry Ford was beginning his own company to replace horse and cart with steel and wheels. This was the environment in which AAA began—an inventor's paradise—where good ideas became life-altering institutions.

In 1902, American motorists needed better roads, so nine regional auto clubs in Chicago took on the task. Since then, AAA has expanded its mission from helping kids and parents know the life-saving value of car seats, to developing signature roadside service, to the famous TripTik maps to travel discounts. AAA also continues to fight for better roads for safer Americans.

AAA in Idaho has a long history as well, starting in 1920. In fact, the new 14,000 square foot building is named after Richard "Dick" Navarro, AAA Idaho's President from 1981 to 1993.

Congratulations AAA on 100 years of serving Idaho and for taking an active role in the safety of Americans. Your outstanding work is appreciated and shows by your 48 million loyal members.

COMMEMORATING ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I come before you to recognize the accomplishments of a great person in Rhode Island history, Elizabeth Buffum Chace. A controversial figure in the 19th century because of her progressive views on slavery and women's suffrage, Chace has since earned immense respect in Rhode Island for her determination and willingness to fight for just causes. Today, in celebration of her great deeds, the state honors Elizabeth Buffum Chace by placing a statue of her on permanent display in the State House.

The dedication of the Elizabeth Buffum Chace statue comes as the result of an extensive search conducted by the Rhode Island

Commission to Memorialize the Contributions of All Rhode Island Women, which was established in May 2001 to address the notable lack of female figures in the State House statuary. After reviewing thousands of nominations, the Commission selected Chace for her many contribution to Rhode Island, and I wish to recognize some of her notable achievements.

Born in 1806 in Smithfield, Elizabeth Buffum was raised as a Quaker. Her life was strongly molded by the values of independence and simplicity instilled in her by her family. Her passion for justice first became evident in the 1830s when she campaigned against slavery. Founder of the Fall River Anti-Slavery Society, she mounted a door-to-door campaign to further the abolitionist cause, and she and her husband, Samuel Chace, often hid fugitive slaves in their home. So passionate was Chace about abolitionism that she ultimately severed ties with her beloved Quaker roots because the religion would not strengthen its position against slavery.

Upon returning to Rhode Island, Chace continued her anti-slavery efforts and also spoke out in favor of women's suffrage and temperance—two of her greatest passions. As one of the founders of the Rhode Island Women's Suffrage Association, she objected to the political and social subjugation of women and advocated the admission of women to Brown University. Additionally, she tackled the unpopular issues of homelessness and prison reform, simultaneously making enemies and progress. Throughout these campaigns, she never neglected her family and was a caring and dedicated mother to her ten children. She maintained her strong spirit until her death in 1899 at the age of 93, having written an article just one year earlier for the *Women's Journal*, a suffrage newspaper.

Chace is certainly an apt choice as the first Rhode Island woman honored by a State House statue, though I am confident that today merely marks the beginning of a greater trend in recognizing remarkable women in the halls of the Rhode Island Capitol. I wish to thank my good friend, Secretary of State Edward Inman, for his vision and leadership in trumpeting the accomplishments of women in our great state, and I look forward to working with him on other important initiatives to enhance the civic pride of all Rhode Islanders.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE  
GALLAGHER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize an extraordinary man whose kindness and good deeds embody the spirit of Colorado, and this nation. Charlie Gallagher is a pillar of the Denver, Colorado community, but the impact of his contributions reaches beyond the city to touch the entire state. In recognition of Charlie's many accomplishments and philanthropic generosity, the Ancient Order of Hibernians chose him as the 2002 Irish Person of the Year. This is a distinguished achievement that recognizes the dedication and commitment of an individual to his or her community. As Charlie celebrates this achievement, I would like to take this oppor-

tunity to acknowledge his kindly spirit before this body of Congress.

Charlie Gallagher has overcome numerous obstacles in his life and has used his experience to help others overcome similar circumstances. He started out in an inner-city Irish neighborhood in Toledo, Ohio, living in a house where ten family members shared one bathroom and three bedrooms. The grandson of Irish immigrants, Charlie's family instilled in him the values of education, hard work and determination. It is this foundation which Charlie used to found Gallagher Enterprises LC, an extraordinarily successful private equity firm in Colorado. Like many Americans, Charlie rose from hardship to prosperity, but has remained true to his roots. He has adopted the motto, "if you've been blessed and if you've been lucky, you gotta give back". He has lived his life accordingly.

Charlie funded the establishment of several buildings and additions for many educational institutions, ranging from grade school to higher education institutions, in his home state of Ohio. For almost twelve years, he has supported over 100 students from underprivileged backgrounds by providing them with full tuition, room and board. Beginning this year, Charlie has pledged to fully fund 100 students at Denver's Metro State College for five years. In addition to his philanthropic contributions, Charlie continues to serve his community as a board member of the Metropolitan State College of Denver Foundation, Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, the Catholic Foundation for the Archdiocese of Denver and the National Jewish Medical & Research Center. He is a Trustee of the Irish Community Center and the Vice Chairman of the Denver Art Museum. In addition, he helped to raise \$50 million for the art museum and was instrumental in securing city bonding for the museum's expansion. To continue his generous support of the community, Charlie and his family frequently donate their time, money, and energy through the Gallagher Family Foundation of the Denver Foundation. This organization gives generously to numerous causes every year and serves as a model for philanthropic foundations throughout the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Gallagher is an extraordinary individual and it is my pleasure to bring forth his accomplishments and generosity before this body of Congress, and this nation. Charlie's life serves as an example for anyone who has ever faced and overcome adversity in their life. Charlie, thank you for all you have done for the State of Colorado and good luck in your future endeavors.

ON INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to improve the way the federal government is working to reduce the risk of wildfire damage in the most vulnerable communities of Colorado and other states.

The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Representative JOEL HEFLEY

and my close colleague from New Mexico, Representative TOM UDALL. We have worked closely in its development and I greatly appreciate their support.

The bill deals with the fuel-reduction program that is a key part of the National Fire plan. Under that program, the land-managing agencies remove brush and other material that can fuel high-intensity fires through techniques such as burning ("prescribed fires"), mechanical thinning, vegetation control (such as defensible space around homes and buildings) or timber removal.

I have supported that program, but have had some questions about the way the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the other land-managing agencies have been implementing it. So, I joined a number of our colleagues in the House and Senate in asking the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review the steps the agencies have taken so far to see if improvements should be made.

GAO has now completed that review and submitted a report that includes a number of recommendations. This bill would require that those recommendations be adopted. I am attaching a fact sheet that outlines the main provisions of the bill, as well as the "Results in Brief" portion of the GAO report.

The GAO highlighted the need for two things—more and better interagency coordination, and better focus on identifying and responding to the highest-risk communities in the wildland/urban interface area.

Improvements in these matters are important nationally, but they are particularly important for Colorado and other western states. That is because Colorado, like other Western states, has been experiencing ever more growth and development in and near forested areas. We are seeing more people, structures and investments placed at risk.

It is this increasing risk to people and property—increasing because of growth as well as because of the unnatural forest conditions that we have created in many forests in Colorado through decades of fire suppression policies—that led to my interest in focusing on questions of wildlife management. And two particular things then lead me to take action.

First, I took a tour of an area west of Boulder, Colorado, called Winiger Ridge. It is near an area where there was a major forest fire in 1989. Following that fire, a number of citizens, along with the Forest Service and Boulder County officials, got together to find a way to reduce the danger of a repetition of such a dangerous blaze. That group's efforts ultimately led to the identification of conditions that lead to wildfire risks and the recommendation that some steps be taken to reduce that risk. The Winiger Ridge area was chosen as a location to explore some of these techniques—which involve some mechanical thinning and some controlled burning. When I toured this area and learned of the issues and the proposed strategy, I was struck by the condition of the forest—a condition of dense stands of small diameter trees—and, more importantly, I was very concerned about the homes and families that reside within this area. These homes and families are literally in the path of a possible major fire that could be devastating.

It was important to identify this Winiger Ridge area because soon after my tour of it, another fire arose there in the summer of 2000, called the Walker Ranch fire. That fire

threatened a number of mountain homes just west of Boulder. However, no structure was damaged because treatment with prescribed fire and vegetative thinning resulted in conditions that led the fire to drop to the ground and be more easily controlled. Had this not been done in previous years, the fire could have been much more devastating.

That fire, and other devastating fires in Colorado and throughout the west, was the second event that strongly affected my thinking about this subject. I was interested in what I might do to address the problem and to try to lessen the dangers to our communities in ways that still recognized the need for sound management of forest lands and proper protection for their most sensitive areas.

An early opportunity came when the House took up the appropriations bill for the Forest Service for fiscal year 2001. Reviewing the bill as it came to the floor, Representative Hefley and I were struck by the fact that the Appropriations Committee was proposing to reduce the funding for the wildland fire management account by some \$4 million. In response, we offered an amendment to restore that funding that was approved by the House by a solid vote of 364 to 55.

Then, after consulting a number of experts, I developed and introduced a bill intended to focus directly on our situation here in Colorado. It was cosponsored by Representative HELFLY and by Representative TANCREDO and DEGETTE as well. To put it in its simplest terms, our bill was intended to promote and facilitate efforts like the Winiger Ridge project, and thus help reduce the risk of a repeat of this past fire season, in the parts of Colorado that are at greatest risk of such disasters. That bill was not enacted itself, but its main principles were included in the fuel-reduction part of the National Fire Plan. And I have continued to work to make sure that this important fuel-reduction work was done the right way and in the right places.

Since then, I have strongly supported the appropriation of funds for this purpose—but I have been concerned Congress has not done enough to spell out appropriate guidelines for their use, such as staying away from wilderness and roadless areas and ensuring that the projects are carefully targeted to protect the people who are at greatest risk from wildfires.

We need to be very careful not to overcompensate for past shortcomings in working to reduce fuels. Fire is a natural part of our forests and eliminating fire from the landscape—as we tried to do for many years—was a big part of what produced the situation we now have. But the risks to people, property and the environment from creating this unnatural condition should not be used to justify a wholesale return to nearly-unrestricted timber cutting, as some seem to what.

We need instead to have a careful, appropriate program of fuel reduction that is based on good science and focused where it is most needed—on the at-risk communities in the wildland/urban interface. The purpose of this bill is to help make that a reality.

#### FACT SHEET ON BILL TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

The scale and intensity of forest fires in 2000 made that fire season one of the worst in 50 years. In response, the Agriculture and Interior Departments revised fire-management policies and congress approved increases in funding accompanied by policy directives.

This combination of policies and directives is known as the National Fire Plan.

A major part of the plan is reduction of hazardous fuels, in order to lessen the intensity of future fires. The primary agencies doing this work on federal and tribal lands are the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Methods used include burning (“prescribed fires”), mechanical thinning, vegetation control (defensible space), and timber cutting.

The fire plan calls for giving priority to fuel-reduction projects that will reduce the risk to communities in the “wildland/urban interface” (where development borders or intermingles with forested areas).

#### GAO REPORT

GAO reviewed the implementation of the fuel-reduction part of the National Fire Plan and reported the results in January, 2002 with several recommendations for improvements. This bill is based on that GAO report.

#### THE BILL

**Purpose.**—The purpose of the bill is to improve implementation of the fuel-reduction aspects of the National Fire Plan in the wildland/urban interface.

**What the Bill Does.**—The bill would:

Require Interior and Agriculture Departments to establish an interagency council to coordinate fire plan implementation, as recommended by GAO.

Require the coordinating council to develop consistent criteria to identify communities in the wildland/urban interface at most risk from fire, as recommended by GAO. The council would have 180 days to do this.

Require development of a comprehensive long-term strategy for implementing the National Fire Plan, with quantifiable annual and long-term performance measures to assess progress in reducing risks to most vulnerable communities.

Require the coordinating council to collect data needed to enable Interior and Agriculture Departments to determine best ways to use removed fuel materials, as recommended by GAO.

Require the coordinating council to consult with State, local, and tribal officials and provide for public comments.

Require that fuel-reduction work give priority to communities in the wildland/urban interface most at risk.

Require a progress report from Interior and Agriculture Departments no later than one year after enactment.

#### RESULTS IN BRIEF

Our work has shown that a single focal point is critical for efforts—such as reducing severe wildland fires and the vegetation that fuels them—that involve many federal agencies as well as state and local governments, the private sector, and private individuals. However, over a year after the Congress substantially increased funds to reduce hazardous fuels, the federal effort still lacks clearly defined and effective leadership. Rather than a single focal point, authority and responsibility remain fragmented among Interior, the Forest Service, and the states. In a December 2001 report for the Department of the Interior, the National Academy of Public Administration recommended that, to provide the required leadership, the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture should establish an interagency national council to implement the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy as well as hazardous fuels reduction and other key elements of the National Fire Plan, such as fire suppression.

A sound framework to ensure that funds appropriated to reduce hazardous fuels are

spent in an efficient, effective, and timely manner is needed. Such a framework is grounded in federal wildland fire management policies, the National Fire Plan, and Congressional direction. This framework includes, among other things, (1) consistent criteria to identify and prioritize wildland-urban interface communities within the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from severe wildlands fires; (2) clearly defined and outcome-oriented goals and objectives, as well as quantifiable long-term and annual performance measures, to assess progress in reducing the risks of severe wildland fires in wildland-urban interface areas as well as in other areas; (3) a comprehensive long-term strategy that incorporates the criteria, goals, objectives, and measures; and (4) yearly performance plans and reports. However, just as leadership for reducing hazardous fuels is fragmented among Interior, the Forest Service, and the states, so too is implementation of a performance accountability framework. As a result, (1) high-risk communities have not been identified and prioritized, (2) multiple strategies have been developed with different goals and objectives, (3) quantifiable indicators of performance have not been developed to measure progress in reducing risks, and (4) annual plans and reports that have been developed do not describe what will be accomplished with the appropriated funds. Therefore, it is not possible to determine if the \$796 million appropriated for hazardous fuels reduction in fiscal years 2001 and 2002 is targeted to the communities and other areas at highest risk of severe wildland fires.

Federal land management agencies do not have adequate data for making informed decisions and measuring the agencies' progress in reducing hazardous fuels. These processes require accurate, complete, and comparable data. The infusion of hundreds of millions of dollars of new money for hazardous fuels reduction activities for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 and the expectation of sustained similar funding for these activities in future fiscal years accentuate the need for accurate, complete, and comparable data. However, the five federal land management agencies have not initiated the research needed to better identify and prioritize wildland-urban interface communities within the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from wildland fire. Moreover, the agencies are not collecting the data required to determine if changes are needed to expedite the project-planning process. They are also not collecting the data needed to measure the effectiveness of efforts to dispose of the large amount of brush, small trees, and other vegetation that must be removed to reduce the risk of severe wildland fire.

We agree with the National Academy of Public Administration that an interagency national council is needed to provide the strategic direction, leadership, coordination, conflict resolution, and oversight and evaluation necessary to ensure that funds appropriated to implement the hazardous fuels reduction, as well as other elements of the National Fire Plan, are spent in an efficient, effective, and timely manner. However, even though the September 2000 National Fire Plan—prepared at the request of the President of the United States—directed them to establish a similar Cabinet-level coordinating team, the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture have not done so. Therefore, we suggest that the Congress consider directing the Secretaries to immediately establish the council. In addition, we suggest that the Congress consider directing the Secretaries to consolidate under the council the current fragmented implementation of a sound performance accountability framework. We also recommend that the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture gather

the data to make more informed decisions and to measure the agencies' progress in reducing hazardous fuels. The departments of Agriculture and the Interior generally agreed with our recommendations. However, they were concerned that we had not given them enough credit for several actions taken or underway related to enhancing inter-agency leadership; establishing a framework to ensure that funds appropriated to reduce hazardous fuels are spent in an efficient, effective, and timely manner; and undertaking adequate research and data collection efforts. Where appropriate, we have included reference to these activities.

TRAIN ATTACK IN INDIA  
REACTION TO HINDU REPRESSION

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, we were all disturbed to read about the attack on a train full of Hindus in the village of Godhra in India. It is always disturbing to see this kind of sectarian violence.

The Gujarat Samachar reported that the train was carrying high-level activists of the militant, pro-Nazi Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a branch of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which is also the parent organization of the ruling BJP. They were taunting the villagers with slogans about building a Hindu temple on the site of the most revered mosque in India, which was destroyed by the BJP some years ago.

In another village, Daahod, they got tea and snacks and did not pay for them. They knocked over a vendor's stall, according to the article, and deliberately picked a fight with a man who was helping the vendor, beating him, pulling his beard and committing other acts to humiliate him. His 16-year-old daughter tried to stop them from harming her father. They grabbed her and took her on the train, according to the article. After a crowd gathered to try to rescue her from the VHP, they slammed the windows shut with the girl inside the train. Out of their frustration and anger over this action, some villagers began to burn the train.

No one condones the killing of these Hindus, even if they were militants, but I hope none of my colleagues justifies the killing of Muslims that has erupted in response while the police have stood by and let it happen. The militant Hindu nationalists want to make a Hindu society in India, and they can justify actions like these in the name of that cause, but there is no justification.

If this is how democracy and secularism are practiced in India, then it should not receive any American aid or trade. We should also acknowledge that the only way to end this kind of violence is to support independence for all the peoples and nations of South Asia. It is time for India to begin acting like a democracy and allow the peoples living under their rule to

enjoy self-determination. It is time for a plebiscite on independence.

[From Gujarat Samachar, Mar. 3, 2002]

TRUTH ABOUT THE TRAIN INCIDENT

(By Anil Soni and Neelam Soni)

The tragic incident of Sabarmati Express that occurred today at 7:30 am at about 1 km away from Godhra railway station has thrown a question mark to those people who claim to be secular or liberal. Many aspects & facts have been ignored & which I would like to bring to your notice.

Compartment (Bogey) no S-6 & two other compartment of the Sabarmati Express was carrying the kar sevaks of the V.H.P. (Vishwa Hindu Parishad). And it was due to these kar sevaks from bogey no S-6 that the incident occurred.

The actual story didn't start from Godhra as being told everywhere but it started from a place from Daahod, a place that comes 70-75 km before Godhra railway station. At about 5:30-6:00 a.m. the train reached Daahod railway station. These kar sevaks, after having tea & snacks at the railway stall, broke down the stall after having some argument with the stall owner and they processed back to the departing train. The stall owner then field on N C against kar sevaks at the local police station about the above incident.

Then about 7.00-7.15 am the train reached Godhra railway station. All the kar sevaks came out from their reserved compartments and started to have tea and snacks, at the small tea stall on the platform, which was being run by an old bearded man from the minority community. There was a servant helping this old man in the stall.

The kar sevaks on purpose argued with this old man and then bate him up & pulled his beard. This was all planned to humiliate the old man since he was from the minority community. These kar sevaks kept repeating the slogan, "Mandir Ka Nirmaann Karo, Babuer Ki Aulad to Baahar Kar". (Start building the Mandir and throw the son of Babur i.e. the Muslims out of the country.)

Hearing the chaos, the daughter (16) of the old man who was also present at the station came forward & tried to save her father from kar sevaks. She kept pleading & begging to them to stop beating her father and leave him alone. But instead of listening to her woes, the kar sevaks lifted the young girl and took her inside their compartment (S-6) and closed the compartment door shut. Their intention behind this act is best known to them.

The train started to move out of the platform of Godhra railway station. The old man kept banging on the compartment doors and pleaded to leave his daughter. Just before the train could move out completely from the platform, two stall vendors jumped into the last bogey that comes from the guards cabin. And with the intention of saving the girl they pulled the chain and stopped the train. By the time the train halted completely, it was 1 km away from the railway station.

These two men then came to the bogey in which the girl was and started to band at the door and requested the kar sevaks to leave the girl alone. Hearing all these chaos, people vicinity near to the tracks started to gather towards the train. The boys and the mob (that also included women) that had

now gathered near the compartment requested the kar sevaks to return the girl back. But instead of returning the girl, they started closing their windows. The infuriated the mob and they retaliated by pelting stones at the compartment.

The compartment-adjointing compartment S-6 on both sides contained kar sevaks of the V.H.P. These kar sevaks were carrying banners that had long bamboo stick attached to them. These kar sevaks got down and started attacking with bamboo sticks on the mob gathered to save the girl.

These was like adding insult to injury for the crowd gathered and their anger was now uncontrollable. The crowd started to bring diesel and petrol from trucks and rickshaws standing at the garages Signal Fadia (a place in Godhra) and burnt down the compartment. They don't bring the fuel from any petrol pump as being reported everywhere nor was this act of burning pre-planned as being mentioned by many people but it happened all of a sudden out of sheer frustration and anger.

After hearing about this incident, members of V.H.P. (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) living in that area started burning down the garages in Signal Fadia, they also burnt down Baddshah Masjid, (Mosque), at Shehra Bhagaad (small area in Godhra). Reliable resources have reported all these information and facts to their information and me cannot be doubted. I would also mention my sources namely Mr. Anil Soni and Neelam Soni (reporter of Gujarat Samachar, also members of P.T.I. & A.N.I.) have worked hard to dig the true facts and they duly deserve words of appraisal for their hard work. Mr. Soni's mobile number: 0-9825038152. Resident number 02672 (code) 43153, office number: 43152, fax number: 45999.

Due to no proper substantial and circumstantial evidence and the late arrival of the Police at the scene of crime frustrated the Police. Which resulted in harassment and arrests in innocent local people living in Godhra. Furthermore the police started blaming the Mayor of Godhra, Mr. Ahmed Hussain Kalota for incident. Mr. Kalota who is the member of the Indian National Congress is also a lawyer. This blaming on Congressmen was also done to humiliate, defame and demoralize the Congress. The V.H.P.'s plan is to weaken the country by planning internal conflicts between communities and bring a backwardness of 100 years in the country. Sorry to say but they are carrying out their plans successfully without the tear of being stopped by anyone. No one but only the innocents will have to bear the consequences of their plans.

It is our humble request and prayers to all the members of Parliament along with the Prime Minister, and the entire media circle to try and stop the sparks of a fire to gulp down the whole county in flames to take some auction against the kar sevaks of the V.H.P (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) before they get out of hand and stop harassing the innocents and catch the real miscreants and culprits.

We lay our request in front of you with folded hands and hearts filled with theirs for the death of innocents and anger for the wrongdoers. We hope our request and efforts will not deafened or blind-eyed.